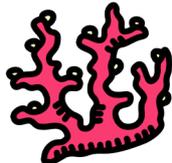




# OUR OCEAN: CORAL REEFS

Secret message decoder!

Did you know that although corals cover less than 1% of the ocean, 25% of all marine life depend on them.



Termed as rainforests of the sea, our actions have an impact on coral reefs around the world. Decode the message to find out where in Singapore can we find the most untouched corals.

A = 	F = 	K = 	P = 	U = 
B = 	G = 	L = 	Q = 	V = 
C = 	H = 	M = 	R = 	W = 
D = 	I = 	N = 	S = 	X = 
E = 	J = 	O = 	T = 	Y = 



**Dive Deeper:** Singapore is home to about 250 species of corals. Choose one species and research on it. What does it look like? Where can it be found? What is special about it?



Here are some resources you can consider for your research:

<http://www.wildsingapore.com/wildfacts/cnidaria/coralhard/coralhard.htm>

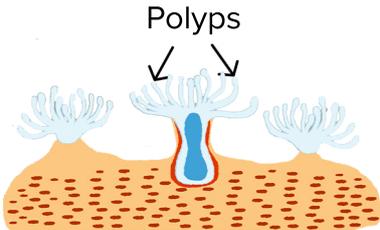
<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsislandmarinelab/>

<https://www.facebook.com/oursingaporereefs>

<https://www.facebook.com/CelebratingSingaporeShores>



## Vocabulary

Corals	Marine organisms that are made up of polyps.
Polyps	Looking like a jellyfish, it can move, feed and reproduce just like any other animal. These animals have special stinging cells in their tentacles to catch prey like plankton or small fish and squid. 
Erosion	The removal of the shoreline caused by strong waves and currents. Corals protect people from this by absorbing the energy from strong waves and acting as a barrier for the coast.
Coral bleaching	An event that happens when the water surrounding corals get too warm. When this happens, corals get stressed out and lose the algae that live in them. Because algae provide the colours in corals, corals turn white when they lose those algae. Since algae also provide food for corals, stressful conditions over a long time could cause corals to die.
Symbiotic relationship	A close ecological relationship between organisms of two different kinds of species that is beneficial.
Artificial reefs	A manufactured reef that provides a hard surface on the sea floor for coral colonies to settle and grow into natural reefs. Artificial reefs are created to restore natural reefs by supporting marine habitats and biodiversity.