

# Coral Reef Organisms



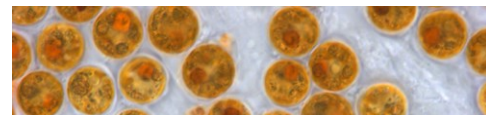
## Instructions

1. Some of the many organisms that live in coral reef ecosystems are listed below. (Samoan names are in parentheses.) Check the box next to the organisms that sound interesting. Then rank your top choices from 1–5 with numbers to the left of the check boxes.

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bigeye scad (atule): <i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bluefin trevally (malauli-apamoana)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bluespine unicornfish: <i>Naso unicornis</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bumphead parrotfish / green humphead parrotfish: <i>Bolbometopon muricatum</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Crown of thorns starfish: <i>Acanthaster planci</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Crustose coralline algae (also known as CCA)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dark-capped parrotfish (laea): <i>Scarus oviceps</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Day octopus: <i>Octopus cyanea</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Giant clam (faisua): <i>Tridacna gigas</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Giant mud crab / Samoan crab: <i>Scylla serrata</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Great frigatebird: <i>Fregata minor</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Green sea turtle (laumei ena`ena): <i>Chelonia mydas</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill sea turtle (laumei uga): <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Phytoplankton</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sabre squirrelfish (tamalau): <i>Sargocentron spiniferum</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sea grape (type of algae): <i>Caulerpa racemosa</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Seagrass: species include <i>Halophila ovalis</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Slendertail moray eel: <i>Gymnothorax gracilicauda</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spinner dolphin: <i>Stenella longirostris</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sponges (many species)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Staghorn coral: <i>Acropora muricata</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Striped surgeonfish / blue-banded surgeonfish (alogo): <i>Acanthurus lineatus</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Table coral: <i>Acropora hyacinthus</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tiger shark: <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Titan triggerfish: <i>Balistoides viridescens</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> White-spotted surgeonfish (maogo): <i>Acanthurus guttatus</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yellowstripe goatfish (i`asina): <i>Mulloidichthys flavolineatus</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Zooxanthellae: <i>Symbiodinium</i></li> </ul> |
|---|--|



Illustration: NOAA



This algae's symbiotic relationship with corals is foundational to reef ecosystems. Photo: Todd C. LaJeunesse CC BY-SA 2.0

2. Tell your teacher your first choice. You may need to choose another organism if it has already been selected.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Dive into research!** Record what you learn about your organism below and/or in science notebooks.

Reliable resources that include food source information include the following:

- Encyclopedia of Life (Smithsonian): <https://eol.org>
- Animal Diversity Web (University of Michigan): <https://animaldiversity.org>
- *Fish Coloring Book of American Samoa* (NOAA):  
[https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/data/oceans/coris/library/NOAA/CRCP/NOS/OCM/Projects/198/NA15NOS4820038/Kaitu%27u2018\\_Fish\\_ColoringBook\\_AmerSamoa.pdf](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/data/oceans/coris/library/NOAA/CRCP/NOS/OCM/Projects/198/NA15NOS4820038/Kaitu%27u2018_Fish_ColoringBook_AmerSamoa.pdf)

- a. Common and scientific names of your organism:
- b. What does this organism eat? (Is it a producer or consumer? Predator or prey? Decomposer or detritivore?)
- c. What eats this organism?
- d. How large can your organism grow as an adult? (Include metric system and imperial system units.)
- e. Physical adaptations that help it survive and reproduce in coral reef ecosystems:
- f. Behavioral adaptations that help it survive and reproduce:
- g. What other living and nonliving things help it survive? (for shelter, respiration, symbiosis, nutrients from decaying plants and animals, etc.)
- h. Is there cultural importance of the organism in Samoan culture and/or other cultures? If so, what?
- i. What do you find interesting about this organism?