



GREAT BARRIER REEF

Learning about the types of coral in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia



GRADES 3-4

KEY WORDS

- coral reef
- polyp
- Great Barrier Reef

STANDARD

- SCI.4.3.3

OBJECTIVE

- Students will learn about the Great Barrier Reef's complex ecosystem, which is made up of millions of tiny coral animals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- One of Australia's greatest tourist attractions is the Great Barrier Reef. This colorful coral reef stretches 1,250 miles along the northeast coast of Australia. Many species of fish live there because food and shelter are plentiful. The ocean water is warm, and there is a lot of sunlight. These conditions are just right for the coral polyps (tiny marine animals) to grow and produce their hard, coral "skeletons."
- Many types of unusual fish can be found on the Great Barrier Reef.
- There are many types of coral found on the reef. The parrotfish chews the sharp coral to get the tiny polyps out of it for food. Then the parrotfish spits out the coral sand pebbles. This fish is responsible for producing many miles of coral sand reefs.

PROCEDURE

- Have the students use the Great Barrier Reef worksheet to locate the three types of corals listed.
- Have the students draw a picture of each coral in the circle next to its title.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Check the students' work for accuracy and completion.
- Have the students say aloud how each got its name.



GREAT BARRIER REEF

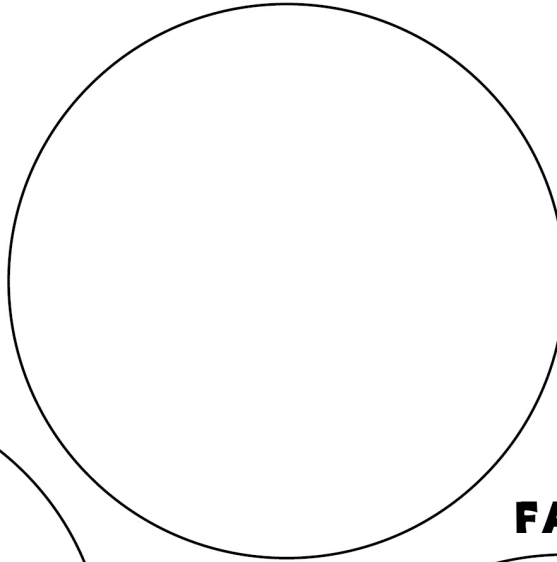


Find the pictures of each of these corals. Draw a picture of each one.
Can you see how each one got its name?

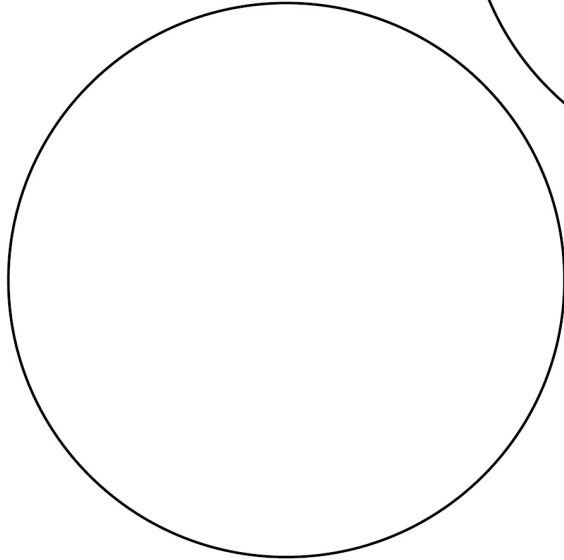
TYPES OF CORAL

Name _____

BRAIN



TUBE



FAN

