

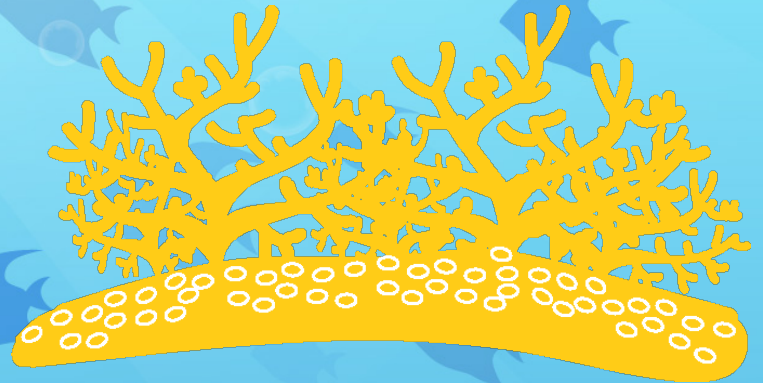
# CORAL REEFS. WHY CARE?

**CORAL REEFS ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR HEALTHY MARINE ECOSYSTEMS.**

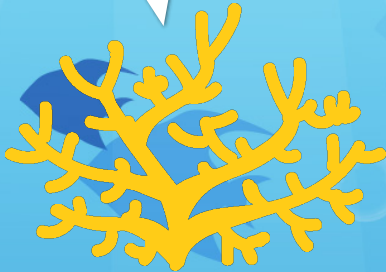
**OFTEN CALLED "RAINFORESTS OF THE SEA", CORAL REEFS FORM SOME OF THE MOST DIVERSE ECOSYSTEMS ON EARTH AND ARE FOUND ALL OVER THE WORLD'S OCEANS.**



Corals are made up of tiny creatures called **polyps**.



Coral organisms can live on their own, but are renowned for constructing **spectacular communities**, known as **reefs**.



**Coral colonies** are formed when polyps live together.

**Coral reefs** are large underwater structures, which are made up of many **coral colonies**.



Corals are invertebrate **marine animals**

Approximately

**25%**

of all marine species **depend on coral reefs** for food and shelter.

The largest coral reef in the world is the **Great Barrier Reef** in Australia, which comprises over **3000 individual reef systems** and covers an area of more than **340,00 kilometres squared**.

Coral reefs are **threatened by human interference** - overfishing, chemical pollution, and most significantly, global warming.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Say no to plastic - Pick up litter - Buy sustainable products