

Wild Reef

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY GUIDE



Name _____

Humans need biodiversity to survive. We depend on many types of organisms for food, clothing and building materials for shelter. Unfortunately, humans can have negative effects on biodiversity. Today we are going to investigate one of the most diverse and most ancient ecosystems in the world: **the coral reef**. We are going to determine three things: **how humans benefit from healthy corals, what impacts humans have on them and what conservation efforts are being taken to protect these organisms.**

1 “Bio” means life. “Diverse” means showing a great deal of variety or having differences. Based on this information, **what do you think is the most likely definition of biodiversity?**

- A Life that is very similar but lives in different locations
- B Different forms of living organisms
- C Organisms that look different but are the same
- D Living things that need different things to survive

2 Use the exhibit to fill in the blanks in the statements below and answer the Energy Pyramid.

- Coral reefs cover less than _____ percent of the ocean floor yet are home to _____ percent of ocean life.
- Researchers estimate the value of coral reefs to the American fishing industry at more than _____ million.

There is more than one way to find food on a reef

Shark species _____

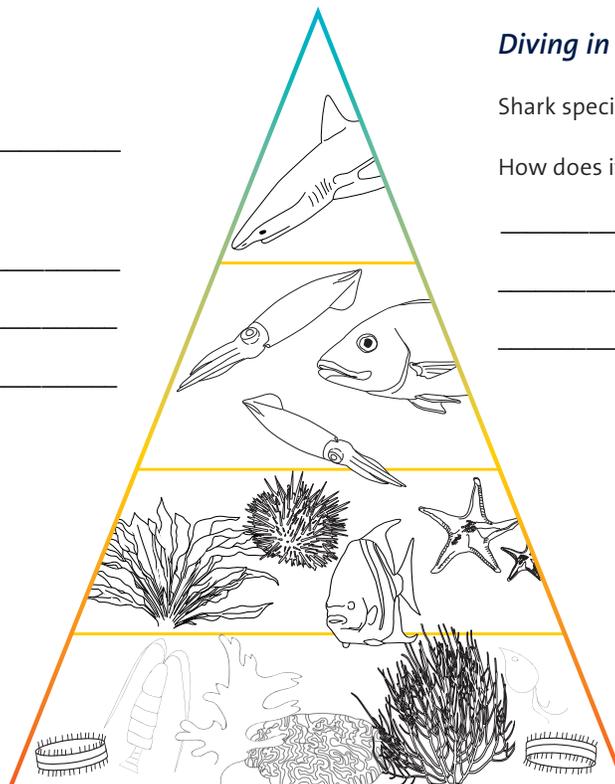
How does it depend on corals?

Diving in a thriving reef

Shark species _____

How does it depend on corals?

Corals and other plants make up the foundation of coral reefs and their ecosystems



Energy enters the ecosystem from the bottom level and is moved upward by the organisms eating species below them on the food web.



3 *Welcome to Apo!* Apo is an island in the Philippines that is near what scientists have proclaimed to be the most biodiverse ecosystem in the world. Use the space to answer the questions below.

<i>Find three ways in which humans have negatively impacted corals</i>	<i>How do people depend on corals?</i>	<i>How are the people of Apo working to protect and restore their reef?</i>
1		
2		
3		

4 *How can you help?*

What is SECORE? How does this organizations' work help corals?

What can you do to help protect corals and mangroves?

5 *Reflection questions*

Corals are dying at an alarming rate. How does this affect ocean biodiversity? How does this affect humans?

What question do you have after today about the dependence of humans on corals?
