

## Grade 3-5

Syllabis iDiscover is a free by-weekly educational supplement, which ties into the CAPS Curriculum.



Our mission is to grow the South African distance school industry as we work together with our competitors to bring affordable, quality and innovative education to South Africa. Making South Africa a better place for all citizens.

Syllabis Education iDiscover




Read the article and stop where you see the following keys.

Click to watch the Syllabis iDiscover episode video:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

As per the Grade Key below, an indication to learners, teachers and parents on content guidance per grade.

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
|  | Grade 4 and 5          |
|  | Grade 6, 7 and 8       |
|  | Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 |

## ASSESSMENT

Once students have completed the lesson, they are free to take an online assessment marked instantly. Simply sign up for a free iWizard account at [www.syllabisiwizard.com](http://www.syllabisiwizard.com)

Registration approval takes 24 hours.

# Rainforests of the Ocean...



Pretend you went  
swimming in the ocean...

Imagine seeing colourful rocks on the  
bottom  
What do you think they are made for?

Well, we call these rocks  
that lie at the bottom of our  
oceans "coral reefs"  
because they are made out  
of living creatures called "  
coral"!



## WHAT ARE CORAL REEFS?

To be more specific, a “coral reef” is a collection of rocks that are made up of collections of hundreds and thousands of tiny little corals that are called “polyps”. Polyps are little marine spineless animals that have hard exoskeletons made of something called “carbonate” and they stay in one place forever. This helps them to grow slowly and form many different shapes and sizes to create what we know as the Coral Reef.

Coral reefs are very important for many different reasons, but the main reason is that they make underwater homes that are very important for a lot of species of organisms that live in the ocean. These reefs also make barriers that protect our coasts from something called ‘erosion’ from storms and waves.

### FUN FACTS

- Coral have growth rings, just like trees!
- The first coral reefs formed on Earth 240 million years ago. That's before the dinosaurs were alive!
- Most coral reefs today are between 5,000 and 10,000 years old.
  - There are more than 800 different types of hard coral around the world.
- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest reef system on Earth. You can even see it from space!

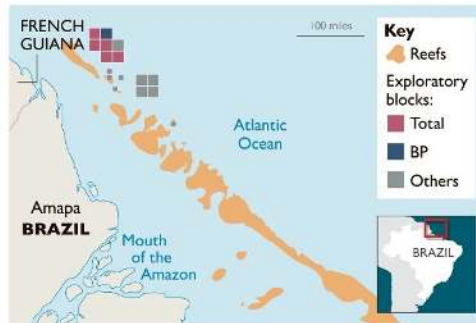
WHERE ARE CORAL REEFS FOUND?

Even though our ocean surrounds us all around the world, most coral reefs grow in oceans where the water is shallow and clean, which is usually on either side of the Equator. This is because the coral reefs need a lot of sunlight and warm temperatures all through the year so they can survive. Some very famous examples of areas where there are coral reefs because the oceans have these conditions are:

The Great Barrier Reef in Australia



The Amazon Reef in Brazil and French Guiana



### The Tubbataha Reef in the Philippines



### The Miami Terrace Reef in the United States

