

MAKE YOUR OWN CORAL REEF

Most coral is really a group of tiny coral polyps joined together. Each polyp can be as small as a pencil eraser. In the activity below, each 4-piece section of the egg carton represents one piece of branching coral, magnified many times. Each cup is one coral polyp.

Materials: empty egg carton, Tempera paint, Playdoh® or clay, 3 pipe cleaners cut in half for each polyp, drinking straw cut into short pieces

Directions: Cut the top off the egg carton. Cut the carton into 3 sections of 4 cups each. Each section of the carton will represent one group of coral polyps.

1. Paint the carton a bright color.



2. Roll a ball of clay that is slightly taller than the cup. Put a ball of clay in each cup. This is the body of the coral polyp.



3. Insert a piece of the drinking straw in the center of each ball. This is the polyp's mouth.



4. Curl each of the 6 pieces of pipe cleaner and stick them in the clay around the mouth. These are the tentacles.

