

# MAKE YOUR OWN CORAL



Coral Reefs are an extremely important- and extremely fragile- part of the ocean! Use these activities to learn more about how these Marine Animals work!

## PAINT A REEF

### Materials:

- Blue and Tan Paper (use a heavier paper)
- Paint (use Kids washable or another kid-safe paint)
- Straws
- Cups or Paint Palet
- School Glue
- Water

### Steps:

1. Cut Tan paper in a curvy fashion and glue to the bottom of your blue paper to create ocean floor.
2. Squirt a small amount of paint in dixie cups or paint palet. Add 5 drops of water and stir.
3. Dip the end of your straw in the paint and tap on the page where you want coral to start.
4. Blow gently and slowly to create coral. Move the straw as you blow. For younger kids, have them move or monitor to avoid sucking in.
5. Repeat with various colors.

## BUILD AND BREAK A REEF

### Materials:

- Playdough

### Steps:

1. Spend time making coral polyps (the individual animals in coral)! Students can make them multiple colors, shapes, and sizes- there are lots of types of coral.
2. (This is the fun part) Explore different ways to "break" your coral. Smash it, squish it, flick it! Look at how breakable that is! That is why we have to be so careful around coral!

## MAKE AND KEEP A CORAL REEF

### Materials:

- Playdough/clay
- Pipe Cleaners
- Plastic Animals
- Paint/Markers
- Paper/Cardboard
- Glue

### Steps:

1. Make the "bottom" of your Coral Reef. Roll up balls to make rocks and poke holes in the balls to make Massive Coral. Paint these as desired.
2. To make soft Coral, place Pipe Cleaners in some of the rocks. Cut to various sizes and insert to about half an inch. Glue will help it stay better.
3. If you don't have plastic sea creatures, use clay to create plastic sharks, fish, and other animals!
4. While clay is drying, decorate your paper and cardboard to look like the ocean. Be creative! Paint it blue, draw animals, or draw more coral!
5. Glue your rocks and coral onto your paper, followed by your animals. Now you have your own reef!

