

Wild Reef

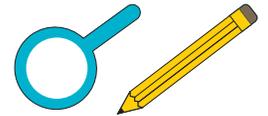
6-8 ACTIVITY GUIDE



Name _____

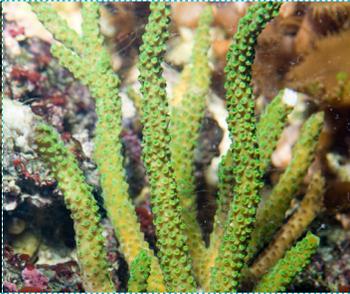
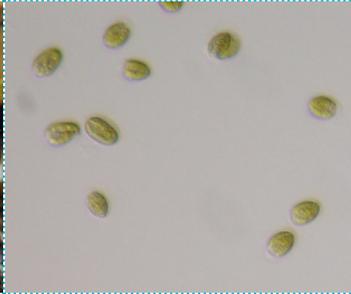
Exhibit Explorer: Wild Reef, the Story of the Amazing Coral Ecosystem

Have you ever visited the Wild Reef at Shedd Aquarium? This exhibit allows you to explore a Philippines reef from the tide zone down to the ocean bottom and back up through mangroves and a lagoon. Did you know that corals are animals? It might seem weird, because once they are adults, they do not move, but they eat photosynthetic plankton. Corals also provide homes to other reef animals, and they are a food source to many fishes and other species in the ocean.



1 *In the space below each picture, label each organism in the coral ecosystem as either a producer, primary consumer, or secondary consumer. Make sure to support your label with scientific evidence. The information you need is either in the exhibit or on your handout.*

- Producer: an organism that can use the sun's energy to produce its own energy through photosynthesis
- Primary consumer: an organism that eats a producer
- Secondary consumer: an organism that eats a primary consumer

ORGANISM	PARROTFISH	CORAL	PHYTOPLANKTON
			
PRODUCER, PRIMARY, OR SECONDARY CONSUMER			
SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE	I picked this label because	I picked this label because	I picked this label because



2 In the space below, complete the food chain for the three organisms in #1: *parrotfish, coral, phytoplankton*.



3 A tertiary consumer is an organism that eats a secondary consumer. Very important tertiary consumers in coral reef ecosystems are sharks. Place your *shark* on your food chain above. Why did you place your shark there?

4 Create a hypothesis: Corals are extremely sensitive to water temperature changes. There is a temperature range they need to survive and thrive. Unfortunately, corals cannot survive if they do not have the right temperature. Based on this information and your food chain above, how do you think a change in water temperature would affect the population of sharks? Why?

4 What is SECORE? Why is it an important project for preserving more animals than just corals?

5 What can you do to help protect corals?
