

WORKSHEET 3: OUR CORAL REEF IS SICK! TEACHER'S GUIDE

It's time to do research! Why are coral reefs valuable and why should we care about them? One reason is that they are beautiful and interesting. Coral reefs are ecosystems: an area filled with all kinds of plants and animals that live together and make a healthy place in nature. But there are many more reasons. Try to find at least three.

1. Coral protects fish that are food for many people.
2. Coral can protect seashores from large storms that can wash away land.
3. Researchers are looking in coral reefs for new medicines to help people.
4. Coral reefs provide jobs for many people, for example through fishing or taking tourists to see the reefs.

DANGER! DANGER! DANGER!

Remember that when the ocean gets too warm, the coral gets stressed and then rejects the zooxanthellae. This is called bleaching. Then the coral loses its food. It turns white. If the coral is stressed for too long, the coral and the reef will die. Can we help the coral?

- Joan Takayama-Ogawa says that we can use less fuel by not wasting food.
- And that we can be artists who help to teach other people about the importance of healthy coral reefs.
- We can tell others about the value of coral reefs by making artwork about it.

Can you think of other ideas?

- We can support research about helping coral reefs stay healthy.
- We could walk or ride our bikes sometimes instead of driving in cars.

Draw to Share Ideas!

Draw a coral you think you would like to make to share your ideas about coral. Make it realistic, or make it exaggerated or cartoon-like. Think about what would get people's attention.