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# Life in a Coral Reef

Meriam Bates

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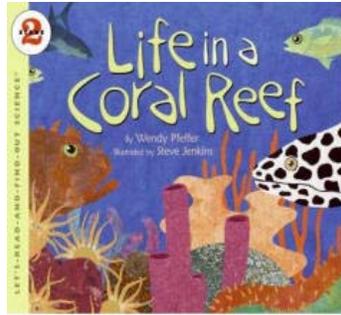
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Pfeffer, Wendy. *Life in a Coral Reef*. Illustrated by Steve Jenkins. HarperCollins, 2009. ISBN 9780064452229. \$5.99. 40 p.

Reviewer: Meriam Bates

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Coral reef animals--Juvenile literature; Coral reef ecology--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Coral reefs are built by tiny sea animals called coral polyps, individually no bigger than a grain of rice. Hard coral polyp colonies are the foundation, and soft coral polyp colonies provide the decoration. Coral reefs are home to more sea creatures—such as sea cucumbers, gobies, groupers, moray eels, anemones, ruffle-headed scorpion fish, decorator crabs, and sharks—than any other ocean habitat. Some of these animals benefit each other, while others are in a predator-prey relationship. Five hundred million people rely on coral reefs for food and jobs, but scientists project that seventy percent of the world’s coral reefs will be destroyed by the year 2050 if the present rate of destruction continues.

This “Let’s-Read-And-Find-Out Science” book is filled with enough accurate scientific information to satisfy even the most curious youngsters. The language is clear and easy to understand, making it easier to grasp the unfamiliar scientific terms. The paper cut-out illustrations by Steve Jenkins are equally engaging, bringing the coral reef alive with bright colors and interesting textures. Those who have enjoyed Jenkins' other works such as *Move!*, *How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly?*, and the Caldecott Honor book, *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?*, will also appreciate *Life in a Coral Reef*.

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