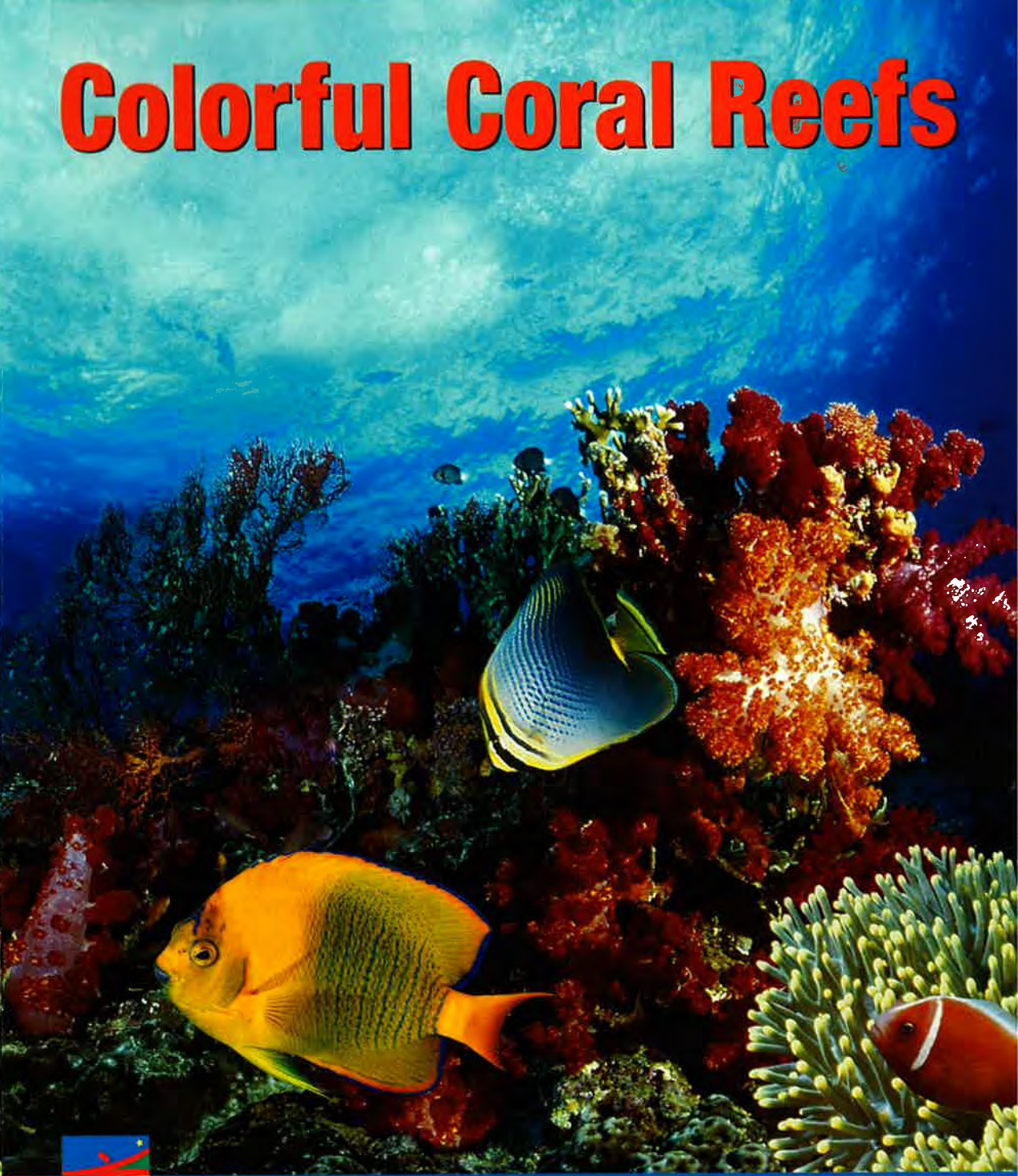
Colorful Coral Reefs



by Katherine Scraper

Benchmark EDUCATION

Level 12 G Word Count: 195*

The Big Idea

Coral reefs are habitats for plants and animals in the ocean.

Skills at a Glance

Monitor-Reading:
- Stop, think, and write

Comprehension:
- Identify main idea and supporting details

Phonics:
- Long e digraphs (clean, eat, need, reef, seagrass, see)

Fluency:
- Read with appropriate pauses

Content Vocabulary:
- algae, animals, coral polyps, coral reef, habitat, ocean, octopus, plants, puffer fish, seagrass, skeleton, stingray

Grammar, Word Study, and Language Development:
- Use prepositions "in" and "on"
- Use antonyms (hurt/help, lives/dies, small/large)

Sentence Patterns:
- A _____ is a _____.
- A(n) _____ can live on a _____.

* Numerals, vocabulary words on pages 2 and 3, and words in photo captions, labels, diagrams, and charts are not included in the word count for this book.

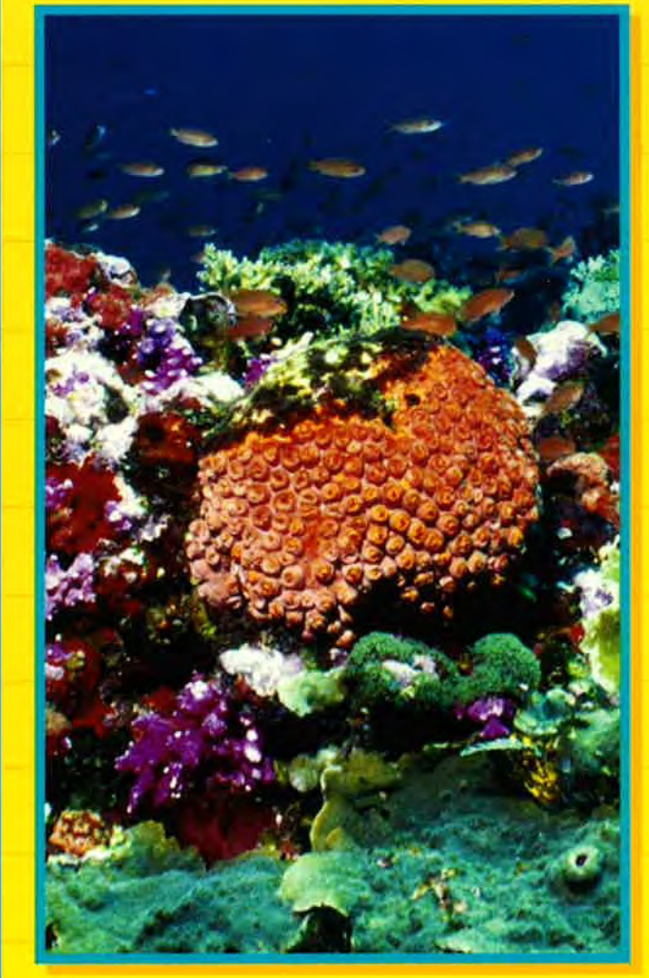
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Director of Photography: Doug Schneider

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What is a coral reef?



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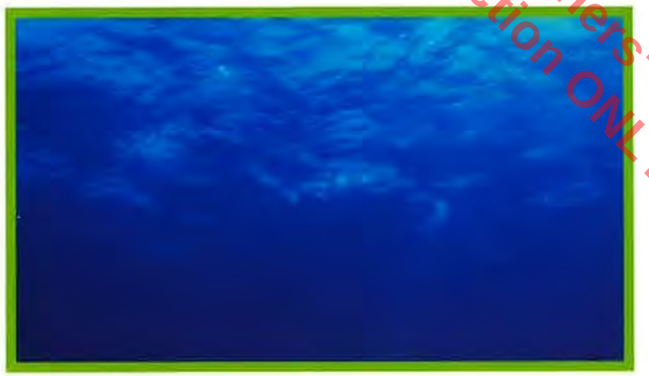
I need to know these words.

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algae



ocean



coral polyps



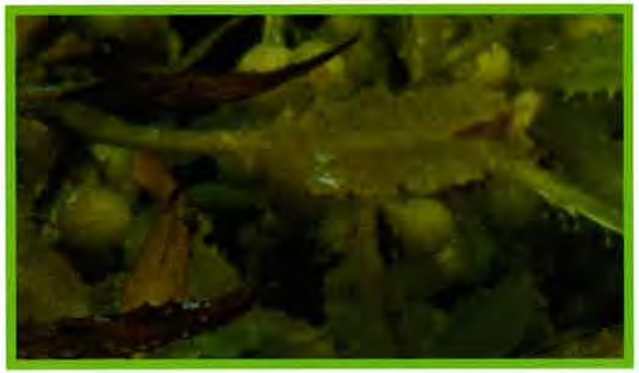
puffer fish



coral reef



seagrass



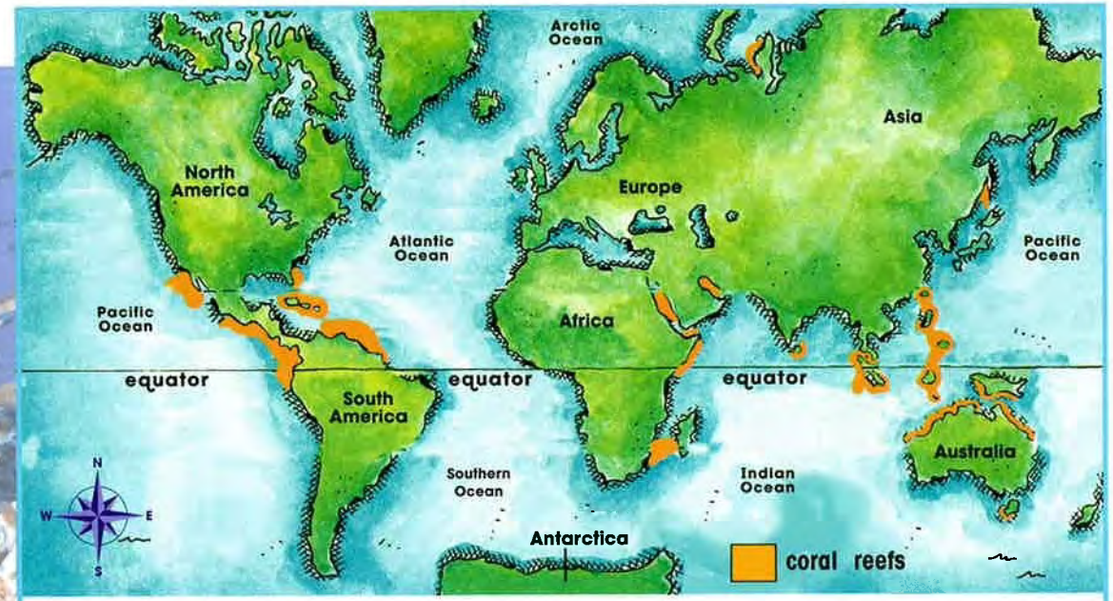
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Many animals and plants live in a habitat. A **coral reef** is a habitat in the **ocean**.

A coral reef forms near land. The water must be clean and warm.



▲ A coral reef is a colorful habitat.



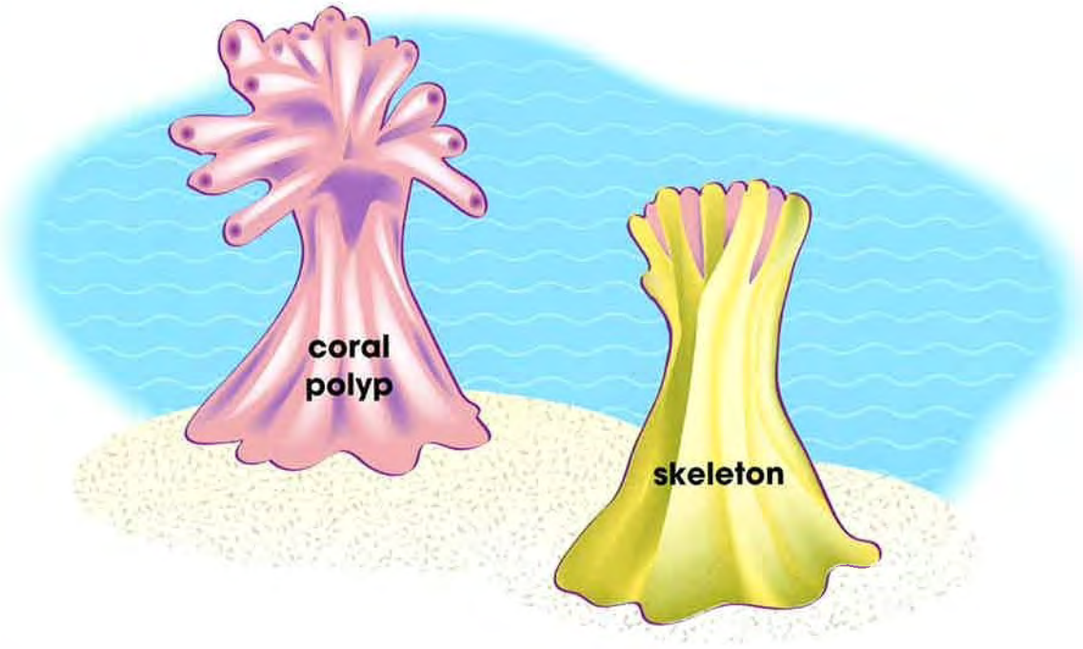
▲ Where do you see coral reefs on the map?

A **coral polyp** is a small animal that lives in the water.
A coral polyp has a skeleton.



▲ A coral reef has millions of coral polyps.

The skeleton forms around the coral polyp's body. The skeleton stays when the coral polyp dies. Many skeletons form a coral reef.



▲ A hard skeleton protects the coral polyp.

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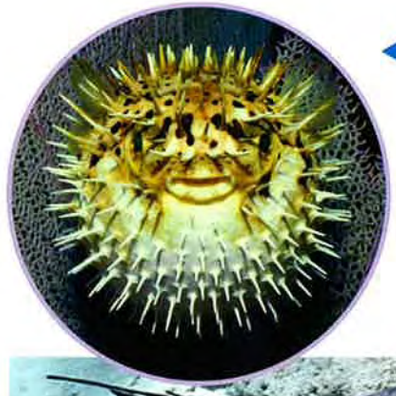
A coral reef is a home for many animals. An octopus can live on a coral reef.



▲ octopus eye

▲ An octopus has eight legs and large eyes.

A **puffer fish** and stingray can live on a coral reef.



◀ A puffer fish can make its body bigger. Then the puffer fish scares away other fish.



▲ A stingray is flat and looks like it has wings.