

## Resource 2

Look at the resource below, which explores some of the reasons coral reefs are so important.

### Why are coral reefs important?

Which do you think is the most important? Why?

Extracts from plants and animals found in coral reefs have been used to develop medicines and treatments.

A huge number of species rely on coral reef. It provides a home, source of food, protection and a place to lay eggs.

Without coral, the amount of carbon dioxide in the ocean would rise, affecting all living things on Earth.

Coral reefs protect coastlines as they reduce wave energy. This means less erosion but also, reduced flooding. The impact of natural disasters, such as tsunamis can also be lessened.

Many people depend on coral reefs for food and jobs. Coral reefs attract millions of tourists every year and it supports the fishing industry.

Coral reefs are nature's water filtration system! Corals and sponges consume particles creating clean, clear water. Coral reefs cannot exist in polluted or murky waters, so this means they continue to grow whilst creating beautiful beaches.

