

From: Reef Relief

Special Thanks to: Rudy Bonn

This activity involves teaching kids about coral reproduction, specifically broadcast spawning. Split up groups evenly – an easy way of doing it would be splitting up groups in to girls and boys. Give one group bottles of bubbles – this group will be acting as the corals that are reproducing. Tell the other group that they will be acting like predatory fish, who feast on the reproductive outputs of the corals. The group acting as predators can only “eat” the bubbles while they are still in the air – this represents how newly formed coral larvae float around as plankton and are more likely to be eaten. When the bubbles land on an object and stick, they can no longer be “fed” on by the predators. The movement of the bubbles in the wind represents the movement of the coral larvae with the ocean currents – some bubbles will be carried farther than others and away from the predators, just like some larvae are carried farther than others. Some of the bubbles will pop when they land – this represents how some coral larvae land on substrate that aren’t good for growing. Those that do land without bursting represent those who land on adequate habitat and survive. The activity serves in showing the kids how only some coral larvae survive, and just a couple of the threats they encounter from their onset.