

# Build your own coral reef!

A coral reef is an underwater ecosystem. It is made of different kinds of corals (which are actually living things!) and is the home of many fish species and marine plants. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest reef system in the whole world! Coral reefs are naturally colourful because of the different algae that lives in the coral. However, due to the warming of the waters because of climate change, reef systems are fading to white- this is known as coral bleaching.

## Make your own coral reef

If you're a little too young to be making your own reef, we have provided a template for you to draw your own! For those old enough, you can create your own coral reef with things you find around the house, just follow the steps below!

**STEP 1:** Take a good look at the coral reef pictures we have, as well as other ones you can find online. What can you see?

**STEP 2:** Find a spare shoe box that you can use as your coral reef

**STEP 3:** Gather items to use in your coral reef. You will need shapes for your coral, marine plants and the fish! These can be made from items such as styrofoam, paper, cardboard and cotton balls.

**STEP 4:** With supervision from an adult, draw and use scissors to cut out your shapes from your items.

**STEP 5:** Get out your paints or your coloured pens and get creative. What colours do we see in coral reefs?

**STEP 6:** Get gluing and stick in your coral, plants and fish in your reef.

**STEP 7:** Find somewhere to display your reef and clean up!

