



Dear Educator,

This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “Coral Reefs” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

The “Coral Reefs” unit offers **16 pages**.

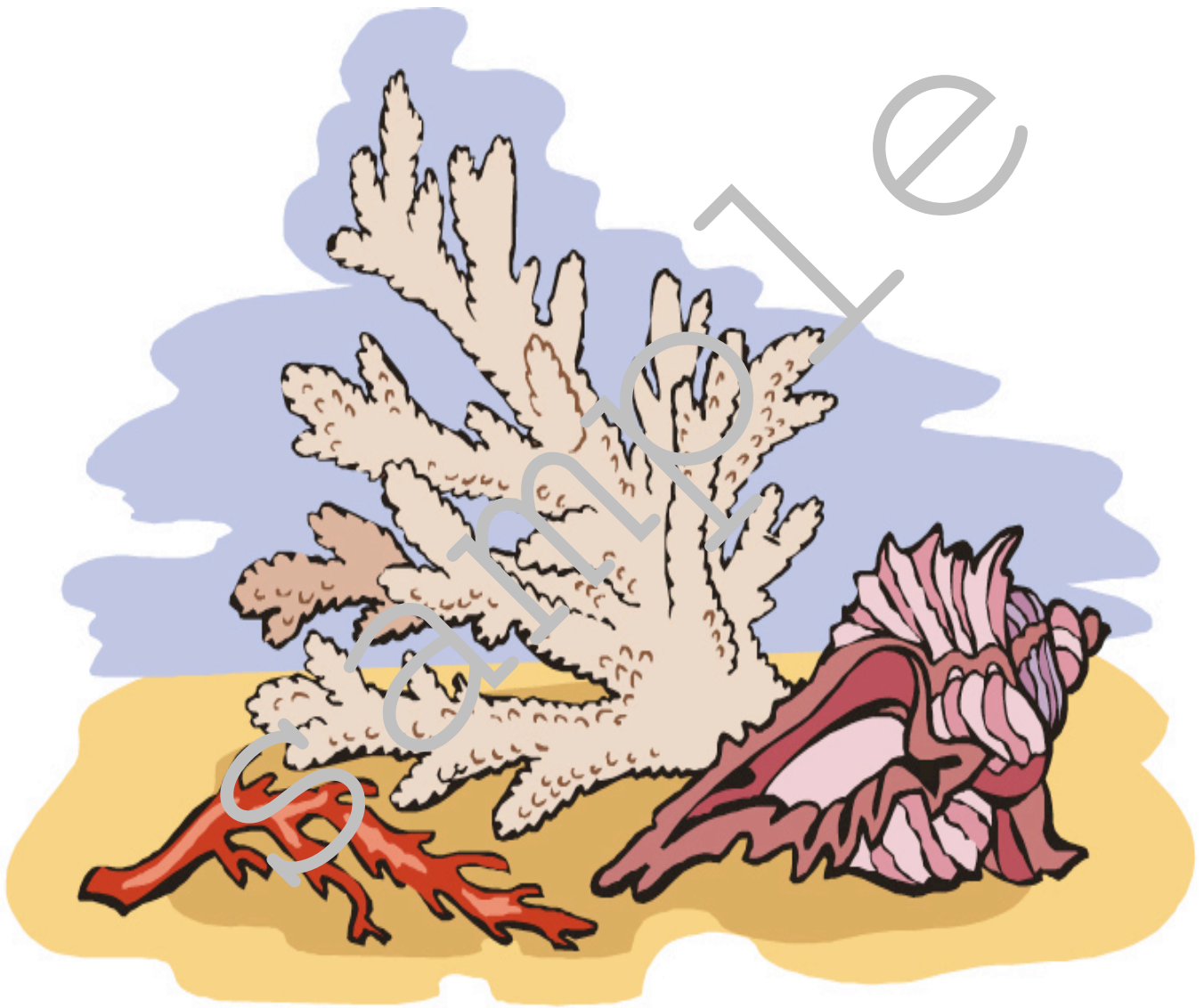
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Coral Reefs



Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are only found where the water stays warm all year around. Living coral reefs are only found in places where the water is clean and clear. The coral can not survive if the water gets too cold or dirty.

Coral reefs need sunlight. Most coral reefs are between 60 to 100 feet deep. A few go as deep as 200 feet if the water is very, very clean and clear.



There are species of coral that live in colder water areas of the world but they do not form coral reefs. The colder water corals do not live as close together as their reef building relatives. The stronger water movements in colder seas wear away the dead skeletons of coral before they can pile up to make a reef.

There are many kinds of animals that live in coral reefs. Some come for just part of the year and migrate away. Many animals live only in coral reefs and would probably be extinct if there were no coral reefs for them to live in.



Read each word below. Write a definition for each word.

1. species _____

2. extinct _____

3. migrate _____

Coral Reefs

Other Reef Occupants

Many kinds of animals with shells live in coral reefs. These may be crustaceans, or mollusks. Crustaceans are animals like shrimp, crabs, or lobsters. Mollusks are animals like clams and oysters.



There are thousands of species of fish that like to live in and around coral reefs. Most of these fish are colorful and not very large. They find it helpful to live in an area where they can hide in the small cracks and holes located all over a reef.

Some types of sharks, turtles, and snakes also live in coral reefs.



Some sea turtles just pass through the reefs on their way to lay eggs on the beaches beyond.

Sea stars and sea urchins are funny looking relatives of the coral animals that live nearby. They also can be found in much deeper areas of the oceans.

There is even grass growing at the coral reefs. It is a sea grass that provides food for many of the plant eating varieties of fish that live there. Since healthy coral reefs have a good source of sunlight these grasses come in many shades of green. They also provide good hiding places from predators.



Make a list of some animals that live in coral reefs.

Coral Reefs

CRISS CROSS

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

anemone
coral

reef
sea

limestone
skeleton

water
color

