

Corals and Climate Change

Polyp Pictures

Overview:

Students will examine close-up photos of coral polyps and try to identify what is in the pictures. The 'right' answer is not expected—this is a chance for students to see a variety of corals and coral parts.

Grade level:

7th – 12th

Materials:

- Coral Polyp Pictures (attached)

Time required:

30 minutes

Objectives

- Students will write 5 – 10 descriptive words about coral polyps.
- Students will use observation and inference skills to identify parts of an organism.

National Science Education Standards

9-12 Standard C: Life Science

- The Interdependence of Organisms
- Matter, Energy, and Organization in Living Systems

Procedure

1. The teacher should download and print out polyp photos. They are best printed out in color. Cut each picture into parts and make enough sets so that there is one part of a picture for each student in the class. You may want to laminate them for future use.
2. Hold up a part of the coral picture.
3. Students should look at picture silently for 30 seconds.
4. Ask students to raise their hand and say what they think is in the photo. Encourage students to be creative and make lots of suggestions. The teacher should accept all student answers, not looking for one right answer.
5. After showing a few parts of the picture and having the students guess what each part is, split the class into groups of 3 to 5 students.
6. Give each student a part of the coral polyp picture. Groups will work together to put the picture together.
7. Each group will write down 5 to 10 descriptive words about the polyp in their picture.
8. The teacher will bring the class back together and have each group show their picture and read their descriptive words.
9. The teacher will introduce any terms the students did not identify (coral, polyp, tentacles, body, mouth, zoozanthellae).

Closing Question: Write three things you learned about corals. Write one thing about coral you would like to learn more about.

Additional Resources

- Check out these websites for instructions on how to create your own coral polyp out of craft supplies or food.
- <http://www.calacademy.org/teachers/resources/lessons/build-a-coral-polyp/>
- <http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/affiliates/prism/documents/BuildAPolypLessonFour.pdf>
- http://www.coexploration.org/bbsr/coral/lessons/hilda_2.html
- <http://serc.carleton.edu/eslabs/corals/2b.html>



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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