

READING ★

1 Listen and read. TR: 1.9

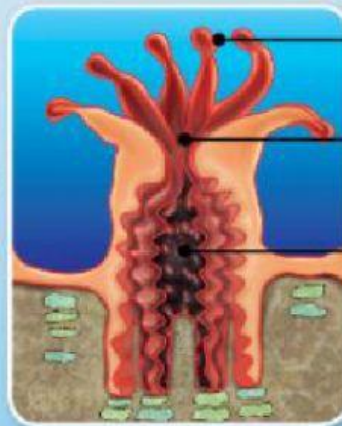
Colorful Corals

Corals look like a colorful garden under the water. But corals are not plants! They're animals.

What's for dinner? Each coral is made up of small animals called *polyps*. Polyps have a mouth, stomach, and tentacles to catch food. Many polyps live in the sunlit zone, where they eat small plants called *algae*.

What's a coral reef? Most corals live together. As old corals die, new polyps grow on top. That's how you get a coral reef. Some coral reefs are millions of years old, and they're home to more than 4,000 kinds of fish!

Save the reefs! Coral reefs are amazing resources. They're important for tourism and jobs. Scientists use reef animals to make new medicines and other products. Coral reefs are a source of food, too. But coral reefs are in danger. Because of pollution, many coral reefs are disappearing. Some people say that only 30 percent of the world's corals will exist in the year 2050. We must protect our corals now.



tentacle

mouth

stomach



The Great Barrier Reef is over 2,250 km (1,400 mi) long! You can see it from outer space!

PARAGRAPH 1: ARE CORALS ANIMALS OR PLANTS?

PARAGRAPH 2: WHAT ARE CORALS MADE OF? WHAT BODY PARTS DO POLYPS HAVE? WHAT DO MANY POLYPS EAT?

PARAGRAPH 3: HOW DO YOU GET A CORAL REEF? HOW OLD ARE SOME CORAL REEFS?

PARAGRAPH 4: HOW DO PEOPLE USE CORAL REEFS? WHY ARE CORAL REEFS IN DANGER?