



LESSON PLAN: **Stopping the Demise of the World's Coral Reefs**

Names: _____

Date: _____

Save the Coral Reefs Research Worksheet

Now that you have learned some basic information about coral reefs and what is happening to them worldwide, you will conduct research to create a project display and presentation that addresses specifically what can be done to preserve the world's coral reefs, actions that all people can take to preserve the reefs, and increase awareness about why this environmental problem should be one that all people take an interest in. Working in pairs or small groups, complete parts 1-3 below for this assignment.

Part 1: Collecting Research

Using science-based research materials from the Internet and/or the library, collect as much information as you can about the worldwide destruction of coral reefs and what can be done to save them. Use the questions below to guide your research. Record what you learn on a separate sheet of paper. Be accurate and collect facts, examples, and data that can be used in your presentation.

- Who/what is causing the destruction of coral reefs around the world?
- How does the destruction of coral reefs affect the entire ocean ecosystem?
- If destruction continues at the current rate, when will coral reefs become extinct?
- Why is the preservation of coral reefs important to man as well as animals?
- Where are the most severely endangered reefs in the world located?
- What can the everyday person do to prevent the destruction of coral reefs?
- What is the U.S. government doing to preserve coral reefs in American waters?
- How could the loss of coral reefs affect various economies throughout the world?

The following websites may be helpful to you as you conduct research about the questions and topics described above.

ABC News

<http://www.artificialreefs.org/Articles/transplantCorals/transplant.html>

Reef Replacement: New Project Hopes to Restore Coral Reefs by Growing Them

Pew Center on Global Climate Change

http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/all_reports/coral_reefs/index.cfm

Coral Reefs & Global Climate Change: Potential Contributions of Climate Change to Stresses on Coral Reef Ecosystems

Degradation of Coral Reefs due to Decline of water quality

<http://plaza.ufl.edu/dru79/webpage.html>

U.N. Wire

http://www.unwire.org/UNWire/20040218/449_13201.asp

Half World's Coral Reefs Could Vanish By 2100, Study Says

National Geographic News

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/07/0725_coralbleaching.html

Is Bleaching Coral's Way of Making the Best of a Bad Situation?

NOAA

<http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/25list.html>

NOAA's 25 Things You Can Do to Save Coral Reefs

Part 2: Organizing Your Data

Using the information you collected in Part 1, create a display or presentation that illustrates what you learned about the destruction of the world's coral reefs and ways that we can work to preserve this ecosystem. This presentation must include the following:

- at least one map that illustrates where endangered coral reefs are located
- at least 2 pictures of coral reefs
- at least 2 pictures of specific actions/things that have caused coral reefs to become endangered
- scientific data including at least 10 reasons, facts, or examples that describe problems that are causing the demise of coral reefs
- at least 5 specific things that can be done to save the world's coral reefs, including explanations of why these actions are necessary and how they can protect the reefs

Make your presentation as interesting as possible. Consider creating a Power Point or other form of multi-media presentation to share what you have learned. Another way to present what you have learned could be the use of a large poster board display, a 3-dimensional model, diorama, or shadow box type of display. Each member of your pair/group will be responsible for making part of the presentation and discussing it with the class.

Part 3: Spread the Word

The last part of this project will be for you to increase public awareness about the problem by using some form of media to illustrate what you have learned. In your pair/small group, create a public service announcement (audio or video), bumper sticker, political cartoon, letter to the editor of the school or local newspaper, billboard, poster, etc. that calls attention to saving the world's coral reefs. Use what you have learned from conducting your research and creating your presentation to project a clear, concise message to others. Share your public awareness campaign piece with other students in the class as the final piece of your group presentation.