

Corals and Climate Change

Draw a Coral Reef

Overview:

Students express what they think or know about coral reefs through drawing a picture, allowing the teacher to assess what the students already know about corals.

Grade level:

7th – 12th

Materials:

- Large sheets of paper
- Pens or crayons

Time required:

45 minutes

Objectives

Students will draw from prior knowledge to express the diversity of coral reef ecosystems by creating graphical concept models (drawing pictures).

National Science Education Standards

9-12 Standard F: Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

- Natural Resources

Procedure

1. Divide the class into groups of 3 – 4 and have each group draw a picture of a coral reef.
2. Observe what students draw. Teacher may provide suggestions such as coral, algae, animals and people.
3. Allow students to draw the reef for 5 minutes, then have each group present their picture to the class.
4. On the board, create a list of the plants and animals in the drawings. Teacher may point out to the class features of the drawings that are the same and different.

Discussion: Ask the students: How do people use coral reefs? What kinds of food do we get from reefs? Do you know any stories or legends related to reefs?

5. Have students read a coral reef legend, or read one to class.
6. Have groups get back together and add to reef pictures.

Closing Question: Have students write 3 questions about what they would like to learn about corals or coral reefs.



National Park Service
www.nps.gov/index.htm



Pacific Island Network Inventory & Monitoring Program
National Park Service
www.science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/pacn/



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