

Coral reef life comes alive in this fun label and match activity that challenges students' deductive reasoning skills and allows for artistic expression.

## Learning Objectives

Students will identify selected coral reef creatures in a matching game format and use the appropriate distinguishing creature colors and features to color the creatures.

## Materials and preparation

- [Coral Reefs](#) by National Geographic
- Life in the Reef worksheet
- Coral Reef Creatures Matching Game Cards, cut out and laminated, if desired
- Markers

## Key terms

- coral reef
- polyps

## Attachments

- Coral Reef Creatures Matching Game Cards (DOCX)
- Life in the Reef (PDF)

## Introduction (10 minutes)

- Announce that today we will explore life in a **coral reef**, a place where many sea creatures live.
- Ask students to imagine they are scuba divers swimming around a coral reef and to share what they see.
- List responses on the board under "Coral Reef Creatures."
- Announce that a coral reef video will introduce us to some creatures that live there. Add that students should compare what we see on the video to our Coral Reef Creatures list as they watch.
- Project the [Coral Reefs](#) video.

## Explicit Instruction/Teacher modeling (10 minutes)

- Ask students what was learned about coral reefs from the video. Specifically, ask what the students think a coral reef is. Explain that corals are actually animals called **polyps** that start out small and form reefs as they grow.
- Review the Coral Reef Creatures list. Ask students what to erase or add based on what was learned so far.
- Explain that the class will play a "What am I?" type guessing game in teams to learn more about coral reef creatures.
- Model how to play the game: Choose one of the Coral Creatures Matching Game cards and read the description. Following the description ask students what creature they think the card refers to. Use the answer key to provide an answer if you are unsure.

## Guided Practice (10 minutes)

- Group students into teams and divide cards up between them. There should be 11 remaining cards.

- Play the game as a whole group, with the teacher as moderator. For example, the teacher may call out a team and ask one member to read the description. Students in that team guess, then allow other teams to guess if the right answer is not stated. As moderator, the teacher will give the correct answer after two incorrect answers.
- Collect the cards at the conclusion of the game and tell students that this game provided the information needed to complete a label and color sheet.

### **Independent working time (10 minutes)**

- Distribute the Life in the Reef worksheet and give directions.
- Remind students that what was learned in the game will help them to color the creatures correctly.

### **Related books and/or media**

- **BOOK:** *The Incredible Coral Reef: Another Active-Learning Book for Kids* by Toni Albert

### **Differentiation**

- **Enrichment:** Challenge students to list features of the coral reef habitat that provide survival needs for each creature.
- **Support:** Provide game cards to use during the worksheet activity.

### **Assessment (10 minutes)**

- Read the number for the worksheet and ask for students to respond with the label that they wrote.
- Provide each correct label for each number. Students will use a marker to circle incorrect responses.
- Collect worksheets and assign percentage grades.

### **Review and closing (5 minutes)**

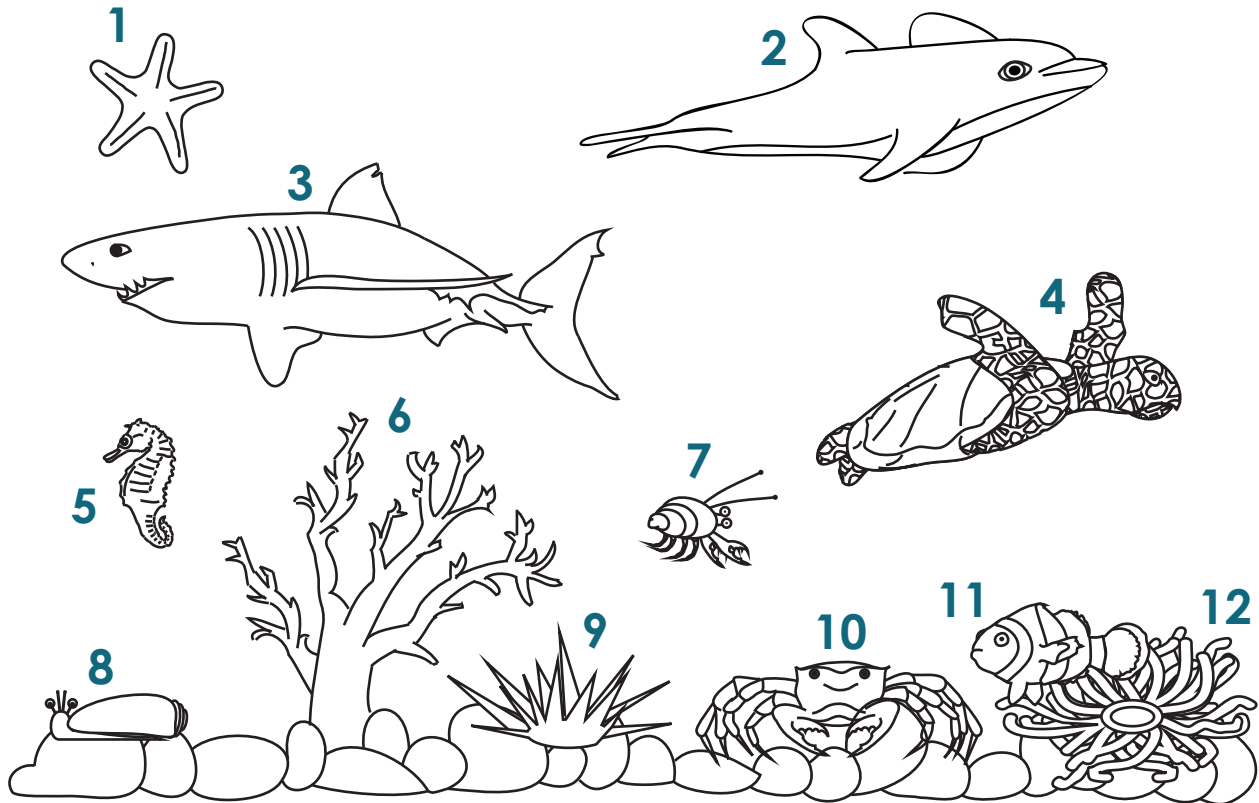
- Say each coral creature name on the worksheet and ask for volunteers to give one defining characteristic and how it was colored on the individual's worksheet.
- Other students will respond with a thumbs up or thumbs down based on their agreement or disagreement.

# Life in the Reef

**Directions:** Match the numbers in the picture to the names in the word bank. Label and color each coral reef organism. Be sure to check your spelling and write neatly.

Cone snail	Spinner dolphin	Branching coral
Sea urchin	Seahorse	Starfish
Crab	Reef shark	Clownfish
Sea anemone	Hawksbill turtle	Hermit crab

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |



WATER

# Life in the Reef

## Answers

**Directions:** Match the numbers in the picture to the names in the word bank. Label and color each coral reef organism. Be sure to check your spelling and write neatly.

Cone snail  
Sea urchin  
Crab  
Sea anemone

Spinner dolphin  
Seahorse  
Reef shark  
Hawksbill turtle

Branching coral  
Starfish  
Clownfish  
Hermit crab

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>Starfish</u>         | 7. <u>Hermit Crab</u>  |
| 2. <u>Spinner Dolphin</u>  | 8. <u>Cone Snail</u>   |
| 3. <u>Reef Shark</u>       | 9. <u>Sea Urchin</u>   |
| 4. <u>Hawksbill Turtle</u> | 10. <u>Crab</u>        |
| 5. <u>Seahorse</u>         | 11. <u>Clownfish</u>   |
| 6. <u>Branching Coral</u>  | 12. <u>Sea Anemone</u> |

