



Discussion Questions:

- 1) Indicate whether the following statements are true or false.
 - a. _____ Corals are animals.
 - b. _____ All stony corals will retract their polyps during the day, and feed exclusively at night.
 - c. _____ Polyps are individual mouths of a single coral.
 - d. _____ Corals can reproduce through either sexual reproduction or asexual reproduction.
 - e. _____ Corals only live in communities with other individuals.
 - f. _____ While sea anemones resemble corals, they are technically not corals. However, they belong to the same taxonomic class and phylum.
 - g. _____ Soft corals tend to extend their polyps during the day.
 - h. _____ Some corals can share nutrients through the coenosarc.
 - i. _____ Corals exist as individual polyps, and some species may form colonies of identical individuals.
 - j. _____ Reefs only exist in shallow, tropical waters.
- 2) Draw a polyp below, and indicate at least five features of the polyp's anatomy, such as the tentacles, mouth, coelenteron, etc.
- 3) Name four invertebrates other than corals that might be found on a tropical reef, and discuss their ecological role on the reef.
- 4) What are the steps of reef formation? How long does this process take?
- 5) What is meant by terms ocean acidification and coral bleaching? Why are stony corals so important in reef conservation?