

## Resource 1

Look at the resource below, which shares some information about coral reefs.

Would you like to visit a coral reef? Why?



Polyps

### What is a coral reef?

Coral reefs are built by tiny creatures called polyps. Polyps are the living part of coral and they often live in large colonies snatching food, such as plankton and algae, from the water with their tentacles. As coral polyps die, they become hard and new polyps grow on top of them causing the reef to develop.



### Examples of fish found in coral reef



Clownfish



Shark



Eel



Lionfish



Pufferfish



Cuttlefish

### Coral reef facts

- Coral reefs need warm, shallow water to form. They are found close to the Equator, near coastlines.
- Different types of coral grow into different shapes like mushrooms, trees, fans, flowers and brains!
- The largest coral reef system in the world is the Great Barrier Reef, Australia.
- Coral reefs are home to 25% of all known marine species.