CONFLICT ISLAND'S CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

CORALS FACTSHEET

Corals are marine invertebrates belonging to the class Anthozoa in the phylum Cnidaria. They are closely related to jellyfish and sea anemones.

LOCATION

Tropical & Sub-tropical waters

HABITAT

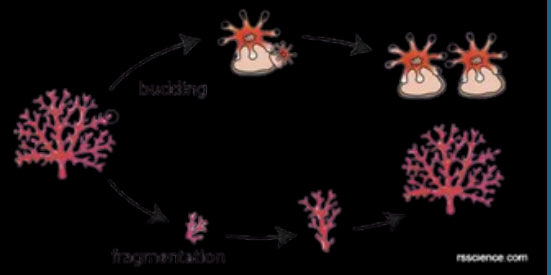
Warm shallow coastal waters around the world

TYPES OF CORAL REEFS

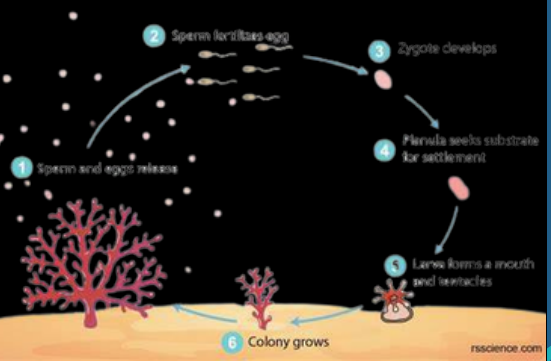
- Fringing Reefs
- Barrier Reefs
- Atolls

REPRODUCTION IN CORALS

Asexual Reproduction



Sexual Reproduction



FEEDING & SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

Corals have a unique feeding strategy. They have tiny tentacles equipped with stinging cells called nematocysts, which they use to capture plankton and other small organisms drifting in the water.

CORAL REEF FORMATION

Corals secrete calcium carbonate skeletons, which build up over time to form the intricate structures that we recognize as coral reefs.

Photosynthetic algae called zooxanthellae lives within the coral tissues and provide corals with essential nutrients through photosynthesis

Hard Corals Vs Soft Corals

Hard corals, also known as stony corals, have rigid calcium carbonate skeletons, while soft corals lack this hard structure and instead have flexible bodies supported by tiny internal spicules.

Corals grow very slowly, typically only a few centimeters per year. This slow growth rate means that damaged or destroyed reefs can take decades or even centuries to recover.

ANCIENT ORGANISMS

Some coral reefs are thousands of years old, with some of the largest structures, like the Great Barrier Reef, dating back tens of thousands of years. They provide valuable insights into past climates and environmental conditions.

ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS

From towering pillars to intricate branching structures, coral colonies exhibit an astonishing variety of growth forms. Some corals form massive colonies resembling underwater fortresses, while others sprawl across the seabed like sprawling gardens, each with its own unique shape and structure.

CORALS FOR CONFLICTS

Coral bleaching occurs when corals expel their zooxanthellae due to environmental stress, such as high water temperatures or pollution. Without their algae, corals lose their color and become more vulnerable to disease and death.

THREATS TO CORALS

CLIMATE CHANGE

Rising sea temperatures due to climate change can lead to coral bleaching, where corals expel the symbiotic algae living within their tissues, causing them to turn white and become more susceptible to disease and death

POLLUTION

Pollution from agricultural runoff, sewage, industrial discharge, and plastic debris can degrade water quality and introduce harmful chemicals and toxins into coral reef ecosystems. Excess nutrients from pollution can fuel the growth of algae, which can smother corals and disrupt the delicate balance of the reef ecosystem.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Increased carbon dioxide (CO_2) levels in the atmosphere lead to ocean acidification, where seawater becomes more acidic. This can impair the ability of corals to build their calcium carbonate skeletons.

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GLOBAL IMPORTANCE

BIODIVERISTY HOTSPOT

Coral reefs support a wide variety of marine life & provide essential habitat and breeding grounds for countless species.

SUPPORT LIVELIHOODS

Supports millions of people through tourism & fisheries

COASTLINE PROTECTION

Coral reefs act as natural barriers that absorb wave energy, reducing the force of incoming waves and protecting coastlines from erosion.

Thank you for your Donation!
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