

At Home on a Coral Reef

培生
英语阅读

珊瑚礁上的家园

At Home on a Coral Reef

◆ 埃伦·施特恩赫尔 著

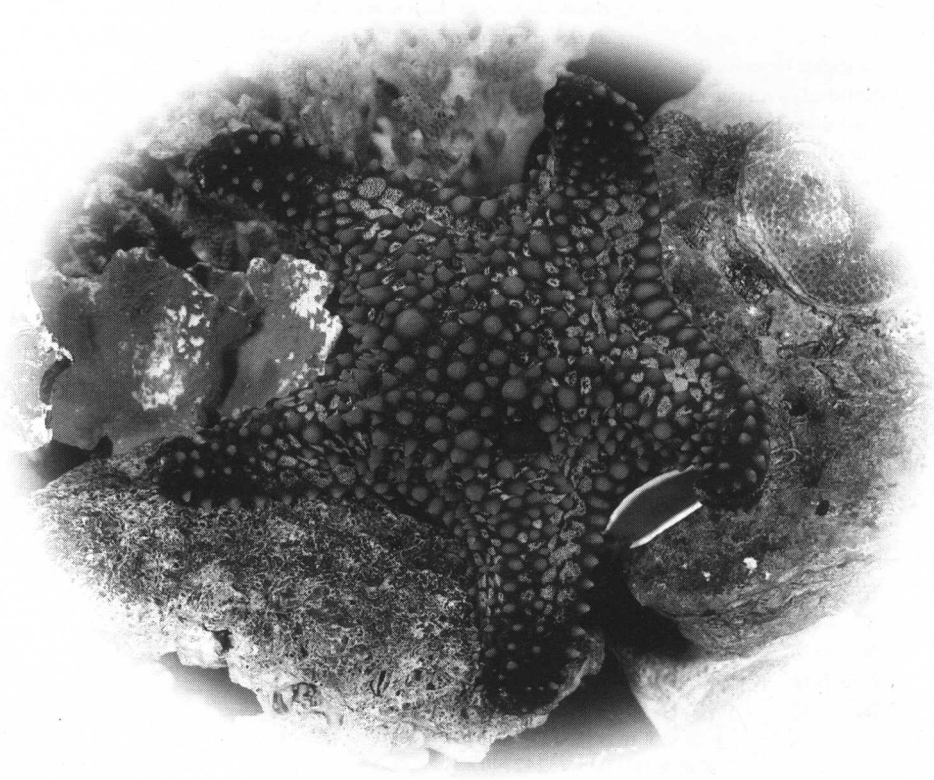
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by Ellen Sternhell



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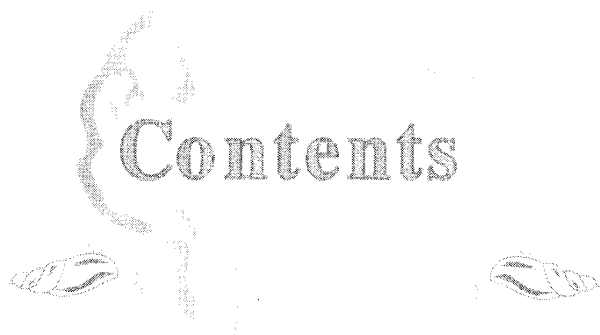
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To Brandon and Tyler, who are just
beginning to discover the beauty and
wonder of the world!

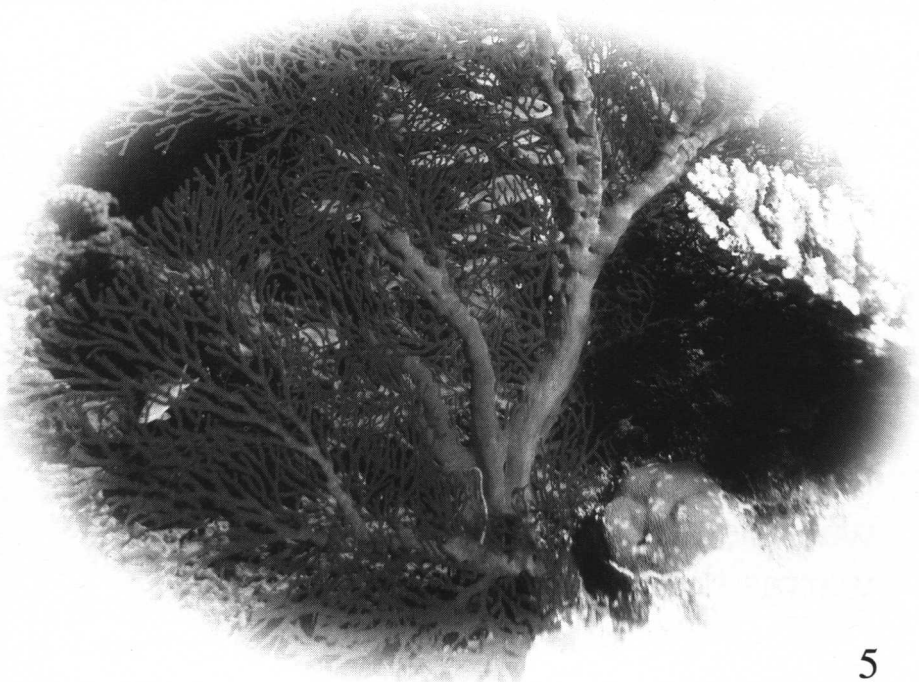


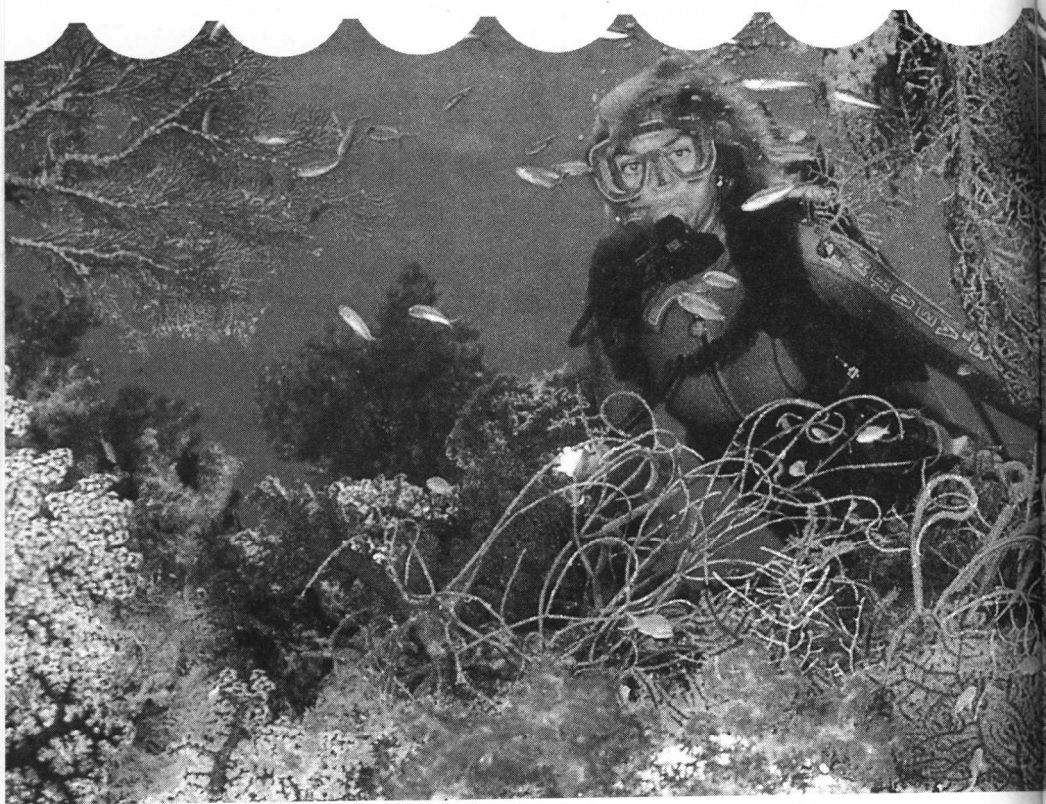
What Is a Coral Reef?

The earth **is made of** land and water. Many plants and animals live on the land. Other plants and animals live in the water.

There are places where the water is not too deep. One of these places is a **coral reef**. Many fish and other sea animals live there.

Coral colors are bright.





A reef is **a strip of** sand or rock under the water. A coral reef is a different kind of reef. It is made of **tiny** animals that live close together. These animals are called corals.

Corals need warm water and **sunlight** to live. So you will find corals where the water is not too deep. Here the sun warms the water.



A diver explores a coral reef.

It takes many years to build a coral reef. After corals die, their hard shells **remain**. New corals grow on top of the old shells.

After a long time the corals **pile up**. The reef begins to look like rock. The coral would feel **sharp** if you touched it.

remain

A. are left

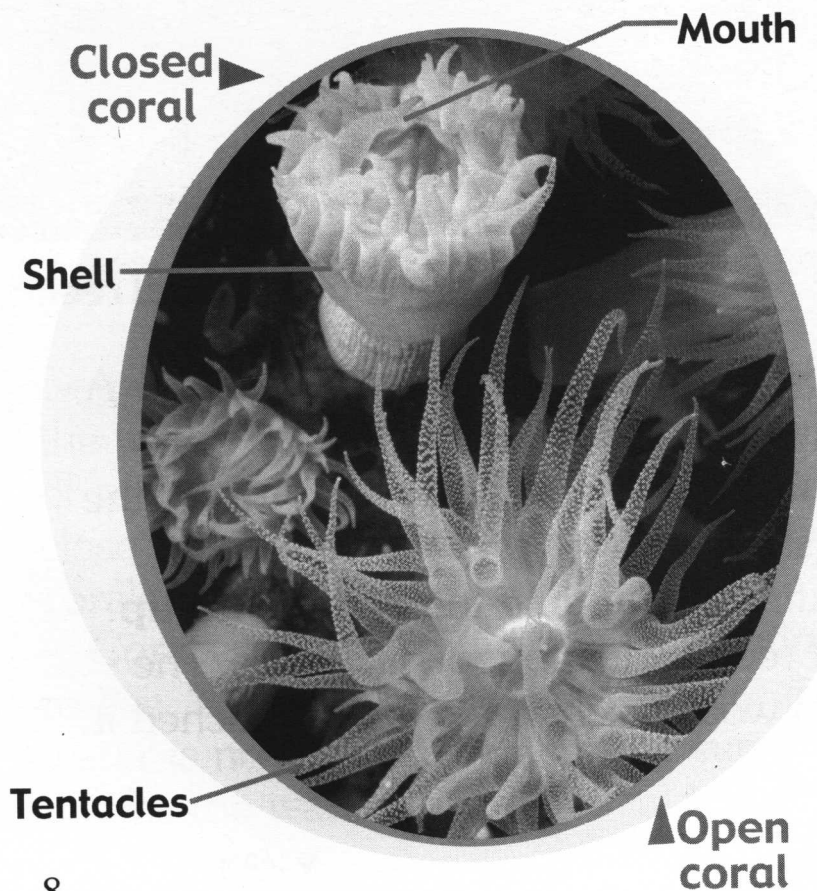
B. leave

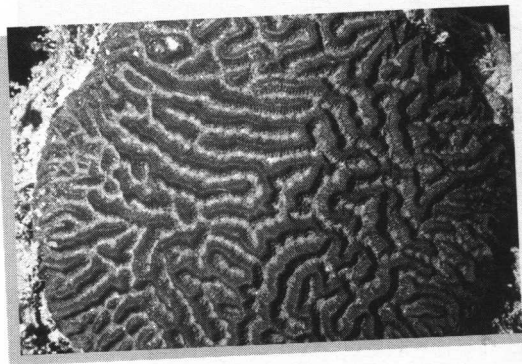
C. go on

Key: A

What does one coral look like? Look at the picture below. A hard shell grows around the coral's soft body. The shell is **shaped** like a cup.

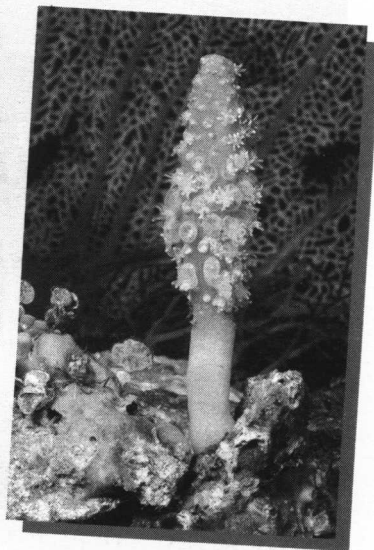
You can see the coral's mouth in the picture. The long things that grow around the mouth are called **tentacles**. A coral uses its tentacles to catch food.





▲ Brain coral

Sea pen coral ►



Many corals have been **named for** their shapes. Look at the pictures above. What does each shape look like to you?

Reef Fact



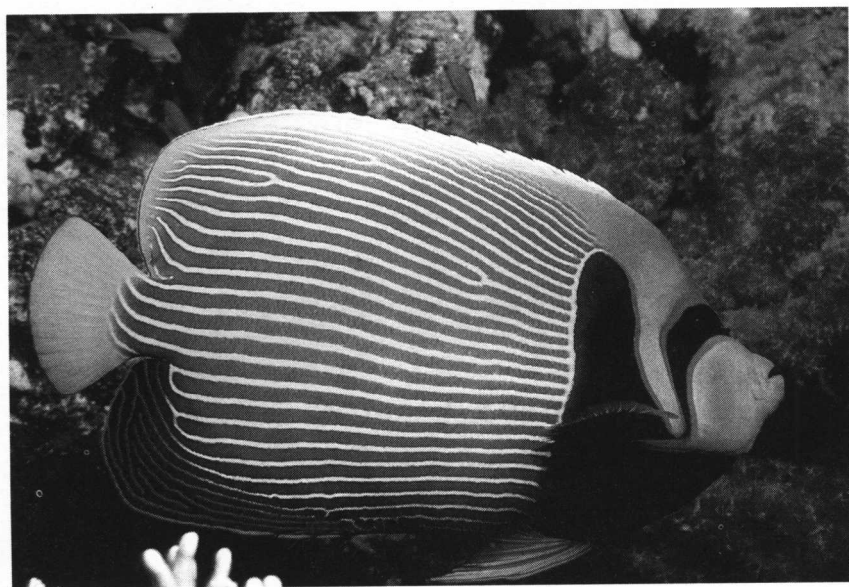
Corals eat tiny fish and other animals. They cannot move to find food. The moving water carries food to them.

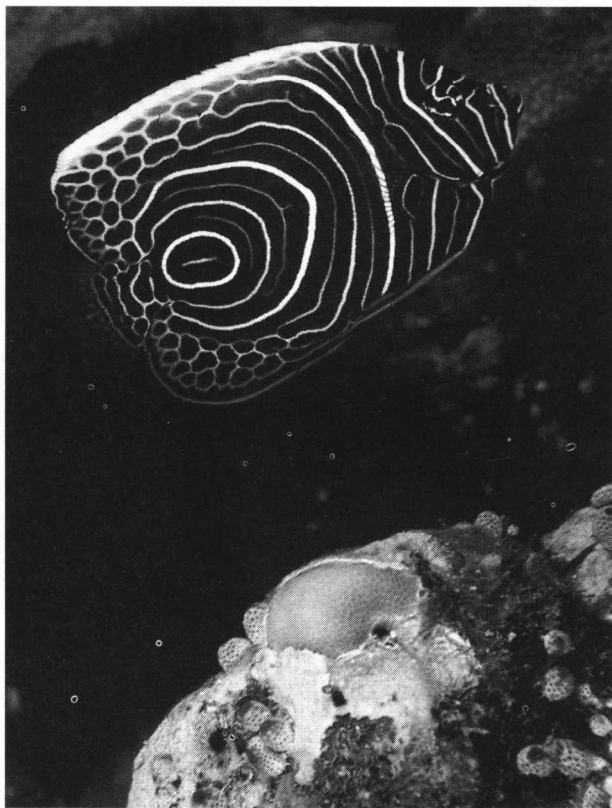
Chapter 2 Colorful Fish

A coral reef is a busy home under the sea. Many colorful fish live there.

Angelfish have spots and lines on their bodies. These **patterns** make it hard for bigger fish to see them.

Emperor angelfish by coral





Baby angelfish

Baby angelfish are dark blue with white rings. These colors help to hide the little fish.

Angelfish also have **flat** bodies. They can swim easily in and out of the coral. They eat tiny plants and animals that live on the reef.



Mandarin fish

The mandarin fish is another colorful reef fish. It hides in cracks at the bottom of the reef. It waits to catch and eat smaller fish that swim by.

The mandarin fish has **thick** skin. Its skin smells and tastes bad. The bad taste **keeps** large fish **away**. They don't want to eat the mandarin.



Harlequin tusk fish

The tusk fish is a reef fish with something different. It is named for the four blue teeth that **stick out of** its mouth. The tusk fish uses its teeth to **turn** things **over**. The teeth help the fish catch any food it finds.

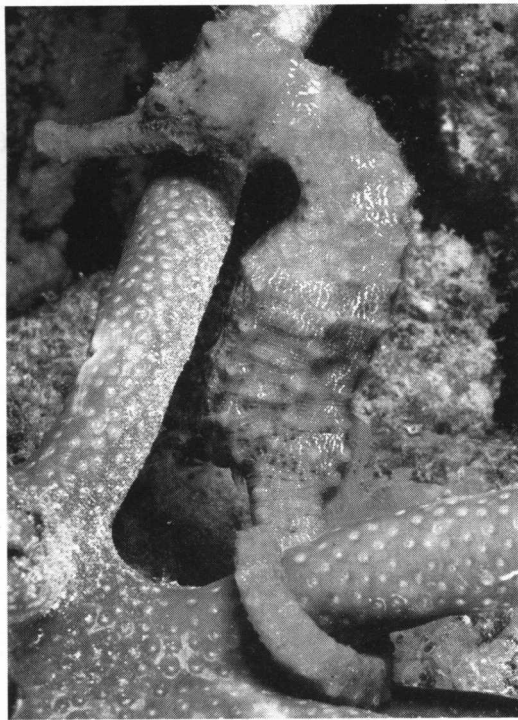
Reef ★ Fact



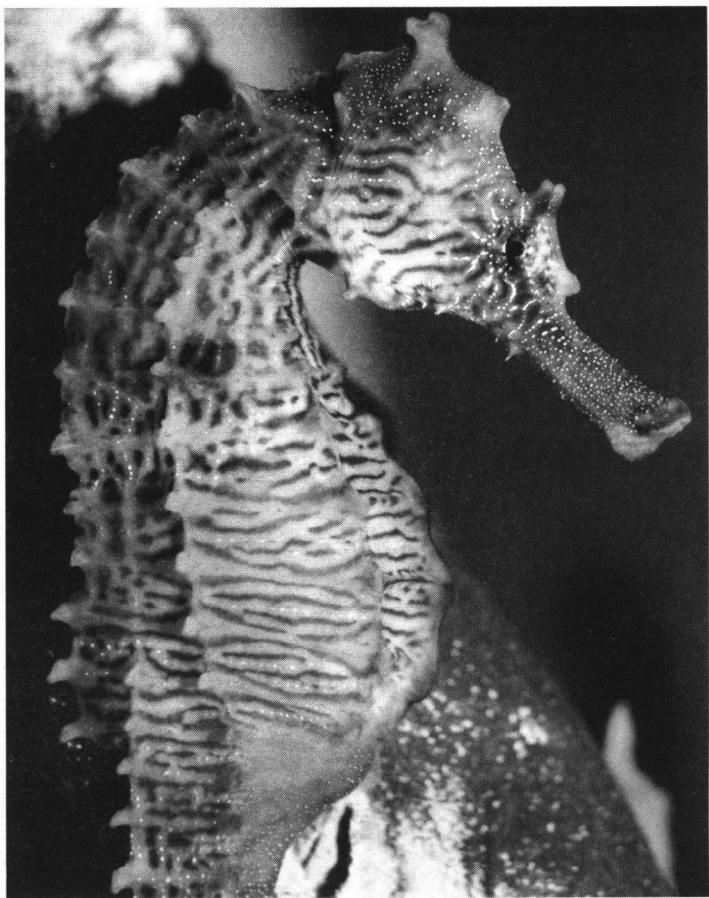
More than 2,000 kinds of fish
have been found in a coral reef.

The Sea Horse

One coral reef fish does not look like a fish. It has a head like that of a horse. It has a **tail** like that of a monkey. It has a **pouch** like that of a kangaroo. It is called a sea horse.



Sea horse



The sea horse has a head shaped like a horse's head.

A sea horse looks a little like a horse. This is because of its mouth. The mouth is a long **tube**. The tube is like a drinking straw. It helps the sea horse **take in** food.

The sea horse cannot swim very fast.
So it **hooks** its tail around the coral. It
waits for food to **pass by**.

hooks

- A. hangs onto
- B. bends
- C. attaches to



Sea horse wrapped around coral