

# Coral Bleaching Activity

## Student Worksheet

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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 of coral you are testing.



Tag #	Coral Species	Bleaching (Yes/No)

\*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 explaining the results you are seeing.

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

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

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

3. If coral bleaches during an ocean warming event, can it recover? What happens after coral bleaches?

4. What will likely happen to the population of corals as a whole as the climate continues to warm?

5. How might corals evolve as the climate continues to warm? Why might they evolve in this way?

6. How might the reef ecosystem change if corals were not there?

7. How might the reef system evolve as the ocean continues to warm?  
Consider scenarios both with and without the presence of thermally resilient corals.

8. On both the global and individual scales, is there anything that we can do to prevent widespread coral bleaching?