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## 45. A MARINE SHORT STORY

**Learning Objective:** To identify through a short story some of the damages inflicted on coral reefs by human beings.

**Technique:** A short-story

**Ecological message:** The coral reef is an important and fragile ecosystem. We must take care of it and not cause imbalance in the marine life.

**Materials:** Color illustrations.

**Procedure:**

1. Ask a student to read the following story aloud.

### CORAL REEF

Near a very beautiful island, surrounded by an immense sea, is a precious place. It is a place where multicolor fishes, lobsters of different sizes and many little animals live. Everyone likes to go there to visit. Do you know what the name of the place is? Coral reef.

One day, a boy went fishing with his father in a small boat. To get hold of a lobster, they stepped all over the corals, breaking and destroying the delicate structures. The little corals began to cry, "Why do you all hurt us so much? Don't kill us! We help all the inhabitants of this island."

The little boy and his father were scared when they heard hear those words. With amazement, they asked, "Who hurt you?"

The little corals answered back, "People—grasping us, when they throw boat anchors overboard they hurt us, the divers step on us. Also, when it rains very hard, all the sediments that people drain run into the sea and make it hard for us to breathe. Every day many of our brothers die."

The boy and his father were very saddened. From that day on they promised to take good care of the corals in the reef and to tell other people what had happened to them so that others also would not destroy the reef.

2. Discuss the content of the story, reviewing the different ways in which corals are harmed.
3. Ask each student to write his/her own short story, or they can write collectively in a small group, about a coral reef and how we can protect it.
4. Comment on the students' stories.
5. Ask them to illustrate the above story.

**Correlation to National Standards from McREL ( <http://www.mcrel.org> ) :**

Life Sciences

6. Understands relationships among organisms and their physical environment

Geography

8. Understands the characteristics of ecosystems on Earth's surface
14. Understands how human actions modify the physical environment