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## The Coral Question

### *What is coral?*

In this episode we discover that even though coral looks like super-colourful plants... it is actually an animal!

### Wonder some more ...

1. What are coral polyps?
2. Where does coral usually grow?
3. What is the world's largest coral reef?
4. What colour/s is coral?
5. Does coral have a mouth?
6. What does coral eat?



### Time to explore...

- **MAKE & PLAY:** Create a 'coral reef sensory tub' together by choosing and positioning materials for exploratory play (blue tinted warm water, man-made coral, shells, plastic fish and other marine animals, rocks, sand). Invite children to use their senses to develop understandings about coral reef ecosystems.
- **CREATE:** Discuss the importance of a coral reef ecosystem by creating a large 3D collage 'coral reef habitat' artwork together. Use watercolours to paint an ocean backdrop and then populate the area by pasting magazine pictures/printed photos of reef fish and other marine life. Use coloured cellophane and tissue paper to form coral shapes. Foster high-level thinking skills about coral reef conservation by adding manmade objects to the collage (e.g. rubbish, netting).



### Read and wonder...

- *'The Coral Kingdom'* (2018) by Laura Knowles & Jennine Webber
- *'Art in Country'* (2020) by Bronwyn Bancroft
- *'Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef'* (2004) by Marianne Berkes & Jeanette Canyon

Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes including 2.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4 and 5.3.



Quinton



Early Education