

#ColortheOcean



WOODS HOLE **OCEANOGRAPHIC** INSTITUTION

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COLOR THE OCEAN: Shallow Coral Reefs

Save trees and print as a double-sided page!

This coloring page is our free gift for you to print, enjoy, and learn about our ocean world. Coloring is a creativity-building activity for children and a stress-reliever for adults. On this page, you will also learn about deep-sea hydrothermal vents, one of the most spectacular features on the seafloor.

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.

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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.

Identify and color the following within the 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*

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) is a place where scientists, engineers, students, and many others come together to solve difficult problems and to learn more about the ocean. At any given time, WHOI researchers are leading over 800 projects in the lab, in the field, on shore, and at sea to help leaders around the world make decisions that will sustain our ocean planet. We tackle the most pressing issues of our time by championing ocean exploration, education, research, and awareness. And we do this for our ocean, our planet, our future.