

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." (Baba Dioum, 1968.)

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Introduction

Satellites have revolutionized communication, entertainment, and scientific monitoring and collection of data. As students in the 21st century, it becomes increasingly relevant for children to learn about these objects that hover around our planet. Satellite monitoring of the environment around coral reefs offers invaluable information to those working to preserve the unique ecosystems.

The lessons in this unit on coral reefs and remote sensing are designed to be taught in the sequence they are presented, however, many of the activities are suited to teaching in isolation.

This science unit is appropriate for use in grades four through six. Some concepts and skills tend to be abstract, so depending on the ability level and background knowledge of your students, this unit might be more suited in a gifted and talented setting.

Culmination of Remote Sensing and Coral Reef Unit

One entertaining connection to the topic of coral reefs is the movie "Finding Nemo." Consider rewarding your class with a viewing of it.

Hold a "Coral Reef Open House" and invite other grade levels or even the community to your school. Use the available space in the gymnasium, cafeteria, or classrooms to:

- Have students set up their "Compact Coral Reefs" from the introductory lesson to reefs.
- Depending on the resources available to you, either:
 - Have students make an edible coral polyps display from the Symbiosis lesson. To make a colony, they should place more than one marshmallow on a plate, touching so that the melted chocolate bonds them together.
 - Set aside a location for open house visitors to make their own edible coral polyps. Select some of your students to be the "teachers" at this station, instructing how to make the polyp and especially one's actual anatomy.
- Select some students to conduct the "Blooming Algae" demonstration for visitors.
- In the computer lab, allow students to share their PowerPoint presentations on coral reef conservation from the final lesson of this unit.