

THANK YOU!

Save trees and print as a double-sided page!

This coloring page is our free gift to you for you to print and enjoy. Coloring is a creativity-building activity for children and a stress-reliever for adults. On this page, you will also learn about shallow coral reefs—one of the most iconic and important ocean ecosystems.

Directions

- ☐ Print this PDF as a double-sided page and bring it to life with colored pencils, markers, crayons or even watercolors.
- ☐ Fill in large areas or individual sections depending on your creative vision.
- ☐ Don't forget to learn more about shallow coral reefs, the amazing animals that live there, and how you can help preserve them no matter where you live.

This page is brought to you by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the world's leading, independent, non-profit organization dedicated to ocean research, exploration, and education. Learn more about us and about the science that helps us better understand and protect the ocean that makes life on Earth possible.



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Shallow Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are among the most beautiful places on Earth. For many people, they are also the most valuable, providing about 500 million people with resources that include fisheries, tourism, and protection from storms that add up to an estimated \$365 billion.

Plant cells living inside the corals provide their hosts with food while the corals provide them a place to live. Other microorganisms move nutrients and recycle material throughout the reef, making it able to support sea turtles, sharks, fish, and other large animals shown here.

No matter how distant the nearest reef may be from you, human activity around the world is having an effect on these special places. Carbon dioxide emitted from burning fossil fuels is warming the planet, including the ocean, which causes the corals to lose their colorful microbial residents—a process called “bleaching.” More carbon dioxide dissolved in the seawater also causes the water to acidify, making it more difficult for corals and other animals to form their skeleton.

Find and color in these creatures within the shallow reef scene:

- ☐ Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta*
- ☐ Turtle Grass *Thalassia testudinum*
- ☐ Moon Jelly *Aurelia aurita*
- ☐ Reef Squid *Sepioteuthis sepioidea*
- ☐ Brain Coral *Diploria labyrinthiformis*
- ☐ Manta Ray *Manta alfredi*
- ☐ Parrotfish *Scarus iserti*
- ☐ Sea Fan *Gorgonia ventalina*

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