

Coral Reefs Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Coral Reefs trivia explores one of the planet's oldest and most biologically rich ecosystems, from the tiny coral polyps that build reefs to the fish, sharks, and sea turtles that depend on them. Expect a mix of approachable and challenging facts about reef science, ocean life, and the environmental pressures that make these habitats so important today.

HARD CORAL REEFS TRIVIA

1. Darwin put his reef ideas into print in what year when he published *The Structure and Distribution of Coral Reefs*?

Answer: 1842

2. Which U.S. law is specifically used to protect some coral species?

Answer: The Endangered Species Act

3. At NOAA, who led coral reef monitoring work?

Answer: Mark Eakin

4. Which researcher is known for using long-term ecological records to study declines in coral reef health?

Answer: John Pandolfi

5. Name the marine scientist recognized for major work on coral reef biodiversity and change.?

Answer: Nancy Knowlton

6. Who studied how heat stress affects corals and other reef organisms?

Answer: Stephen Palumbi

7. Which scientist is known for work on corals living in naturally extreme environments?

Answer: Emma Camp

8. Who mapped reefs from the air using remote sensing technology?

Answer: Greg Asner

9. Which reef scientist is associated with research in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea?

Answer: Charles Sheppard

10. What recurring climate pattern can raise sea temperatures in ways that contribute to coral bleaching?

Answer: El Niño

11. The devastating global bleaching episode that caused severe coral losses across many reef regions occurred in what year?

Answer: 1998

12. Another major global bleaching event stretched across multiple years after starting in

2014. In which year did that event extend into?

Answer: 2016

13. NOAA announced the fourth global coral bleaching event in what year?

Answer: 2024

14. What year saw the establishment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority?

Answer: 1975

FUNNY CORAL REEFS TRIVIA

1. Which coral reef celebrity sounds like it should tell jokes but is actually a fish famous for reef life?

Answer: Clownfish

2. Parrotfish did not earn their name from singing in a cage. What feature inspired the name?

Answer: Their beak-like mouths

3. What reef fish is named for the big bulge on its forehead, as if it permanently bonked into a door?

Answer: Humphead wrasse

4. Which fish sounds like reef traffic control because it is named after the bright spot near its pectoral fin?

Answer: Stoplight parrotfish

5. What tiny reef creature looks like it brought its own holiday decorations, thanks to spiral crowns resembling miniature trees?

Answer: Christmas tree worms

6. Which reef fish sounds ready for an art gallery opening because its bold patterns look painterly?

Answer: Picasso triggerfish

7. What wrasse got a bird-themed name because of its long pointed snout?

Answer: Bird wrasse

8. Which reef ray wins the underwater polka-dot contest with vivid blue spots?

Answer: Bluespotted ribbontail ray

9. If a reef crack seems to have grown a suspicious face, which animal is often peering out with only its head showing?

Answer: Giant moray eel

10. Which reef fish seems to have been assembled from spare corners and is named for its boxy body shape?

Answer: Boxfish

11. Which reef fish acts like a tiny ambush sniper, perching on corals and waiting for prey?

Answer: Longnose hawkfish

12. What tiny reef fish often sits on corals or rocks like a very serious little security guard?

Answer: Gobies

13. Which fish sounds grumpy but is actually named for its bold black-and-white stripes?

Answer: Humbug damselfish

FUN CORAL REEFS TRIVIA

1. Which reef system wins the jumbo prize as the world's largest coral reef system?

Answer: The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system.

2. What is the name of the rare big reef that lies very close to a continent's shoreline?

Answer: Ningaloo Reef is one of the rare big reefs that lies very close to a continent's shoreline.

3. The reefs of the Red Sea are especially known for what surrounding-water trait?

Answer: They are known for relatively high salt content in the surrounding waters.

4. If a reef forms a ring hugging a lagoon, what is that ring-shaped setup called?

Answer: It is called an atoll.

5. Some reef fish have a life story with a plot twist: what can species such as clownfish and wrasses do during their lives?

Answer: Some reef fish can change sex during their lives.

6. On busy reefs, cleaner wrasses run tiny spa businesses known as what?

Answer: They set up cleaning stations.

7. Some reefs hold giant synchronized spawning events timed to what natural cycle?

Answer: They are linked to lunar cycles.

8. What material makes up most coral skeletons?

Answer: Coral skeletons are made largely of calcium carbonate.

9. Why can some corals look like neon signs under blue light?

Answer: Fluorescent proteins can make some corals glow bright green, orange, or red under blue light.

10. When a reef fish wants to vanish into coral branches or a sandy bottom, what trick is it using?

Answer: It is using camouflage.

11. True or false: Giant clams on reefs can host photosynthetic algae in their tissues.?

Answer: True

12. Which graceful visitor often drops by reef cleaning stations for parasite removal?

Answer: Manta rays often visit reef cleaning stations to have parasites picked off.

13. What noisy little reef resident helps make sounds that guide young marine animals toward habitat?

Answer: Snapping shrimp help make reef sounds that young marine animals can use to locate habitat.

CORAL REEFS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which animated movie from 2003 follows a clownfish from a coral reef?

Answer: Finding Nemo

2. True or false: Blue Planet II includes footage of coral reef ecosystems.?

Answer: True

3. Which nature series features coral reef scenes in its ocean-focused episodes?

Answer: Our Planet

4. Name the series that includes natural history footage from coral reef environments:

Planet Earth or Planet Zoo?

Answer: Planet Earth

5. What documentary is about mass coral bleaching?

Answer: Chasing Coral

6. Which documentary title sounds like a reef city map because it is Coral Reefs: _____ the Sea?

Answer: Cities Under the Sea

7. Bonaire National Marine Park is known for protected reefs in which Caribbean territory?

Answer: The Caribbean Netherlands

8. Which marine park protects a large stretch of reef off Australia?

Answer: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

9. Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park has what UNESCO recognition?

Answer: It is a World Heritage Site.

10. The Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System appears on which UNESCO list?

Answer: The World Heritage List

11. In what year was the Coral Restoration Foundation founded?

Answer: 2007

12. Which marine biologist is known for ocean conservation work that includes reefs?

Answer: Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

EASY CORAL REEFS TRIVIA

1. The Great Barrier Reef is off the coast of which Australian state?

Answer: Queensland

2. What sea is home to the Great Barrier Reef?

Answer: The Coral Sea

3. The Belize Barrier Reef lies off the coast of which country?

Answer: Belize

4. A barrier reef is separated from the shore by a what?

Answer: A lagoon or wider channel

5. What are individual coral animals called?

Answer: Polyps

6. Coral reefs form in saltwater or freshwater?

Answer: Saltwater

7. Most reef-building corals need what to grow well?

Answer: Sunlight

8. Many colorful tropical fish live among what kind of habitat?

Answer: Coral reefs

9. Apo Reef is in which country?

Answer: The Philippines

10. Ningaloo Reef runs along the coast of what part of Australia?

Answer: Western Australia

11. Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park is located in which sea?

Answer: The Sulu Sea

12. What Egyptian city is a well-known gateway to Red Sea reefs?

Answer: Sharm El Sheikh

13. Which sea is famous for coral reefs along the coasts of Egypt and Saudi Arabia?

Answer: The Red Sea

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/coral-reefs>