Coastal Protections:

Build Your Own Coastline

Student Worksheet

Instructions:

- Bank sand up in one half of the container. Make sure you can still see the bottom of the container in the half without the sand. Sand should come about halfway up the side
- 2. Fill the containers with water so it hits just under the sand. In this demonstration, the sand represents the coastline, and the water represents the ocean.
- Make waves in your container by rocking it back and forth gently, so the water starts to move to the coast.
 These are similar to ocean waves. Observe and record observations of if and how the sand is moving.
- 4. Add barriers to the container (corals or clay). These play the role of the coral reef.
- 5. Make waves in your container and record your observations.
- 6. Experiment with the shape and location of the barrier (is it close or far from the shoreline? Is it tall or short? Big or little?).
- 7. Record your observations and pay attention to which structures are the most effective at stopping wave energy.



^{*}Photos provided by the Coral Resilience Lab; for more information on photos, and photo credits, please consult this <u>link</u>

Build Your Own Coastline

Student Worksheet

- 1. Obtain materials from your teacher and follow the instructions below.
- 2. Fill out the chart below with observations from each coastline model.

Predict what you think will happen				
	Do the waves reach the shoreline?	How do waves affect the beach?	Notes	
Container with no coral reef				
Container with coral reef close to shore				
Container with coral reef far from shore				
Container with big coral reef				
Container with small coral reef				

^{*}Photos provided by the Coral Resilience Lab; for more information on photos, and photo credits, please consult this <u>link</u>

Observe and Record what happened				
	Do the waves reach the shoreline?	How do waves affect the beach?	Notes	
Container with no coral reef				
Container with coral reef				
Container with coral reef close to shore				
Container with coral reef far from shore				
Container with small coral reef				
Container with large coral reef				

Additional observations:

^{*}Photos provided by the Coral Resilience Lab; for more information on photos, and photo credits, please consult this <u>link</u>

Dive in deeper				
What happened when waves hit your beach and there was no coral present?				
2. What would happen to coastlines if the coral reefs were to diminish?				
3. What would happen to humans if coral reefs were to diminish?				
4. What role do coral reefs have in protecting our coastline?				

^{*}Photos provided by the Coral Resilience Lab; for more information on photos, and photo credits, please consult this <u>link</u>

5.	Why do you think coral reefs are better at protecting us on land as compared to other types of barriers?
6.	Using what you already know about global climate change, what are some factors that are causing the rise of global temperatures? How does this impact coral reefs?
7.	What are some ways that we can make sure coral reefs remain healthy and diverse ecosystems in generations to come?