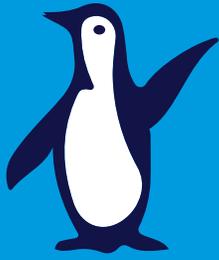


# STAY HOME



with  SHEDD AQUARIUM



## Cling on to Coral Reefs



Coral reefs are considered one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world, meaning they are home to a wide variety of species. Shedd Aquarium's Wild Reef exhibit depicts the brightly colored coral reefs that surround Apo Island in the Philippines. High biodiversity helps maintain a healthy ecosystem balance, but it also provides valuable resources for humans. Coral reefs inspire wonder and awe, but also provide food, medicine and coastline protection from storms for millions of people worldwide. One of the biggest threats coral reefs face is plastic pollution—disposable items like straws and plastic bottles that end up littering the ocean. People all over the world can do their part to protect coral reefs by reducing their personal plastic usage or by finding ways to upcycle their “trash.”

Celebrate the most biodiverse ecosystem in the ocean by identifying animals commonly found on coral reefs. Then use materials you can find at home to create your very own upcycled coral reef masterpiece that can be displayed in your window!

**Activities for youths (grades K–5) on pages 2–3. >**

**Activities for teens (grades 6–12) on page 4. >**

# Cling on to Coral Reefs

## MATERIALS

- **Recyclable materials:** cardboard boxes, plastic bags, plastic water bottles, straws, egg cartons, toilet paper tubes, scrap paper, etc. *These materials might be considered “trash,” but they can be repurposed into art! The only limit is your imagination!*
- **Markers, crayons, watercolors, etc.**
- **Scissors and glue**
- **Tape, string,** or other materials to hang your art in a window



## YOUTH ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

**Step 1:** Watch these videos to observe animals that can be found in coral reefs. As you’re watching (or on your own), complete the *Who Lives on the Coral Reef?* checklist on page 3.

- Learn about the role coral reefs play for animals: [player.vimeo.com/video/354024023](https://player.vimeo.com/video/354024023)
- Get a close look at a living coral reef: [player.vimeo.com/video/359389028](https://player.vimeo.com/video/359389028)
- Live stream of Shedd’s *Underwater Beauty* special exhibit: [sheddaquarium.org/underwaterbeauty](https://sheddaquarium.org/underwaterbeauty)

**Step 2:** Gather clean recyclables and other materials you have at home that can be repurposed into art.

**Step 3:** Using the *Who Lives on the Coral Reef?* checklist as starting inspiration, and with the help of an adult, create animals for your coral reef! Be creative!

- *How can you create the long, flowy tentacles of a sea jelly?*
- *What could you use to make the hard shell for a sea turtle?*

**Step 4:** Display your coral reef creations in your window.

## SHARE WITH US!

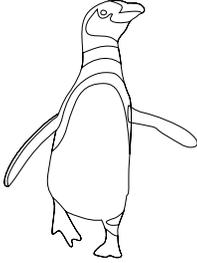
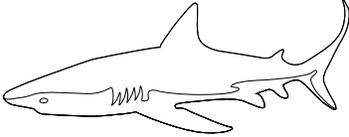
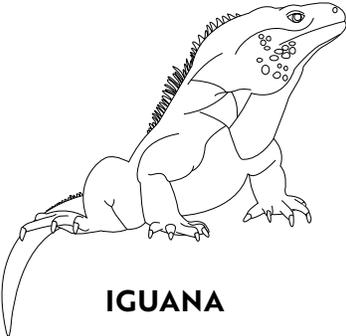
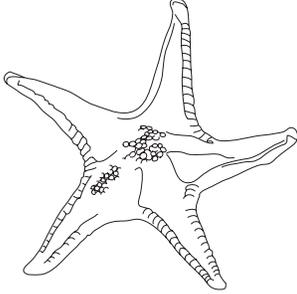
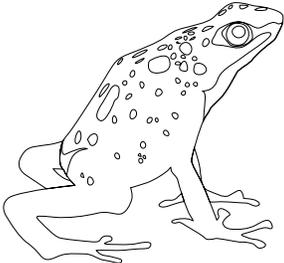
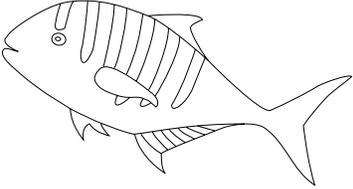
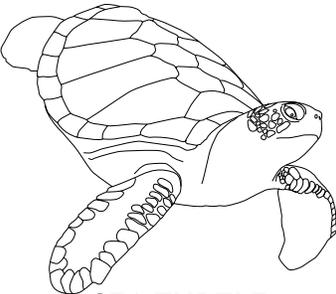
We want to see your window-art masterpieces! Take a picture of what you created and share it with us **@SheddLearning** and **@HitPlayChicago** using hashtags **#StayHomeHitPlay** and **#EarthMonthIn**.

# Cling on to Coral Reefs

## WHO LIVES ON THE CORAL REEF?

Watch these videos to observe animals that can be found in coral reefs. As you're watching (or on your own), complete the *Who Lives on the Coral Reef?* checklist below. Circle and color the animals you see in the videos or that you think live on a coral reef.

- Learn about the role coral reefs play for animals: [player.vimeo.com/video/354024023](https://player.vimeo.com/video/354024023)
- Get a close look at a living coral reef. [player.vimeo.com/video/359389028](https://player.vimeo.com/video/359389028)
- Live stream of Shedd's *Underwater Beauty* special exhibit: [sheddaquarium.org/underwaterbeauty](https://sheddaquarium.org/underwaterbeauty)

 <p><b>CORAL</b></p>	 <p><b>PENGUIN</b></p>	 <p><b>SHARK</b></p>
 <p><b>IGUANA</b></p>	 <p><b>SEA STAR</b></p>	 <p><b>TREE FROG</b></p>
 <p><b>FISH</b></p>	 <p><b>SEA JELLY</b></p>	 <p><b>SEA TURTLE</b></p>



# Cling on to Coral Reefs



## TEEN ACTIVITIES

### VIDEOS

- Learn about the role coral reefs play for animals:  
[player.vimeo.com/video/354024023](https://player.vimeo.com/video/354024023)
- Get a close look at a living coral reef:  
[player.vimeo.com/video/359389028](https://player.vimeo.com/video/359389028)
- Live stream of Shedd’s *Underwater Beauty* special exhibit:  
[sheddaquarium.org/underwaterbeauty](https://sheddaquarium.org/underwaterbeauty)

**Watch the videos** listed to the left and make a list of all the animals you see. Research one or two that catch your eye.

Find out:

- What do they eat? How do they hunt/find their food?
- Where do they live?
- What is their relationship with the other animals on the reef?

**Make a detailed sketch of one animal.** Look closely and observe things like color, pattern, texture, body shape and behavior.

**Gather clean recyclables and other materials you have at home** that can be repurposed into art to create the animal you researched or a whole coral scene. Once you’ve gathered all your materials, sort them by color. Watch your trash transform into art materials!

**Make upcycled art with a message!** Turn your coral reef art into a collage encouraging people to reduce their use of plastic or to prevent plastic from ending up in our waterways.

## SHARE WITH US!

We want to see your window-art masterpieces!  
Take a picture of what you created and share it with us **@SheddLearning** and **@HitPlayChicago** using hashtags **#StayHomeHitPlay** and **#EarthMonthIn**.