Glossary

ahermatype – soft corals and a few hard corals that do not build reefs.
algae – simple, chiefly aquatic plants, such as seaweed and kelp.
anemone – a marine invertebrate related to corals and jellyfish.
anthropogenic – human-caused changes.
atoll – a ring-shaped series of small coral islands that enclose a central lagoon.
barrier reef – a long narrow ridge of coral parallel to the coastline but separated from it by a lagoon.
budding – a form of asexual reproduction where a new cell is formed from the parent cell.
calcium carbonate – a white chemical compound which occurs naturally as chalk and limestone. This is the material which forms coral skeletons.
camouflage – the act or means of disguising something to deceive a predator.
carnivore – an animal that eats other animals.
cnidarian – members of the phyla Cnidaria which are characterized by a body that only opens at one end, such as corals, jellyfish, and anemones.
colony – a connected, interrelated group of hard coral polyps.
conservation – preservation from loss.
coral – colonial marine animals characterized by limestone skeletons, often forming reefs or islands.
coralline algae – type of red seaweed that encrusts itself with lime which helps to cement the dead coral rock together.
coral bleaching – loss of color by corals which occurs when the corals are stressed and expel their endosymbionts.
coral reef – a stony marine structure formed from joined skeletons of corals cemented together by algae and other organisms.
crepuscular – term used to describe animals that become active at dawn and/or dusk.
crustacean – usually a marine animal that has a hard shell.
decomposition – the process of breaking down into smaller elements; decaying.
diurnal – term used to describe animals that become active during the day.
ecosystem – all of the plants and animals in a community along with the non-living environment.
ecology – the study of the interactions of plants and animals with their environment.
endangered species – a species in danger of extinction.
endosymbionts – refer to zooxanthellae.
environment – everything surrounding an organism.
equator – an imaginary line circumscribing the Earth’s surface, dividing the Earth into Northern and Southern hemispheres.
extinct – no longer in existence.
fringing reef – a coral reef that forms adjacent to the shoreline that does not have a lagoon.
food chain – a linear pattern of nutrient and energy transfer among organisms in an ecosystem.
Great Barrier Reef – the largest living organism in the world, stretching over 1,240 miles off the eastern coast of Australia and visible from outer space.
hard corals – reef-building corals that secrete external limestone skeletons and typically have tentacles in multiples of six.
herbivore – an animal that eats plants.
hermaphroditic – containing both male and female sex cells.
hermatypic – hard corals that build reefs.
invertebrate – animal without a backbone.
karst – a region characterized by a network of underground cavities and sinkholes created by the dissolution of soluble rock such as limestone.
keratin – a type of protein found in the outer layer of skin and hair, as well as in nails and feathers.
laguna – a body of shallow water separated from the open sea by a barrier, such as a reef.
mangroves – tropical trees that grow in the transitional zone between land and sea; some mangroves have roots that grow above the ground.
mariculture – the farming of marine plants and animals.
mesenterial filaments – long tubular structures which the coral polyp extends to defend itself from attack.
nematocyst – stinging organ found in corals, jelly-
fish, anemones, and other related organisms, which, when stimulated, ejects a harpoon-like structure that chemically paralyzes the victim.

**nocturnal** – term used to describe animals that become active during the night.

**nudibranch** – a marine organism also called a sea slug or marine snail.

**octocorals** – coral polyps that typically have eight tentacles and secrete flexible skeletons; also called soft corals.

**omnivore** – an animal that eats both plants and animals.

**patch reef** – an island of coral usually found growing on the floor of a lagoon.

**photosynthesis** – process by which the zooxanthellae use sunlight to convert the carbon dioxide and water in the polyp tissue into oxygen and carbohydrates.

**phytoplankton** – tiny floating or drifting aquatic plants.

**plankton** – tiny floating or drifting aquatic plants or animals.

**planula** – free-swimming coral larva.

**pollution** – that which makes something foul or unclean.

**polyp** – the tiny cylindrical body of a coral animal which has a mouth opening surrounded by tentacles.

**population** – all the members of a species that live in the same area and make up a breeding group.

**predation** – a relation between animals in which one captures and feeds on others.

**primary consumer** – organisms that get their nutrients from primary producers; typically herbivores that get their nutrients by eating plants.

**primary producer** – organisms capable of producing their own food, typically through photosynthesis, using light as an energy source.

**propagules** – specialized seed pods that grow on the end of mangrove roots which drop down from the canopy of the tree.

**protection** – the act of defending or guarding from attack.

**reef crest** – the highest and shallowest part of the reef.

**reef face** – the seaward facing slope of the reef.

**seagrass** – simple aquatic plants that grow on the sandy floor of the lagoon.

**secondary consumer** – organisms that typically obtain their nutrients by eating primary consumers; typically carnivores that get their nutrients by eating herbivores.

**sediment** – fine particles of solid matter suspended in water or settling to the bottom of it.

**soft coral** – coral polyps that secrete flexible skeletons; also called octocorals.

**spawning** – a form of sexual reproduction where eggs and sperm are released, usually in water.

**species** – a group of organisms that look alike and are capable of producing fertile offspring.

**sustainable** – use that minimizes negative impacts on the ecosystem or environment while maintaining its contribution to society.

**symbiotic** – mutually beneficial relationship between two different species.

**synergistic** – working together.

**tentacles** – flexible, unsegmented feelers used for feeding, touching, and smelling.

**tetraodontoxin** – a powerful poison in some fish which can cause serious illness and even death if ingested.

**tropics** – region of the Earth’s surface lying between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn (23 degrees, 27 minutes north and south of the equator).

**vertebrate** – an animal with a backbone.

**zooxanthellae** – one-celled algae that live inside the tissue of various animals, such as hard coral polyps, and produce photosynthetic products that the host can use.

**zooplankton** – tiny floating or drifting aquatic animals.
Bibliography


**Coral and Coral Reefs**. Sea World Education Department, 1992.

**Coral Reefs**. Greenpeace Fact Sheet.


References for Students

BOOKS

The publications listed below provide excellent resource material on coral reef ecosystems. See the following section for educational materials that are available through the REEF RELIEF mail order service.


Tate, Suzanne. Mary Manatee: A Tale of Sea Cows, and Tammy Turtle: A Tale of Saving Sea Turtles. Nags Head Art, P.O. Box 88, Nags Head, NC 27959 (tel: 919-441-7480).


PUZZLES AND STAMPS

Life In the Coral Reefs. New York: Judy/Instructo, Simon & Shuster. 50 piece floor puzzle.


Ocean World Puzzle. Hope, Arkansas: Fink & Co./EDUCA. 100 large size pieces with an illustrated guide to identify marine life.

VIDEOS, SLIDES AND CD-ROMS


Educational Merchandise

The following lists books, children's books, videos, cassettes, CD-ROMs and other educational merchandise that is available through Reef Relief. To order, please see the order form at the end of this section.

BOOKS


Anemone Fishes and their Host sea Anemones. Photos and text by Daphne G. Fautin & Gerald R. Allen 159 pp. $29.95

Blue Frontier, Saving America's Living Seas. A comprehensive look at ocean politics in America. David Helvarg. Paperback 299 pp. $15.00. Hardcover $25.95

Cetacea. Theresa Foley. An Eco-Thriller based in the Florida Keys. Paperback 220 pp. $11.95

Collaborative and Community-based management of Coral Reefs. Edited by White, Hale, Renard and Cortesi. Case studies of how various worldwide communities have worked to protect their coral reefs. Includes a chapter on REEF RELIEF. Paperback. 130 pp. $22.00

Deep Cuba, the Inside Story of an American Oceanographic Expedition. Bill Bellville A captivating look at what an expedition involves. 272 pp. $27.95

Diving and Snorkeling in the Florida Keys. John Halas, Judy Halas, and Don Kincaid. A handy photopacked reference of more than 36 diving and snorkeling areas along the Florida Keys. Paperback. $12.95

Eye Of the Albatross, Visions of Hope and Survival. Carl Safina. A stunning epic about seabirds. Hardcover. 376 pp.$27.50

Everglades. Edited by Susan Cerulan. Hardcover. 256 pp. $18.95


Fort Jefferson and the Dry Tortugas National Park. L. Wayne Landrum Produced by the former park manager. Images and text. Hardcover. 71 pp. $19.95

Kayaking in the Keys. Kathleen Patton. Well written by a local resident. Hardcover. 190 pp. $199.95

Manatees and Dugongs of the World. Jeff Ripple. Photographs Doug Perrine. 131 pp. $19.95


Marine Reserves, a Guide to Science, Design, and Use. Jack Sobel and Craig Dahlgren 369 pp. $70.00


Protecting Paradise. Peggy Cavanaugh and Margot Spontak. Features 300 ways to protect Florida's environment. Paperback with 475 color plates, pp. $39.95


Resources
**Reef Fish.** Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. In-A-Pocket waterproof companion to Reef Creature and Coral Identification for Divers and Snorkelers. 4 3/4” X 6” 23 pp. $11.92

**Reef Set.** Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. Set of three hard cover books and a shelf case featuring the three definitive resources to identify reef life: Reef Coral Identification of Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas; Reef Creature Identification of Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas; and Reef Fish Identification of Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas. $120.00

**River of Lakes, a Journey on the St. Johns River.** Bill Bellville. A captivating journey that reveals as much about life in Florida as the natural setting it describes. 220 pp. $17.95

**Seashore Life of Florida and the Caribbean.** Gilbert L. Voss. With 19 full-color illustrations and 400 identification drawings. Paperback. 299 pp. $6.95

**Sea Stars, Sea Urchins, and Allies.** Hendler/Miller/Pawson/Kier. Hardcover. 339 pp. $39.95

**Sea Turtles of the World.** Text and photographs by Doug Perrine. 144 pp. $29.95

**Sharks and Rays of the World.** Text and photographs by Doug Perrine 128 pp. $19.95

**Snorkeling Guide To Marine Life.** Paul Humann and Ned Deloach. Paperback with 250 color plates, 80 pp. $13.00

**The Florida Keys: The Natural Wonders of an Island Paradise.** Jeff Ripple with photos by Bill Keogh and Jeff Ripple. Explore the islands from their formation to the impact of humans on the Keys today. Paperback. 128 pp. $19.95

**The Everglades, Florida Bay, and Coral Reefs, an Ecosystem Sourcebook.** Edited by James Porter and Karen Porter. A comprehensive college level resource with papers by leading researchers, managers and ecologists. 1,000 pp. $125.00

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**Baru Bay: Australia.** Bob Weir and Wendy Weir. A beautifully illustrated tale for children about a young girl on her first visit to a coral reef in Australia and her encounter with Aboriginal people, dolphins, and many sea creatures. An audio cassette features Bob Weir of the Grateful dead narrating the story, with original music inspired by aboriginal musicians. Hardcover. 40 pp. with cassette tape $20.00

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**I Wonder Why The Sea Is Salty and Other Questions about the Oceans.** Text and illustrations by Anita Ganepri. Hardcover. 32 pp. $11.98

**Mary Manatee.** Suzanne Tate. Tales of sea cows. Illustrations, James Melvin 20 pp. $4.99

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The Reef Relief Book of Coral Reef Fish. Bill Alevizon, Ph.D., Illustrations, Ruth Rasche. An excellent learning and coloring book for classroom use, K-3. 22pp. $5.00

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Baru Bay: Australia. Bob Weir and Wendy Weir (our very own REEF RELIEF board members!). A beautifully illustrated children’s book about a young girl on her visit to a coral reef in Australia where she encounters the many life-forms that live on and around the reef - a rainforest, Aboriginal people, and crocodiles on land, as well as bright blue sea stars, reef animals, and dolphins in the water. The book features an illustration key with animal names and a glossary. The audio cassette tape features Bob Weir of the Grateful Dead narrating the story with original music that he produced inspired by the ocean and aboriginal musicians. Excellent for use in the classroom and with the Coral Reef Teacher’s Guide. Hardcover, 40pp. with cassette tape. $ 20.00

Old Turtle audio cassette. Engaging stories and lyrical songs. Sing along with author/composer Douglas Wood and his friends as they celebrate Old Turtle’s message. $11.95

VIDEOS

Canary of the Ocean: America’s Troubled Reef. Miranda Smith Productions. 56 minute video that portrays the stunning beauty of America’s fragile underwater kingdom, investigates the serious threats to its health, and profiles some of the concerned people, including REEF RELIEF representatives, working to preserve it for future generations. $35.00

Coral Reefs: Rainforests of the Sea. Oceanic Research Group in association with The Video Project. 20 minute video with study guide, 1996. Created especially for middle and high school age, it provides an excellent introduction to the science, ecology, and importance of coral reefs, as well as an overview of the serious environmental problems confronting them. Utilizing underwater footage shot on reefs worldwide, the video describes how reefs are formed, where they can be found, their importance to oceans and the human community, and the major natural and human-caused threats they face. $35.00

Seascapes III: The Incredible Coral Reef. Tom Jackson (former REEF RELIEF Board Member), narrated by Fisher Stevens. A 30 minute video describing hard and soft corals, fish and other sealife found at the coral reefs of the Florida Keys and Bahamas. $20.00

The Amazing Coral Reef. Oceanic Research Group in association with The Video Project. 20 minute video
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World Conservation Union (IUCN)
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_____ Yes, I want to join the E-mail Activists List to stay informed.
My email is: _____________________________________

_____ Yes, I want to volunteer to help Reef Relief. Indicate area of interest: (Reef World docent Key West, Capt. Roberts docent Bahamas, education, marine projects, special events). I have a special skill: _____________________________________

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip ____________________________________________________ Telephone __________________________

Mail to Reef Relief, P.O. Box 430, Key West, Fl. 33041.
Credit card via telephone (305) 294-3100. Fax (305) 293-9515.
Visit our website at www.reefrelief.org
Human impact on coral reefs is significant. Coral reefs are dying around the world. Damaging activities include coral mining, pollution (organic and non-organic), overfishing, blast fishing, the digging of canals and access into islands and bays. Other dangers include disease, destructive fishing practices and warming oceans. Factors that affect coral reefs include the ocean's role as a carbon dioxide sink, atmospheric changes, ultraviolet light, ocean acidification, viruses, impacts of dust storms.