

Lesson 3: Coral Reef Resilience

Grades: K-2

Activity: Coral Reef Rescue Mission

Lesson Objectives

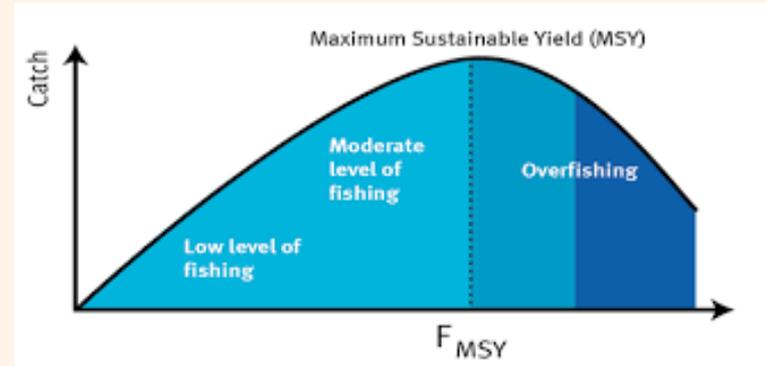
- Understand what a resilient reef looks like
- Describe why reef resilience is important
- Identify ways to improve reef resilience
- Advocate to protect Florida's Coral Reef

Vocabulary

Coral bleaching = When a coral gets too stressed, the coral gets rid of the tiny algae (zooxanthellae) that live inside them making the corals look white or translucent.

Reef resilience = A coral reef's ability to maintain key functions in the face of environmental stressors and human pressures by either resisting or recovering from the impacts

Overfishing = removing a species of fish at a rate which they cannot replenish



Let's Talk About Corals

Turn and talk to your team.

Discuss what some threats are to coral reefs that we learned about in previous lessons.

- **Physical damage**, like boat anchors and people kicking or standing on while snorkeling or SCUBA diving
- **Pollution** that originates on land and flows into the ocean and out to the reef
- **Overfishing**
- **Coral bleaching**
- **Ocean acidification** makes it tough for corals to grow

Reef Resilience

Reef resilience is a coral reef's ability to resist or recover from the impacts of environmental stressors that we've learned about.

Reef resilience is the coral's way to get better just like when we get sick, our body can fight off diseases, corals can have the same abilities to stay healthy. There are ways we can help the corals stay strong and healthy!!

How can we help our coral reefs?



- Conserve water
- Turn off the lights
- Hands to ourselves!
- Marine debris crusader!
- Volunteer at beach cleanups
- Sustainable seafood
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Talk to family and friends

Coral Bleaching



Coral Bleaching Models

What happens to corals when they are exposed to rising water temperatures?

Let's explore!



Coral Reef Rescue Mission

Activity!



Coral Reef Rescue Mission

- Save Florida's Coral Reef!
- Protect the Reef
- Stop
 - Pollution
 - Marine Debris
 - Overfishing



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i8ARjleM2k>