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?