

# LESSON 3 Human Impact on Coral Reefs

## Lesson at a Glance

In this lesson students will have a class discussion on the ecological importance of coral reefs and their value to humans. That discussion will lead the class to examine the threats to reefs both by humans and by nature. The students are then broken into small cooperative groups where they will work together to learn about human impacts affecting the health of coral reef habitats.

## Lesson Duration

Three 45-minute periods

## Essential Question(s)

How do human activities on land and in the marine environment impact the health of coral reefs?

How can people help to preserve and protect the coral reef habitat?

## Key Concepts

- Coral reefs have an important ecological role in marine and coastal environments.
- Coral reefs are a valuable resource for people.
- Human activities on land and in the marine environment can have a negative impact on coral reefs.

## Instructional Objectives

- I can describe how society is influenced by technologies (land and ocean-based fields).
- I can examine the ways people modify the coastal and marine environments, and explain the effects of these changes on the coral reef habitat.
- I can give examples of how people can take action to protect the coral reef habitat.

### Related HCPS III Benchmark(s):

Science SC 3.1.1  
Pose a question and develop a hypothesis based on observations.

Science SC 3.1.2  
Safely collect and analyze data to answer a question.

Science SC 3.2.1  
Describe ways technologies in fields such as agriculture, information, manufacturing or communication have influenced society.

Language Arts: LA: 3.4.1  
Write in a variety of grade appropriate formats for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Language Arts: LA: 3.5.2  
Use significant details and relevant information to develop meaning.

Social Studies SS 3.7.4  
Examine the ways in which people modify the physical environment and the effects of these changes.

