

11 Listen and read. TR: A10

# Colorful Corals

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

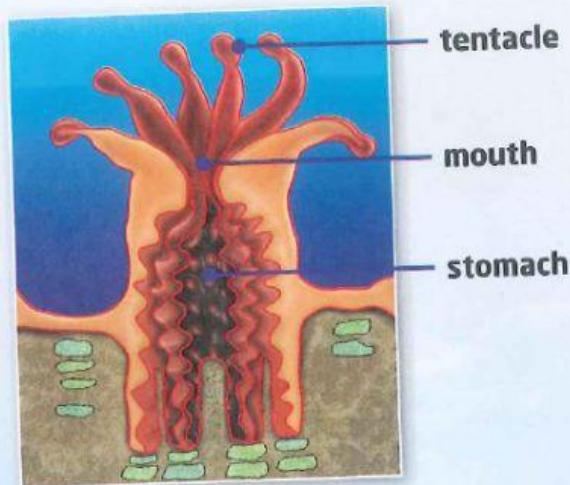
**What's for dinner?** Each coral is made up of small animals called polyps. Polyps have a mouth, stomach, and tentacles to catch food. Many polyps live in the sunlit zone, where they eat small plants called algae.

**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!

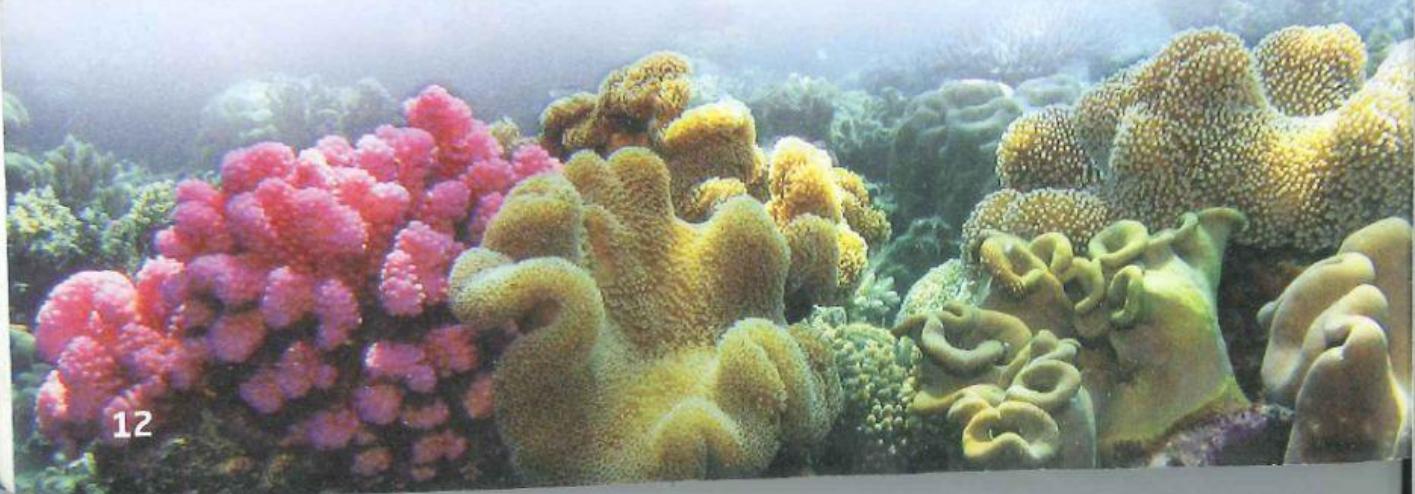
**Save the reefs!** Coral reefs are amazing resources. They're important for tourism and jobs. Scientists use reef animals to make new medicines and other products. Coral reefs are a source of food, too. But coral reefs are in danger. Because of pollution, many coral reefs are disappearing. Some people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

12 Work with a partner. What did you learn?

Ask and answer.



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



## READING

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**Activity 1.** Read. Circle the correct answer A, B or C.

1. What is “a polyp”?

- A. corals' food
- B. an animal
- C. a bacteria

2. How can a polyp get food? – It uses...

- A. its leaves
- B. its mouth
- C. its tentacles

3. What happens as old corals die?

- A. New polyps grow.
- B. Big plants grow on them.
- C. They become algae.

4. Why do many coral reefs disappear?

- A. Because big fish eat them.
- B. Because people get them for food.
- C. Because their living place is polluted.

5. What is the text about?

- A. Corals' food
- B. Corals' habitat
- C. Facts about corals

**Activity 2.** Read. Circle (T) True or F (False).

1. Corals are plants that live in the ocean.

T F

2. All polyps live in the sunlit zone.

T F

3. Corals live alone and separate from others.

T F

4. Many kinds of fish live in some coral reefs.

T F

5. We can get food from coral reefs.

Inspiring minds