

Build a Deep Sea Coral



What's the big idea?

The lesson from this activity is to get students thinking about the architecture of deep sea corals, which is different from shallow water corals, and the animals (represented by the beads) that live on or near the coral. Students can discuss how corals that live without sunlight obtain their nutrition (hint: no photosynthesis, no symbiotic algae!)

Instructions

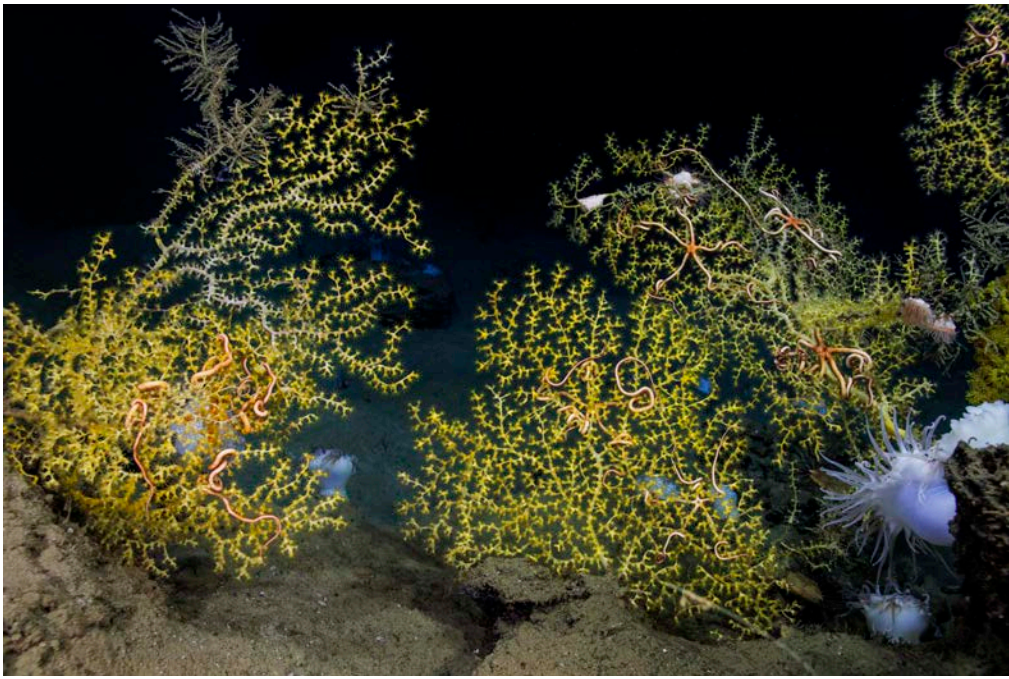
Build a deep sea coral (or an entire colony!) using a few simple craft supplies. Twist pipe cleaners together to create the branching structure of a deep sea coral. Thread beads or attach stickers or other items to the structure. Be creative - there is no wrong way to do this activity. Attach your corals to a cardboard base to create a grouping of corals.



Supplies

- Pipe cleaners (any color)
- Beads (ideally wooden)
- Cardboard discs or squares to use as a base
- Tape and/or a hole punch to help attach pipe cleaners to base
- Optional: sea creature stickers or other items symbolizing animals that live with deep sea corals





Photos courtesy of
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