

GRADES 6-8

REPRODUCIBLE MASTER

# ACTIVITY 1 CORAL REEFS: TEMPERATURE CHECK

In the film *Hurricane*, we see how the fictional hurricane Lucy affects even the submerged world of coral reefs. The power of a hurricane can destroy coral reefs, but there can be positive outcomes as well. By drawing heat from the ocean, a hurricane can provide coral reefs with the colder water they need to thrive.

Learn more about the effect of hurricanes on ocean temperatures at <https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/hurricane-landfall-benefits-2016> . Then, using your own research at the following links and what you learned from watching the film *Hurricane*, answer these questions about the impact of hurricanes on coral reefs.

- **Where are Reef-Building Corals Found?**

[http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/corals/coral05\\_distribution.html](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/corals/coral05_distribution.html)

- **Natural Threats to Coral Reefs**

[http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/corals/coral08\\_naturalthreats.html](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/corals/coral08_naturalthreats.html)

- **Human-Caused Threats to Coral Reefs**

[http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/corals/coral09\\_humantthreats.html](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/corals/coral09_humantthreats.html)

1. How are coral reefs formed? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Name two ways in which coral reefs can be damaged, and two ways in which their survival can be threatened.  
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3. Use the tracking map your teacher will give you to locate the following reefs, all of which exist in areas that are prone to hurricane activity:
  - Key West, Florida 24°N 81°W
  - Puerto Rico 17°N 66°W
  - Jamaica 18°N 77°W
  - Bahamas Islands 24°N 76°W
4. What is the relationship between water temperature and coral reef distribution?  
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5. Why might the trail of cold water a hurricane leaves behind it be good for coral reefs?  
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6. What do tropical rainforests and coral reefs have in common? \_\_\_\_\_  
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