



Hawaii's Coral Reefs

Concepts

Students will learn how coral grows and how their forms are important for function. They will also learn about divergence by learning about four major types of coral.

HCPS III Benchmarks

SC.K 1.2
SC.K 6.1

Duration

1 hour

Source Material

PRISM Coral Reef Ecology (Grade 4)

Vocabulary

Environment conditions:
Light
Salinity
Temperature
Wave action

Guess Who? Coral

Summary

Students learn coral growth forms by relating them to everyday objects. They learn the differences and similarities of each growth form in the game of Guess Who? Coral. In the optional activity, each student completes a coloring exercise and places each type of the corals in its suitable habitat.

Objectives

- Students will use the processing skills of observing, comparing and describing when looking at pictures of different corals
- Students will classify corals into different growth forms

Materials

Coral pictures
ID sheet (see Folder Names Coral ID sheet)
Coral habitat work sheets for each student (optional)

Making Connections

There are many types of corals and it can be confusing for people who are new to coral identification. Most of the corals are grouped by their skeleton shapes, and often by the similarities of their shapes to everyday objects. This lesson is inspired by the popular board game, Guess Who?®

Teacher Prep for Activity

Print copies and laminate coral pictures (see photos in ID and photos folder).
Optional: Make copies of worksheets. Draw an example of the worksheet on a poster board for demonstration.

Background

See background section in “What is Coral?” lesson. See glossary for vocabulary definitions in the Supplemental Materials folder.

Procedure

1. Introduce different coral growth forms by showing objects along with photos:
 1. Lobe coral: ear lobes
 2. Finger coral: fingers
 3. Rice coral: rice grains
 4. Cauliflower: a piece of cauliflower
 5. Plate-like: a dinner plate



2. Divide class into pairs. Partner 1 gets a photo of a coral, and partner 2 gets an ID card.
3. Partner 2 asks partner 1 the following questions:
 - What color is the coral?
 - Is it smooth or rough?
 - Are the pieces of coral tall or short?
4. Partner 2 takes a guess using ID sheet.
5. The partners switch roles; the partner 1 gets the ID sheet and partner 2 gets a photo (make sure it is different than the one partner 1 had). Ask questions, take a guess.

Group Discussion Activity:

Gather the class together. Introduce vocabulary pertaining to environmental conditions under which coral live. Ask the following questions to generate discussion:

1. What shapes do the corals in the photos have?
2. What textures? Are they soft? Smooth? Rough?
3. Why do you think they have different shapes?
4. Why do you think they have different textures?
5. If you were a fish hiding from a predator, which kind of coral would you hide in?
6. What would happen to you if you were a coral and the water became too salty?
7. What would happen to you if you were a coral and there was a big storm and the waves were really big?
8. How do corals protect themselves? How does their shape, body parts, and texture help them survive?

Assessments

Students tell the differences between coral types by asking questions

Group discussion

Resources

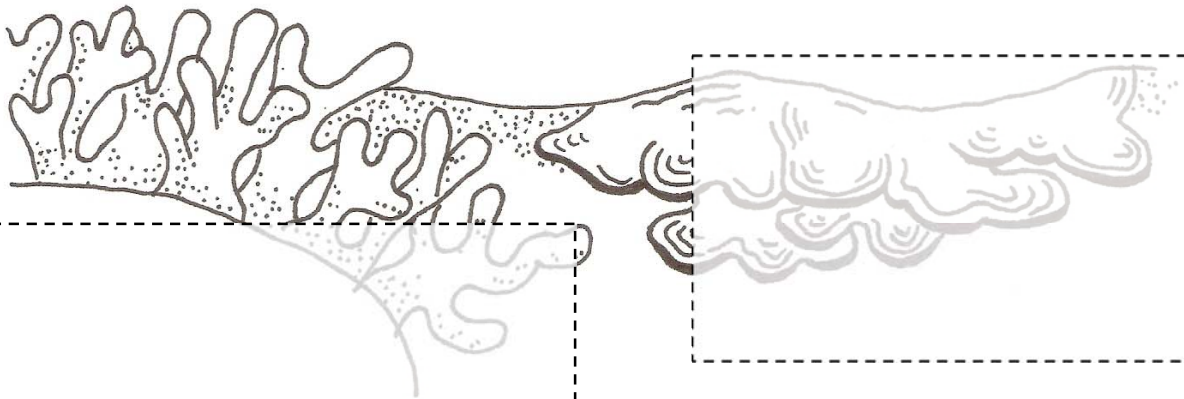
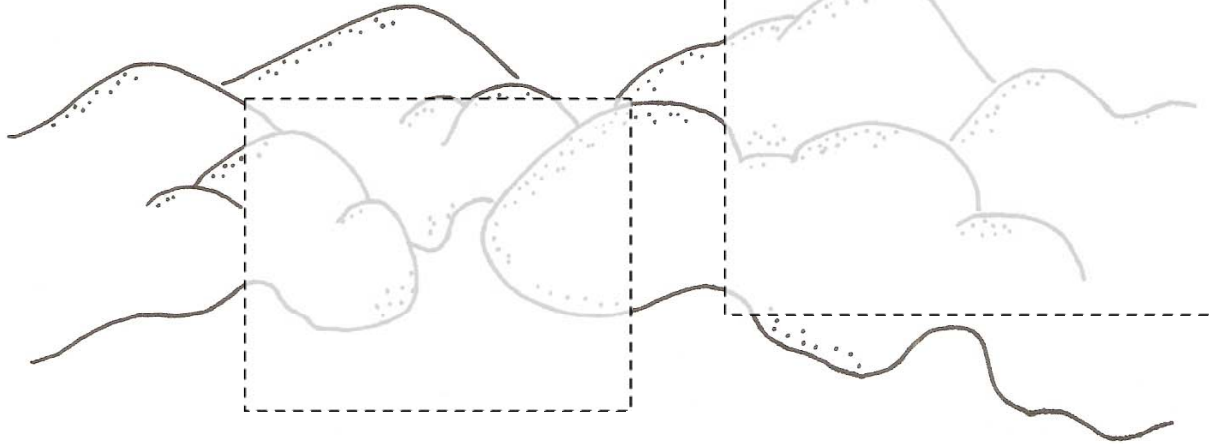
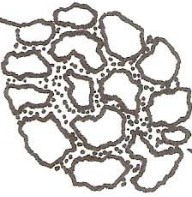
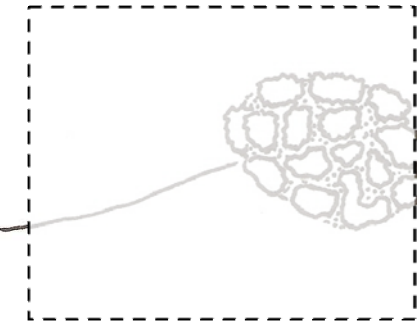
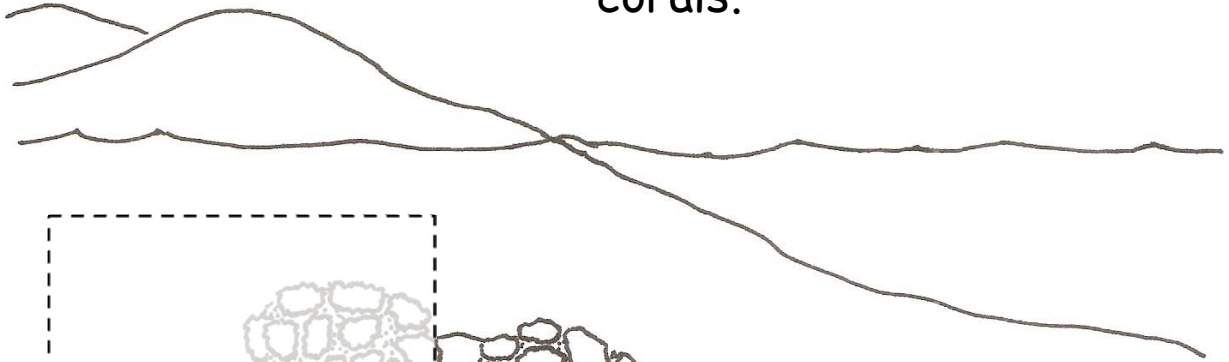
Corals of Hawaii, a field guide to the hard, black, and soft corals of Hawaii and the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, including Midway. Douglas Fenner. 2005. Mutual Publishing, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.



Name: _____

Coral Habitat coloring

Find the habitats for your corals.

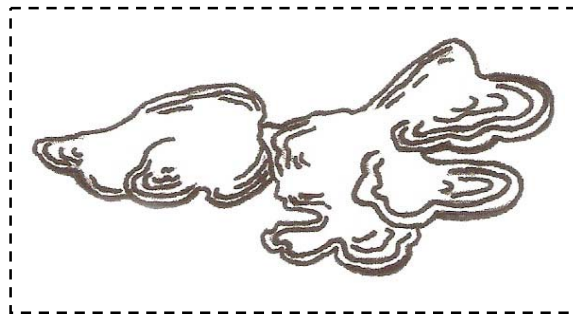
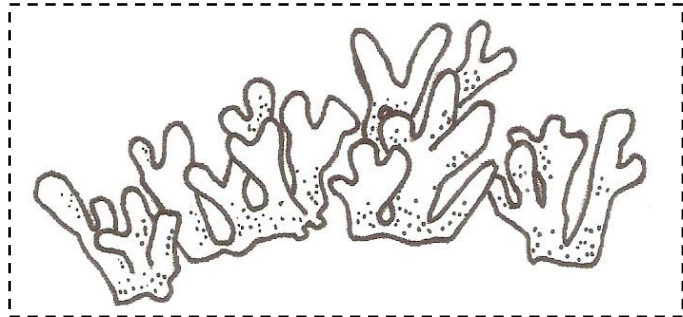
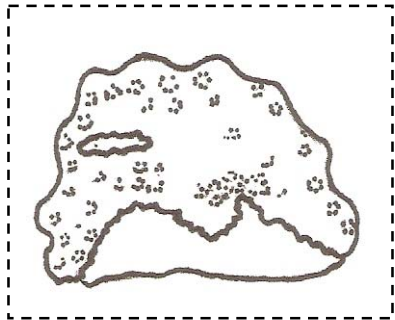
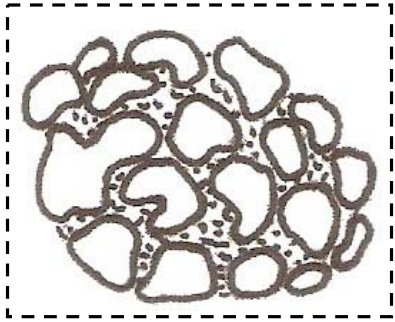




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Coral Habitat coloring

Color your corals and cut them out.





Partnerships for Reform through Investigative Science and Mathematics



Lobe coral



Finger coral





Cauliflower coral



Rice coral



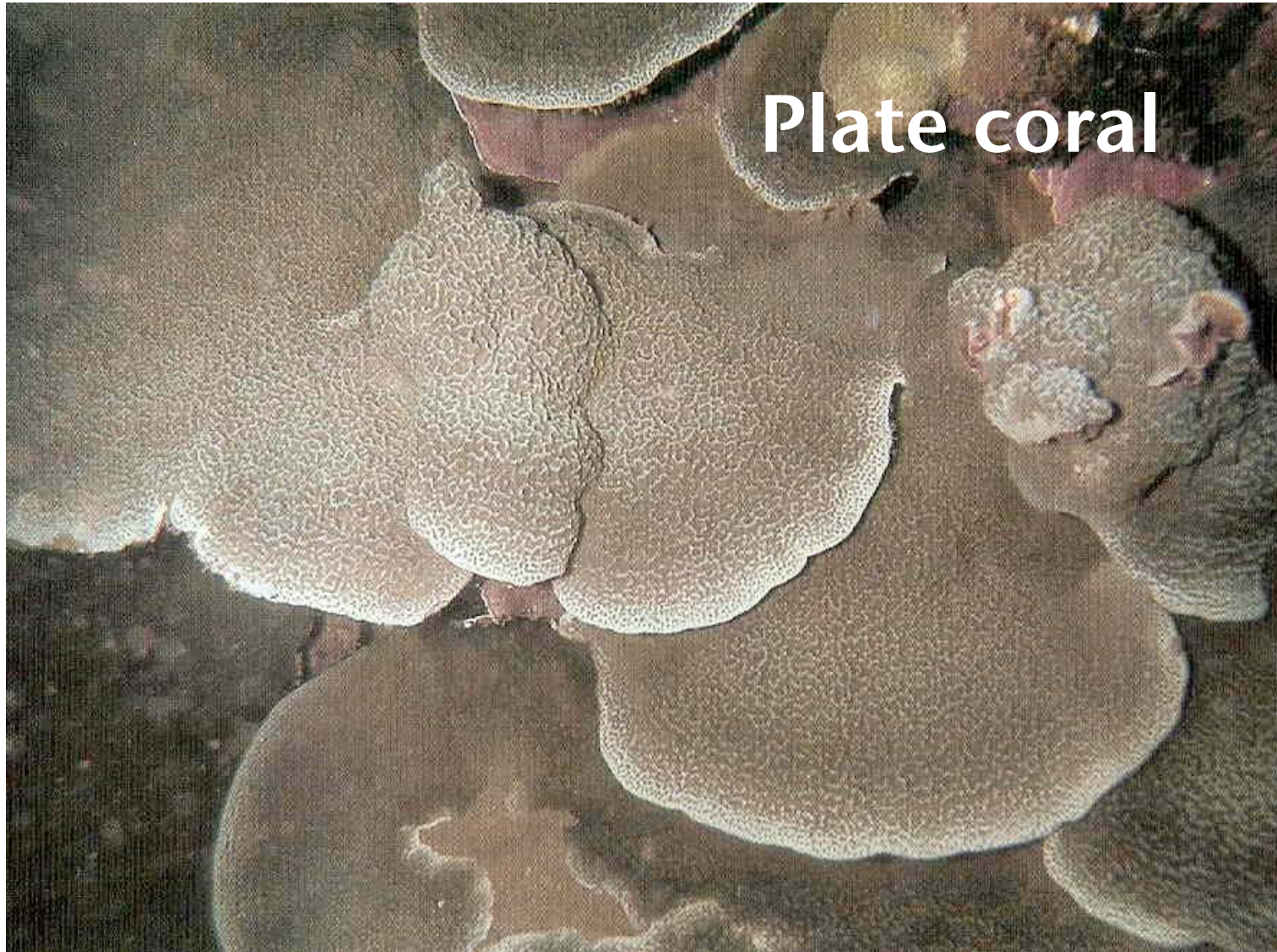
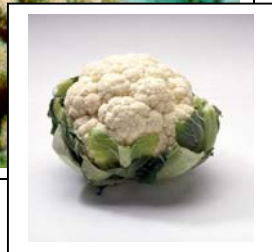
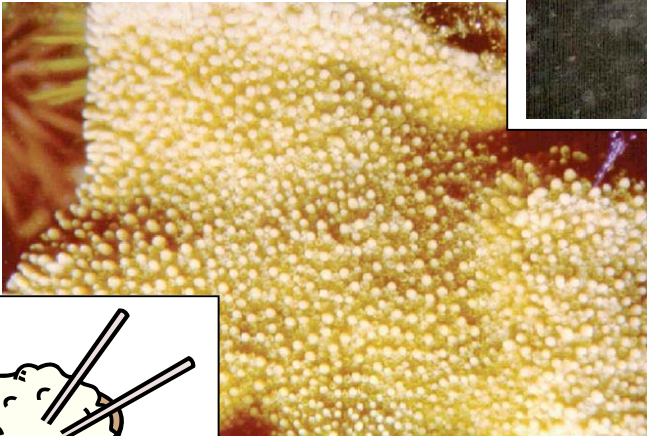
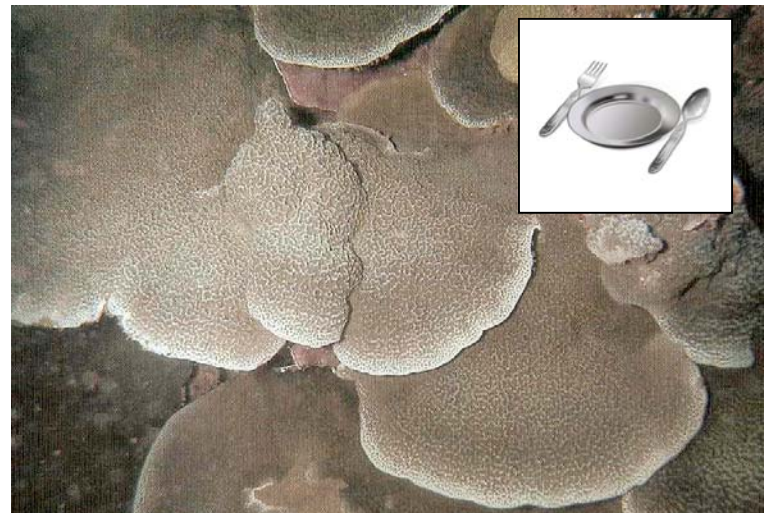
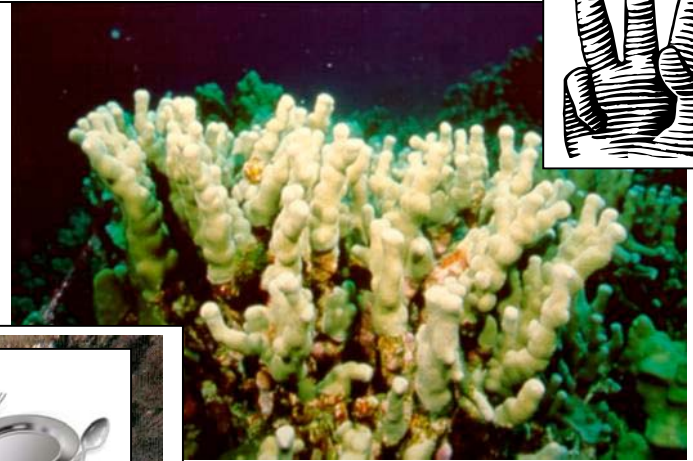
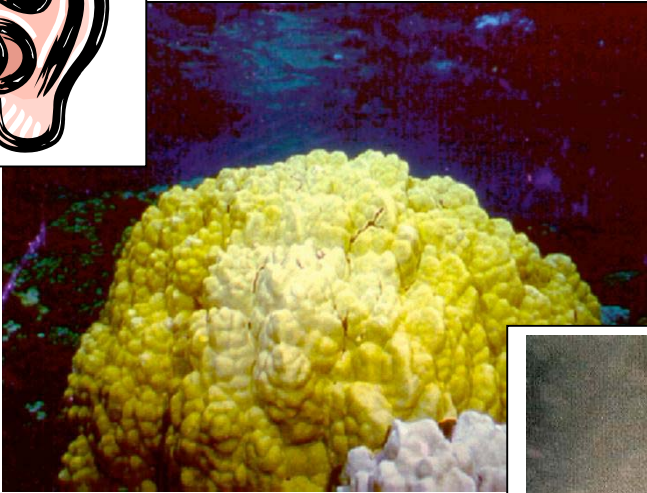


Plate coral



Coral ID Sheet





WHERE AM I FOUND? (A TEACHER'S GUIDE)

Rice Coral – found in shallow water in protected and exposed areas, in Hawai'i we have blue rice coral, ringed rice coral, and rice coral.

Lobe Coral- found in wave-exposed areas, 0-50 meters from shore. This is the most common coral in Hawai'i.

Cauliflower Coral- dominant species in Hawai'i at depths <3 meters, found in the exposed shorelines and surge zone reef slopes.

Plate Coral- Found in reef lagoons and in shallow, turbid waters

Finger Coral – Found well below the surge zone and at depths > 15 feet. Tends to dominate on lower reef slopes.