



LESSON GOALS

- ✎ Learn about the Great Barrier Reef's complex ecosystem
- ✎ Understand how the ecosystem consists of millions of corals

GRADES

3rd to 4th

MATERIALS

- ✎ Pencils
- ✎ Computers

STANDARDS

- ✎ SCI.4.3.3

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- ✎ Grade worksheet based on completeness and accuracy
- ✎ Encourage students to say aloud how each got its name

Brain, Elkhorn, Fan, and So Much More!

Practice your students' identification skills as they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo different types of corals. Every coral is unique due to its vast diversity of colors, sizes, types, and so much more. Ask these variety of questions to engage your students even further:

- ✎ Do you know much about corals?
- ✎ Are corals classified as plants or animals?
- ✎ Which fish likes to live near corals?
- ✎ Why do you think corals are important?

Have students search for the different types of corals to observe the differences in their characteristics. Encourage them to research other interesting facts about these types of coral. Answer students' questions the best you can as they research individually on corals. Once they completed their research, have them find a partner to share their findings. After discussing with their partners, have them share to the class about how they earned their names and along with their characteristics.

Although corals at our zoo always receive what they need to live long, healthy lives, their wild counterparts face new pressures each year. The corals face limitations of space, food & water supply due to climate change, pollution, bleaching, and overexploitation. You can do your part by going to the zoo to visit, dispose trash properly, ditch the disposables, and spread awareness to your friends and family. Be on the lookout for the reefs at the zoo and observe which fish loves their reefs! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children' Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email education@kidszoo.org to express how you used these supplemental activities!

Answer Key (answers can vary):

Brain: This coral looks like a brain with cerebral-like structure around its body. They do not have a brain, but they can grow up to six feet tall and live to as long as 900 years.



Elkhorn: The corals are shaped like antlers that you might find on an elk. These corals provide homes to lobsters, parrotfish, and so much more! They are one of the most important reef-building corals.

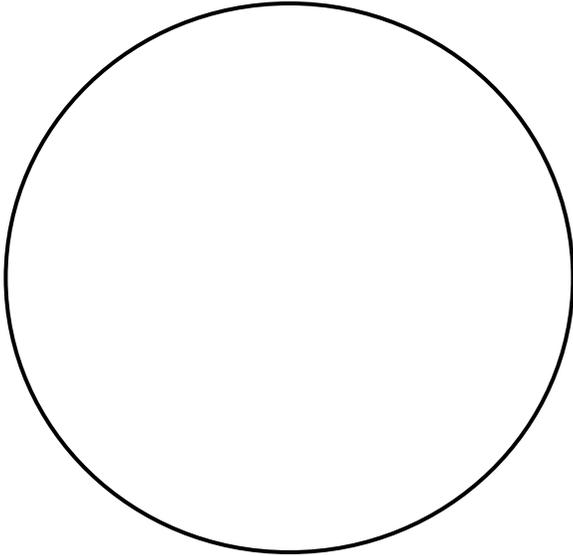
Fan: The sea fan is composed of many polyps that grow together in a flat fanlike pattern. Each polyp has eight tentacles and they all spread out their tentacles to catch prey.





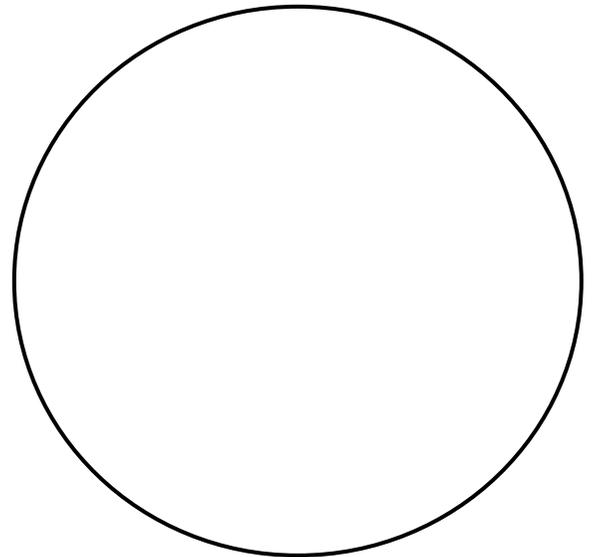
Name: _____

Search for pictures of each corals and draw a picture of it. Why do you think each got its name and write down an interesting fact about them?



BRAIN

ELKHORN



FAN

