

# **Lesson 1: Coral Biology**

Grades: K-2

Activity: Underwater Cities

Design Your Own Coral Reef

# Objectives

- Understand basic coral biology and the coral reef ecosystem.
- Apply this knowledge to create their own coral reef structures in a variety of shapes, sizes, color, and textures.

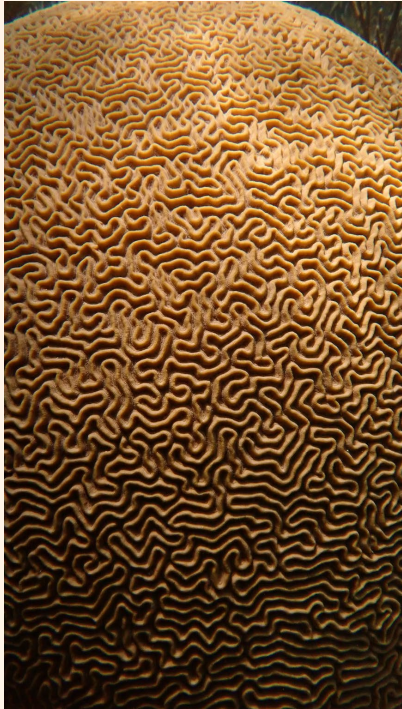
# Vocabulary

**Animal:** a living thing that feeds on plants or other animals

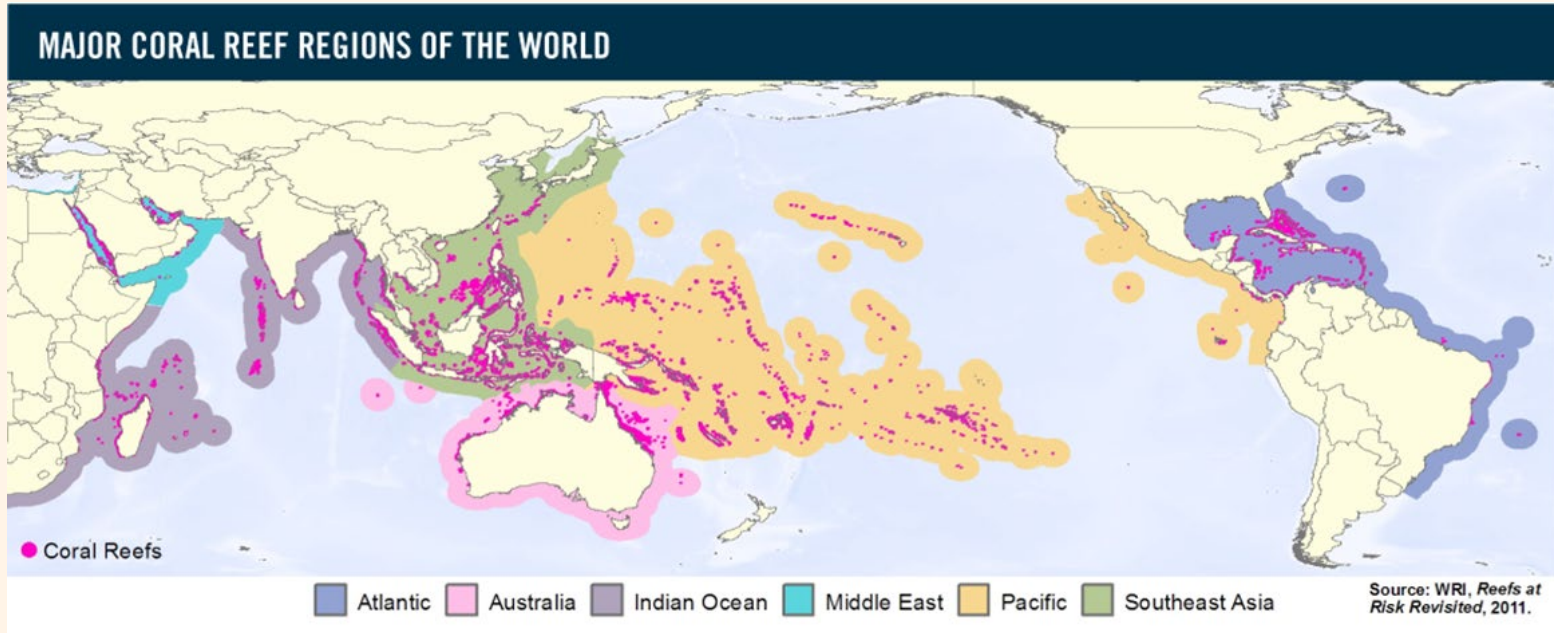
**Coral:** an animal related to jellyfish and anemones that can be made up one or even hundreds of identical polyps.

**Coral reef:** a living structure made of a variety of soft corals and stony corals that build limestone skeletons

# Do you know what a coral is?



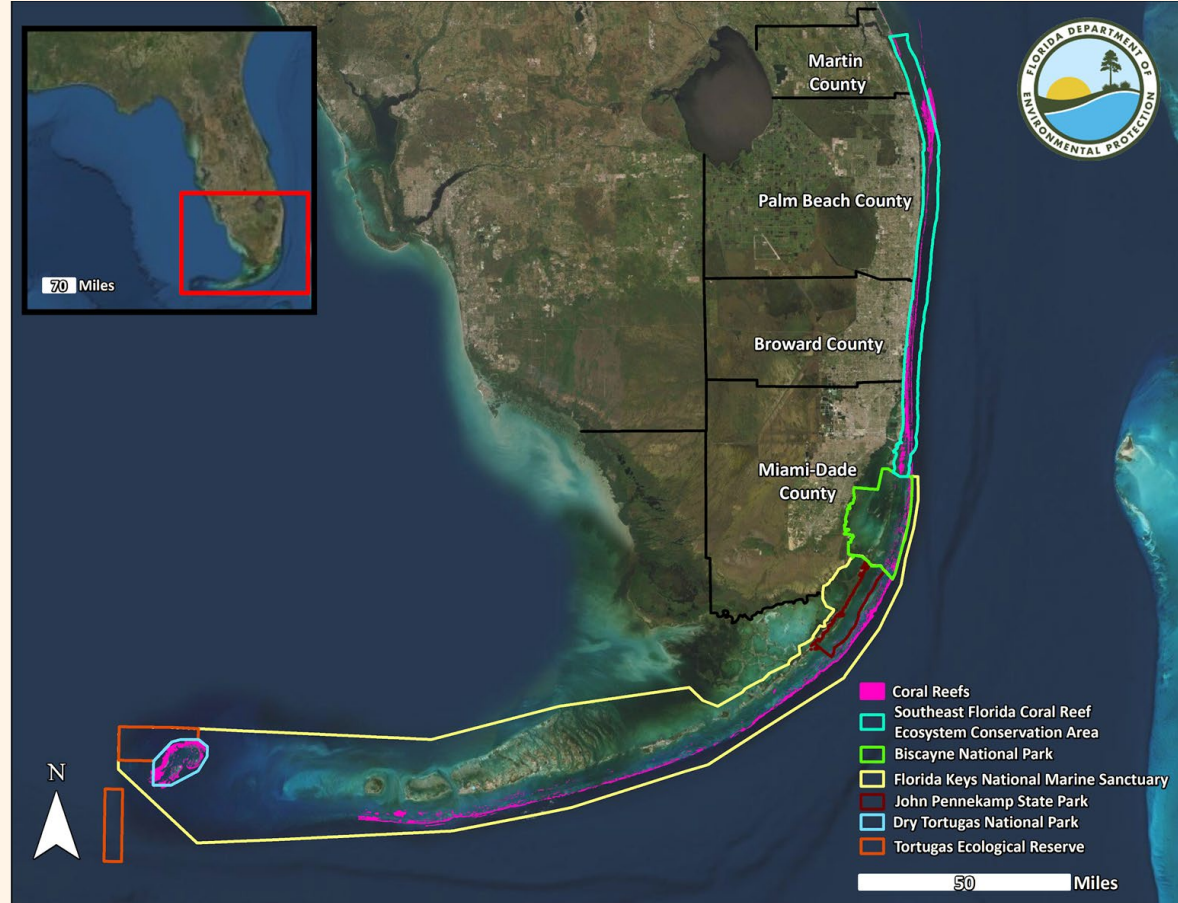
# Where are corals found?





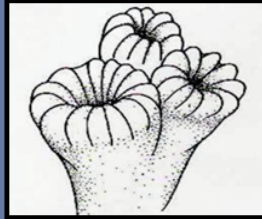
# Where are corals found?

- Oceans all around the world
- Tropical reefs, like Florida's Coral Reef are found 30 degrees North and South of the Equator
- Temperature, salinity and sunlight must be just right for corals to thrive and grow

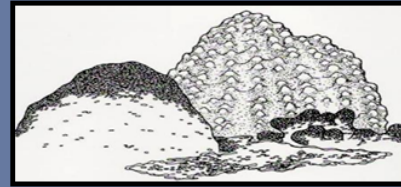


# Have you seen coral?

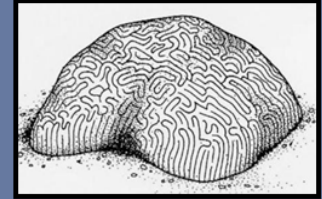
Can you  
describe what  
it looks like?



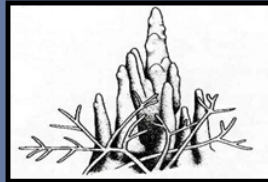
**Flowering & Cup**



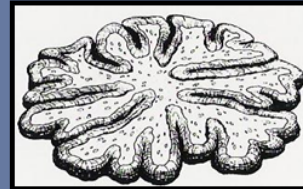
**Encrusting, Mound  
& Boulder**



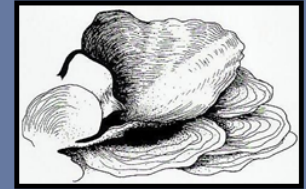
**Brain Corals**



**Branching & Pillar**



**Fleshy Corals**



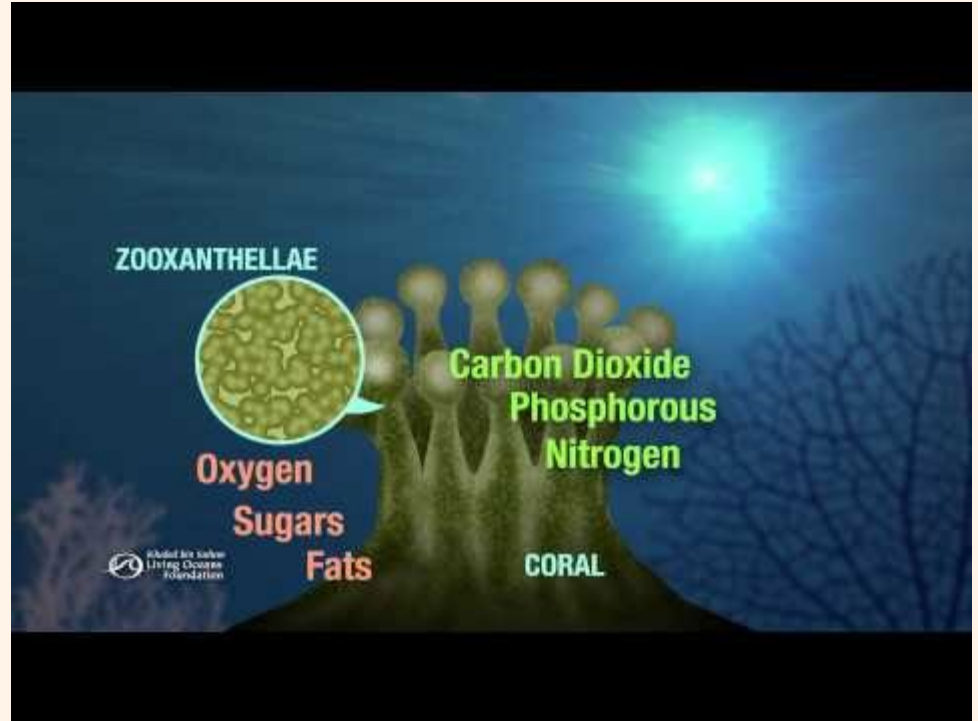
**Plate, Leaf & Sheet**

What kind of shapes, textures, sizes and colors do you notice in these corals?



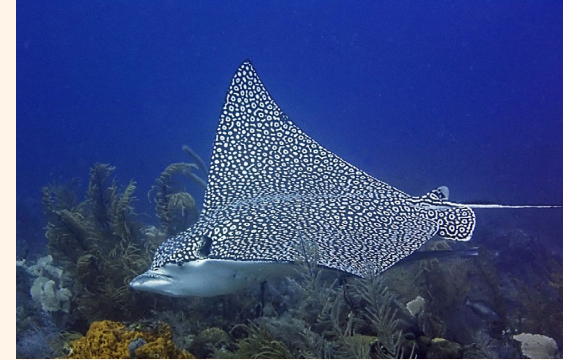


So....if coral is an animal, how does it eat?



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZuxZdG6TfM>

# What lives on a coral reef?



# Can people live on a coral reef?





# Underwater Cities: Design Your Own Coral Reef



# Reflection Questions



1. What shapes did you use to engineer your corals today?
2. What textures were on your corals?
3. What colors were your corals?
4. What do corals eat?
5. What kind of animals live on a coral reef?