



Coral Reef

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# Coral Reef







Corals prefer shallow tropical seas where the water is nice and warm and can support many different kinds of animals.

Although corals may look like plants, they're in fact living creatures. Relatives of the stinging jellyfish, they don't float about the ocean but build solid shells on its bottom.

Hermit crabs carry their home wherever they go – when they find an abandoned shell, they push their soft little bodies in. And whenever danger appears, they crawl inside entirely.






The long-spine porcupinefish may seem innocuous, but when in danger it quickly gulps water and puffs up, turning into a ball covered with spikes. Ouch!

To move around the reef, an octopus uses its tentacles covered with suction pads which help it latch onto anything it needs. Plus its body is soft so it can push its way even through the tiniest crevices.





While some of those who live on the reef spend their whole lives there, others come and go for various reasons. These occasional visitors head to the reef because they want to enjoy a splendid feast or rest in the safe warm waters.

Majestic mantas feed on plankton – tiny critters floating in the water. While swimming, mantas keep their huge mouth open, collecting water with plankton in it.

Young dolphins come to the reef in order to have a rest and play for a while. Who manages to snatch the best part of the reef?

Do you need to have your coat cleaned? No problem! There's a wash at the reef. Small prawns and fish, such as wrasses, wait there for customers to arrive and request cleaning. And turtles? Boy, do they love getting pampered.

You can stumble upon water snakes by the coral reef. Swimming is no biggie for them since they have long thin undulating bodies with a flat tail which doubles as a helm.



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Explore the colourful coral reef!



How does the clownfish live?

What is the best camouflage on the reef?

Colourful fish, tiny sea horses, or crafty octopuses – all these animals live in coral reefs. Warm tropical water gives them enough food, and gaps between the reefs offer save shelters. Dive below the surface of the sea and explore the recesses of the coral reef. Look into the gaps between the reefs and learn where each inhabitant hides.



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Choking hazard.  
Not suitable for children  
under 36 months.

