

# The Coral Reef: A Beautiful Thing

The Coral Reef. The most gorgeous place in the sea. It's got color, living organisms, and under-water plants! Everything a sea creature needs for a happy life. Let's learn about what the Coral Reef is, what species lurk in the shadows, and how danger is around every corner.

Although the Coral Reef only covers two-tenths of one percent of the ocean floor, it makes a big difference. It benefits people and the natural world way more than it is expected to. It does wonderful things. For example, how they are home to more than 1 million aquatic species, including thousands of fish. Or how they provide food for people living near coral reefs, especially on islands that are fairly small. Plus, they provide one of the most important things, treatment [medicine] for many dangerous illnesses and diseases.

The majestic Coral Reef is the largest place in the ocean to house under-water specimens. It is home to more than 4,000 species of fish; such as; Angelfish, Butterfly fish, Clownfish, and

Filefish! It also houses over 700 species of coral, and thousands of other plant and animal life. Scuba divers. They have seen it all; the amazing scenery, fish, and the actual Coral Reef itself, which they describe as, "bustling cities, with buildings made of coral, and thousands of marine inhabitants coming and going, interacting with one another, carrying out their business."

[[http://www.coral.org/resources/about\\_coral\\_reefs/threats\\_to\\_coral\\_reefs](http://www.coral.org/resources/about_coral_reefs/threats_to_coral_reefs)]

Although the Coral Reef sounds like the most beautiful, cleanest place in the world, this under-water sensation is in great danger. This is because of pollution. Scientists have identified this as one of the leading causes of degradation. [Degradation is the condition or process of degrading or being degraded.] Why let this magical place disappear? The sea is not a place for trash. That's what a garbage can is for!

So as you can see, the Coral Reef is a big part of this world. It houses specimens, provides health care, and it is a magnificent sight. So remember. The next time you are on a boat, swimming, or scuba diving, keep the ocean clean. Because: A Healthy Coral Reef= A Healthy, Happy, World!!!

## WORK SITED

-<http://www.coral.org>

-<http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco>

-<https://www.google.com>



## EGUSSD – Informational/Explanatory Text-Based Rubric, Grade 6

		1 (Below Grade Level)	2 (Approaching Grade Level)	3 (At Grade Level)	4 (Above Grade Level)
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# Coral Reef I-Search Report

Colorful. Diverse. Extraordinary. Abused. Endangered.

Some of the most diverse of all marine ecosystems, sometimes even known as the "rainforest of the sea", coral reefs. Coral Reefs are underwater structures composed of minute sea life, and are home to a large amount of sea life, that provide us with many resources, though we take that for granted, and harm coral reefs in return.

## What Are Coral Reefs?

The mention of coral reefs generally brings to mind warm climates, colorful fishes and clear waters. However, the reef itself is actually a component of a larger ecosystem. The coral community is a structure that inhabits several different organisms. Corals, sponges, and seaweeds cover most of the surface of many coral reefs. Corals can be found across the world's oceans, in shallow tropical waters. This is because the algae found in their tissue needs light for photosynthesis.

There are also deep-sea corals that can thrive in cold, dark waters at depths of up to 20,000 feet. This is caused by the different algae in deep-sea corals, compared to others. Their algae does not require sunlight and warmth to survive. This shows how coral reefs are diverse in many ways, and how the most similar plants, and organisms can be very different as well.

## The "Life" Behind The Coral

Coral reefs are composed of tiny sea creatures, that inhabit reefs all across the world. Almost one quarter of all ocean species depend on the reefs for their food and shelter. This is actually a truly remarkable statistic, when you consider that coral reefs only cover just a tiny fraction (less than 1%) of the Earth's surface and less than 2% of the ocean bottom. Coral reefs are home to an abundant variety of marine life. Fish, turtles, sharks, eels, crabs, shrimps, urchins, sponges, and algae, only to name a few of the plentiful sea life that occupy coral reefs around the world's oceans. The reason this many organisms choose to live on and around coral reefs

is because they provide shelter and food for the animals. To escape predators, animals can hide within cracks and crevices in the reef created by corals. Nearly every living thing on a reef is food for another organism, and together they make up a complex food web.

## They Give, We....Destroy?

Coral reefs are useful to the environment and to people in a number of ways. The value of reefs has been estimated at nearly 172 billion dollars each year, providing us with multiple resources, such as food, protection of shorelines, jobs based on tourism, and even certain medicines. Even given that fact, people pose the greatest threat to coral reefs. Overfishing, pollution, warming, changing ocean chemistry, and invasive species are all taking a huge toll on the growth and life of coral reefs all across the world. In certain places, reefs have been entirely destroyed, and in many other locations, the reefs today are only a pale shadow of what they once were. Some ways you can help protect and save coral reefs are to do the following; Conserve water, dispose of

your trash properly, and helping to reduce pollution in your area, along with many other ways to prevent the erosion and destruction of coral reefs around the world.

Coral reefs are home to wondrous organisms and provide an abundant amount of resources for people, however, we, in return, abuse and damage these amazing reefs. Coral reefs are one of nature's many beautiful wonders, and they can be found all across the world's oceans.

### Citations:

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080408205944AARjzkk>

[http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/habitat/coral\\_index](http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/habitat/coral_index)

cfm

-[http://www.coris.noaa.gov/about/what\\_are/](http://www.coris.noaa.gov/about/what_are/)

-<http://ocean.si.edu/corals-and-coral-reefs>

-<http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/marinebio/coralreef.html>



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## Malaria Fever

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### Introduction

Malaria is a disease caused by a one celled parasite called Plasmodium, transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitoes. Malaria causes an estimated amount of 1-3 million deaths per year. That's 40% of our world population! Most of the infected are children under 5 and pregnant woman. Malaria can infect anyone, especially children under 5 and expectant mothers. There is no known vaccine yet, but scientists are working on the formula. If found, it is only treatable if seen fast enough.

### What is malaria?

Malaria occurs when you are bitten by an infected female mosquito. Malaria inhabits the people of tropical areas and tourists from a region where malaria is not often found. It is found in over 100 countries, and lives in over 2,400 million people. Most of these people will be treated with proper malaria killing vaccines. Malaria is the #1 killer of pregnant woman.

### What are the cycle and symptoms?

The symptoms of malaria repeat themselves. The symptoms are: fever, rash, headache, moderate to severe shaking chills, and nausea. The cycle of malaria is the same as any other disease, spread from another person. The cycle first starts when an infected mosquito bites another person and transfers the parasites. Next, the parasites go make your liver a place to dormant while they mature. Once they have matured, they will travel into your bloodstream and infect more areas of your body and attack red blood cells. This is when people normally start having symptoms. Lastly, it's on to the next person. If a mosquito bites you and it picks up the parasites, it will become an infected mosquito and the parasites will travel.

### How to prevent malaria

How can we stop this disease from attacking us? Well, first wear a lot of bug spray when outside during dusk to dawn. Second, spray your home with insecticide. Then, you can also put a bed net over yourself when you sleep. Make sure there are no mosquitoes waiting for you in your bed, too.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, malaria fever is scattered around the world. It causes horrible deaths and needs to be stopped. There are also websites listed so you can donate to malaria research. Fight for a vaccine and protect yourself!

## Sources

- Cdc.gov
- Mayoclinic.com
- Malaria.org
- Againstmalaria.com

Check out these websites for more information on malaria fever, how to prevent and keep malaria away. Many people don't know about this disease, but it's time to learn about it.



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