



The Risks to Reefs

Age: Grades 4-8

Lesson Plan One: Help Mary Save Coral

Objective: To reinforce an understanding of what is causing coral to be at risk and determine what people can do to help prevent its destruction.

Background: Mary Hagedorn has devoted her life to helping coral by cryogenically preserving it and creating coral banks around the world in the hopes of returning it to our oceans when its existence is at risk.

Activity: Based on the film Help Mary Save Coral, review the film and answer the following questions.

1. What are some of the reasons why coral is facing extinction? Name at least five reasons.
2. What is coral bleaching?
3. What three things do coral need to survive?
4. What do fossil fuels have to do with coral dying?
5. How is the ocean like a sink?
6. What fun activities do we enjoy that could be harming coral?
7. Why should we care about coral? List at least three reasons.
8. What is the relationship between coral and the marine ecosystem?
9. What are Mary's biggest challenges?
10. How can you help? Use the internet to help you answer this question as well.

This activity can be completed as a whole class for younger children, in small groups or individually for older children.