

Coral Reef Creation

An at home, fun coral reef themed, craft activity for Ages 7-12 (can be modified for younger or older children). Provided by Gumbo Limbo education staff.

Parental Supervision may be needed

1. Gather your materials: You will need uncoated cardboard, a glass pan/dish, salt, ammonia, bluing (found in laundry section), scissors, pencil, water, and food coloring.
2. Prepare your materials: Draw and cut your coral shapes out of the cardboard. Look up pictures of different species of coral and choose one or two different corals to draw. Draw it once on the cardboard, cut it out, and trace and cut again. You need 2 of the same pieces to make one piece of coral.
3. Cut a slit from the bottom center of one of your cardboard pieces halfway up. Cut another slit on the other piece of cardboard half way down. This is so you are able to connect the coral pieces together. This will create a 3D effect and should allow the coral to stand independently.



4. In your glass dish, mix the following solution (In a well-ventilated area): 3 TBS bluing (again, can be found in the laundry section of the grocery store), 3 TBS water, 3 TBS salt, and 1 ½ TBS ammonia.

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5. Drop food coloring over your cardboard coral to add color, and carefully place into the solution.



6. Now it is time to wait. Allow coral to sit until the next day. Crystals should be forming within 24 hrs. Don't touch the crystals! They are very fragile.
7. Over the next couple of days, continue watching the crystals form!
8. Your child now has an awesome coral reef experiment!

