

Coral Bleaching Activity

Student Worksheet

1. Obtain 5-10 coral pieces from your teacher
2. Fill out the chart below by testing each coral piece in the 'Hot' water beaker and determine if the coral has bleached or not. If applicable, make sure to note which species you are testing



| Tag # | Coral Species | Bleaching (Yes/No) |
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*Photos provided by the Coral Resilience Lab; for more information and photo credits, please consult this [link](#)

3. Compare your results with fellow classmates to see if any observations overlapped.

4. Design a scientific hypothesis that could explain why these corals are reacting the way they are.

Answer the following questions based on what you have learned from your teacher, the Coral Bleaching Activity, and any alternate media.

1. What is coral and why is it important to marine ecosystems?

2. Where does the coral animal get its food? Where does the coral's zooxanthellae get its food?

3. Describe what happens when coral bleaches. Why does coral bleach?

4. What happens to a coral's zooxanthellae when a coral bleaches?

5. If coral bleaches can it recover? What happens after coral bleaches?

6. What happens to the reef and the organisms on it if the corals are unable to recover from a bleaching event?

7. How are increases in human population and per-person consumption of natural resources impacting Earth's oceans?

8. Why do we think some corals are "super corals" and others are not? What do you think will happen to the number of these corals in an area as the ocean continues to warm?

9. What will happen to the corals that are not super corals as the ocean continues to warm?

10. On a global and individual scale, is there anything that we can do to prevent ocean warming and widespread coral bleaching?