

# **Lesson 2: Reef Relief: Coral Reef Threats**

Grades: 6-8

Activity: Identifying Ocean  
Threats

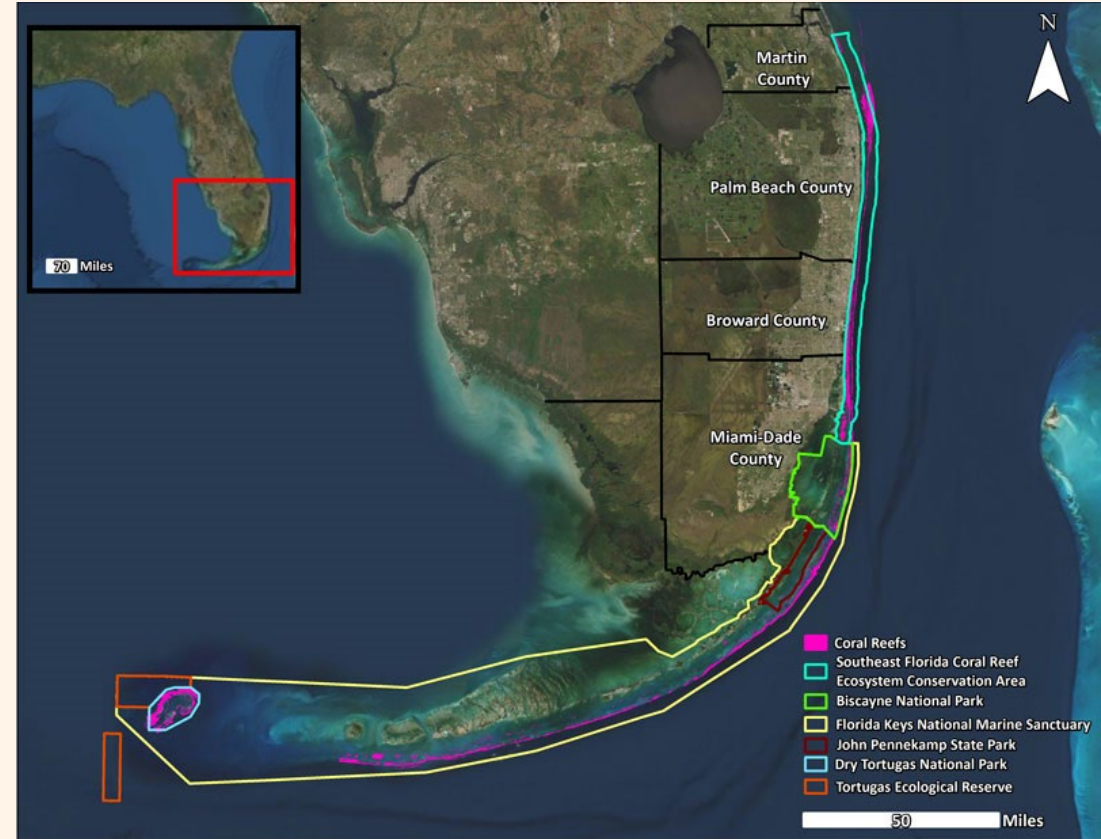
# Lesson Objectives:

- Identify human activities that impact Florida's Coral Reef.
- Assess personal contributions to ocean pollution.
- Develop and present solutions for a current coral reef threat.

# Florida's Coral Reef

Florida's Coral Reef is the largest barrier reef system in the continental United States.

It extends across five counties: Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe.



# Importance of Reefs

- (02:19) Video: Why Are Corals Important?  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNqbsi\\_6KdA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNqbsi_6KdA)
- (01:26) Video: The Importance of Coral Reefs  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZQTRz9XKLs>
- (03:32) Video: What Happens If All The Coral Dies?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-DQNTKOO1M>

# Benefits of Reefs



Provides habitat for commercial and recreational fisheries.



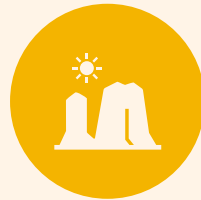
Serves as a new frontier for biomedical research.



Supports the tourism industry.



Supports 71,000 jobs and generates over \$6 billion dollars.



Dissipates 97% of wave energy, prevents erosion.



Protects coastal communities from storms and flooding.

# Threats

**Climate  
change**

**Poor water  
quality**

**Careless  
diving/snorkeli  
ng practices**

**Overfishing**

**Anchor  
inflicted  
injuries**

**Vessel  
grounding  
damage**

**Marine debris**

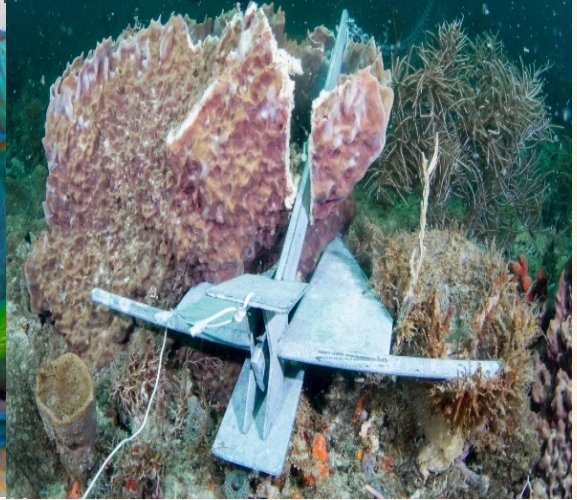
**Disease**

**Invasive  
species**



# Identifying Ocean Threats

Activity!





# Identifying Ocean Threats

Activity!

Students will be assigned a coral reef threat. They must research their threat in order to participate in a class discussion.

Research should include:

1. Sources from where your threat originate
2. Impact on reef
3. Solutions

