Environmental Science

Coral Reef Research Project

 During this unit (Unit 3), we will be looking at marine ecosystems and to learn more about coral reefs and the important role they play in the environment, you will be completing a research paper followed by a 3D modeling project during the following unit (Unit 4).

**Organization:**

 Our class will be working with either the Great Barrier Reef, Florida Keys Reef Tract, or the Belize Barrier Reef. Your teacher will instruct you which reef the class is assigned to. You will be researching a coral species, invertebrate species, or a fish species that is native to the class reef. You will do research on your species and reef, then turn in a **2-page, double spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font research paper (8 pts.).** If you need to handwrite your paper, it will need to be neatly written on notebook paper and will have to be 2 pages (front and back) double spaced. Your paper will also have a separate Works Cited page at the end with **at least three sources, cited in APA format (8 pts.).** You will be given a list of good, reputable sources you should start your research from.

**Paper Requirements: (7 pts. Each)**

* The reef the class is assigned to along with the geographic location of the reef and the average water temperature range
* Your species name (both common and scientific name)
* Size range of the species (in cm)
* Life cycle of the organism (including how it reproduces)
* Specific adaptations the organism has that allows it to survive on the reef
* How it obtains energy (auto or heterotrophic)
* Description of the food web the organism is a part of (what does it eat and what eats your organism)
* Interactions with other species on the reef (NOT feeding relationships)
* Interesting fact about the organism
* Whether or not your species is currently endangered or threatened
* Biggest threat to your organism (think about impacts of environmental problems on the reef)
* What conservation efforts could protect your organism or the reef it lives on (how humans can help protect the species)

The final paper will be DUE on **Tuesday, Oct 9**. A first draft must be brought in **Tuesday, Oct 2** for peer revision of grammar and organization. Remember, this is only Part 1 of this research project and you will be creating a 3D, scale model of your organism during the next unit.

**List of Suggested Resources For Coral Reef Research**

APA Citation Generator: [www.cite4me.org/apa](http://www.cite4me.org/apa)

General Coral Reef Information: [www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/tutorial\_corals](http://www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/tutorial_corals)

& [www.coralreef.noaa.gov/education/coralfacts.html](http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/education/coralfacts.html) &

[www.ocean.si.edu/ecosystems/coral-reefs](https://ocean.si.edu/ecosystems/coral-reefs) &

[www.coral-reef-info.com/coral-reef-animals.html](http://www.coral-reef-info.com/coral-reef-animals.html)

Interactive Coral Reef with Species Information: [www.coralreef.noaa.gov/interactivereef/interactivereef.html](http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/interactivereef/interactivereef.html)

Species Information: [www.coralsoftheworld.org](http://www.coralsoftheworld.org)

The Great Barrier Reef: [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)

 & [www.gbrmpa.gov.au/about-the-reef/animals](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/about-the-reef/animals)

Belize Barrier Reef: [www.ambergriscaye.com/pages/town/barrier.html](https://www.ambergriscaye.com/pages/town/barrier.html)

Florida Keys Reef: [www.floridakeys.noaa.gov/explore.html](http://www.floridakeys.noaa.gov/explore.html) &

[www.coris.noaa.gov/portals/florida.html](https://www.coris.noaa.gov/portals/florida.html)