

Title of Lesson: Coral Reefs

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 1 **Unit Title:** Plants and Animals

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

SKCS4

SKCS5

SKL1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Habitats

Animal Life

Oceans

Learning Activity (description in steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students will build a coral diorama and learn about coral's importance as a habitat.

Details:

Before the lesson, line the cardboard box with blue construction paper. Also, print off pictures of different animals that live in or near coral reefs.

Begin with a video of coral reef <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RA61f4Tums4>. After the video, go over a brief presentation about coral. Show pictures of coral and ask the students to describe them (size, colors, shapes, etc.). Have each of the students pick a color of play-doh. Let the students work mold the play-doh into any kind of shape they want. Give each student some pasta and have them press it into their play-doh (either horizontally or vertically). Once they have made their piece of coral, have them place it into the box. Take the animal pictures out and ask the students to identify them. Tell them about why those animals would live around coral reefs. Have each of the students to paste or tape an animal picture to the box. Display the diorama. The play-doh will eventually dry.

Materials Needed (type and quantity):

*Materials are based on a class size of 7 students.

1 Cardboard Box

Blue Construction Paper
3 Packs of Play-Doh (Various Colors)
1 Box of Pasta (Garden Rotini)
Animal Pictures
Tape or Glue

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Make sure that the students don't eat the pasta or the play-doh.

Sources/References:

- 1) 'How to Make a Coral Reef Science Project' by Charong Chow
- 2) [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 3) [Click here to enter text.](#)