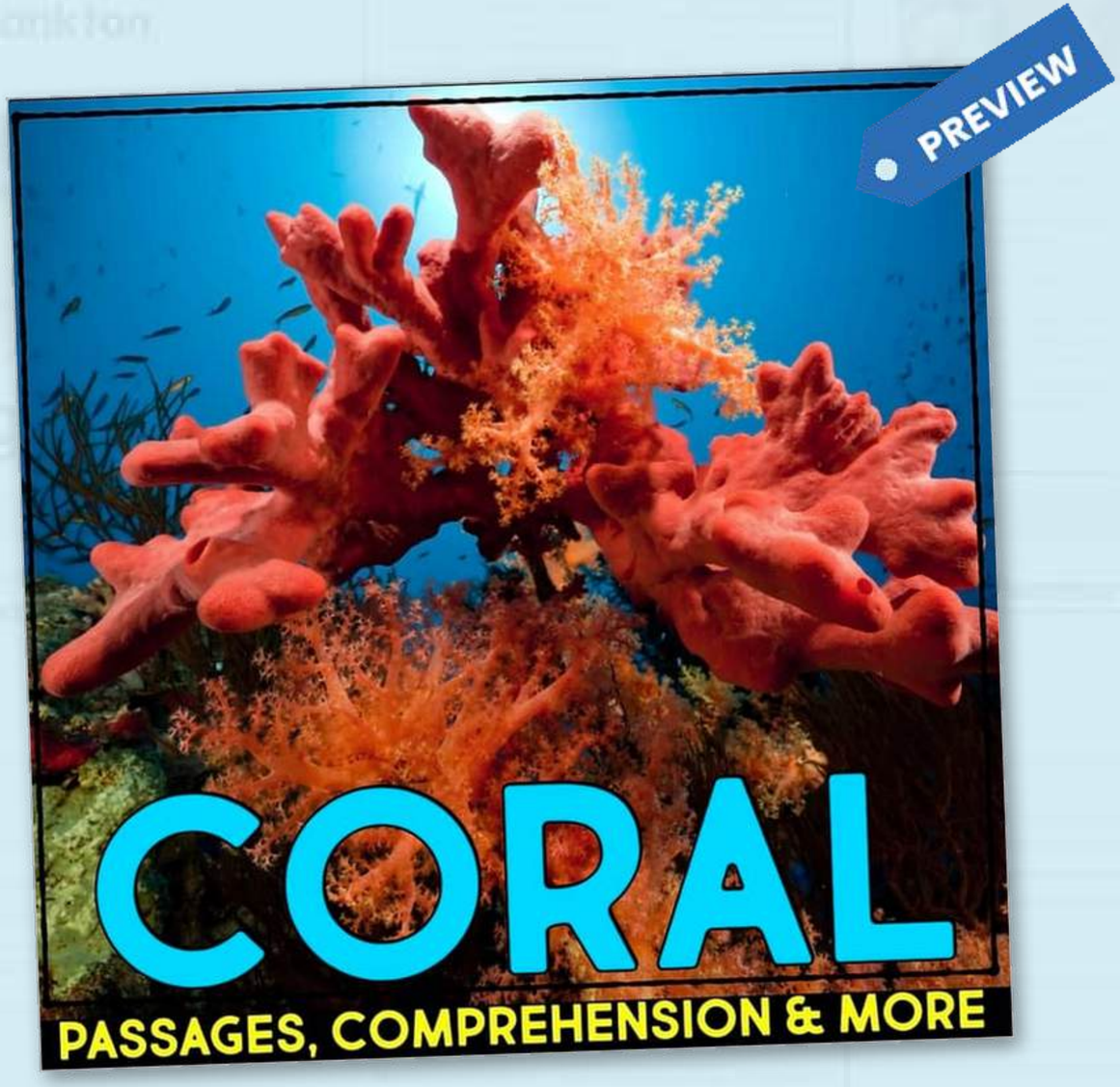
GRADES
2–3



READ, RESEARCH, AND WRITE

CORAL REEF HABITAT RESEARCH

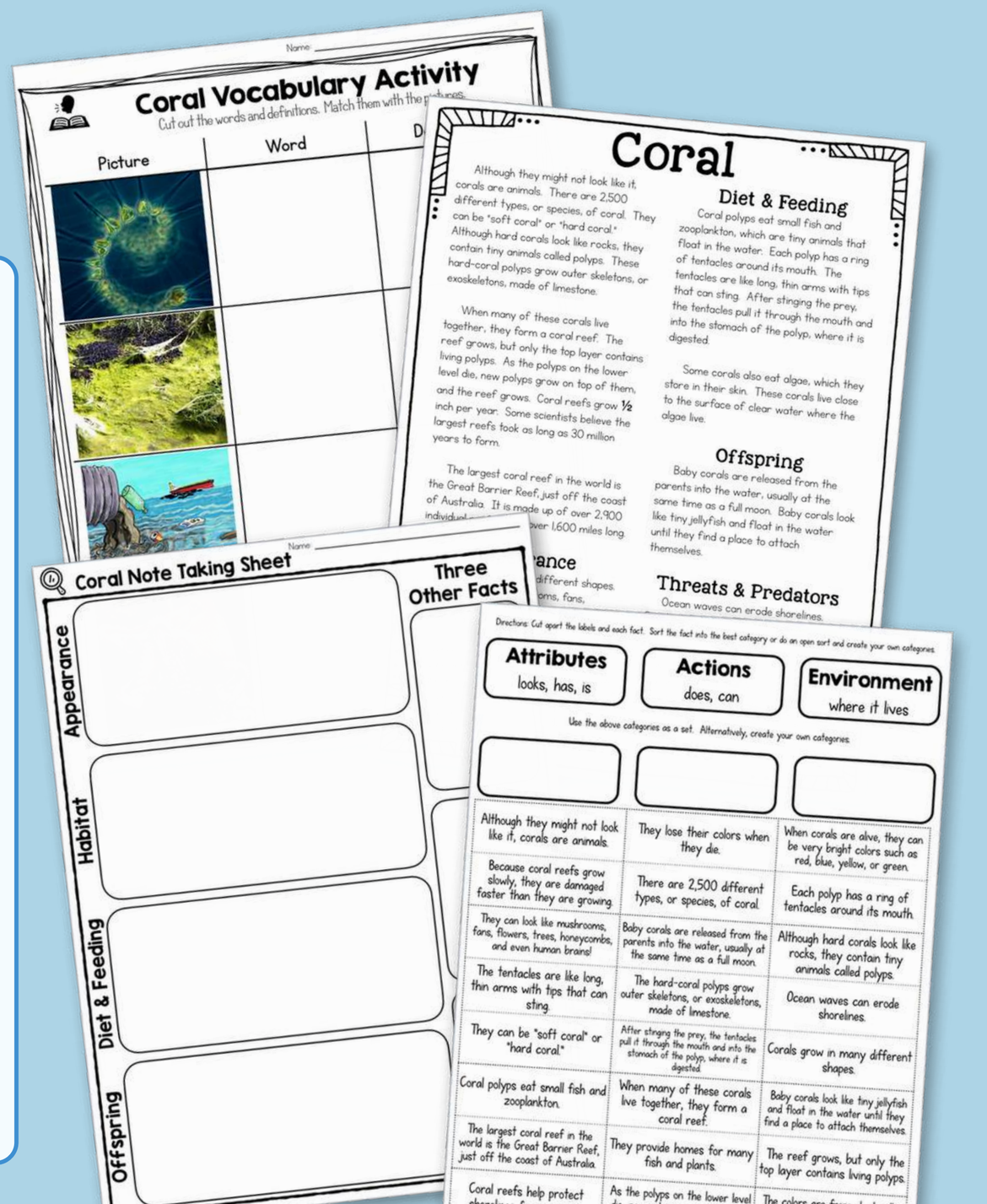
Informational Articles, Activities, and Writing

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

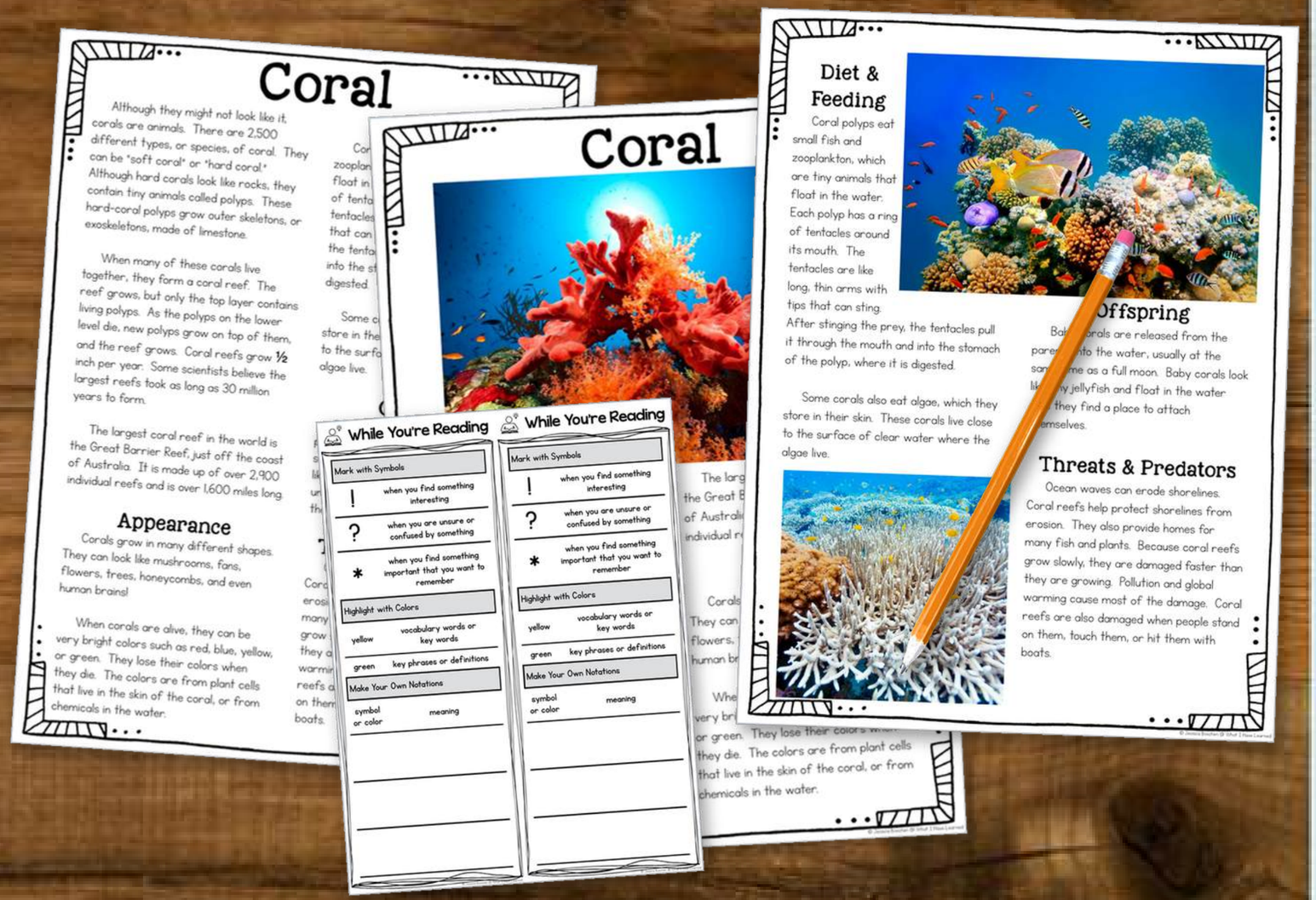
WHAT'S INCLUDED

Read, research, and write

- 1-page and 2-page informational articles
- Vocabulary cards and cut-and-paste activities
- Note-taking organizers and comprehension questions
- Fact sort activities
- Informational writing pages
- Answer keys included
- QR codes for safe video research



READ



Article comes in two formats.

Meet an animal in its habitat

1 ARTICLE

Students read a clear informational article about coral reef.

2 NOTICE DETAILS

Students look for facts about the coral reef's appearance, habitat, diet, and behavior.

3 DIFFERENT FORMATS

Teachers choose the article format that fits students' reading needs.

RESEARCH



Research pages make independent fact gathering manageable

Gather facts about coral reef

1 WATCH AND RESEARCH

Students use one QR-code page to find a safe video source for research about coral reef.

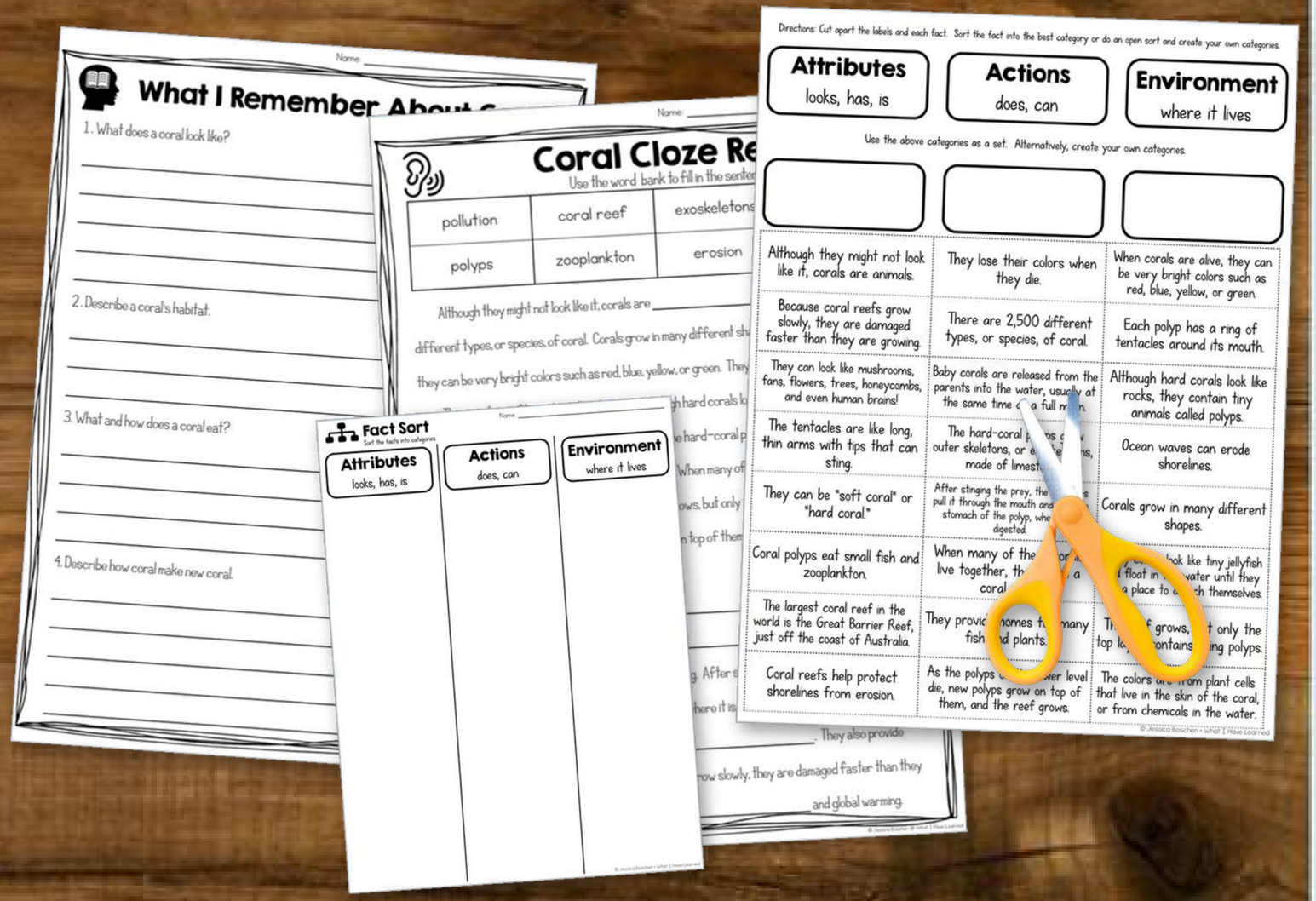
2 TAKE NOTES

Students record facts about the coral reef's body, habitat, behavior, and life cycle.

3 BUILD VOCABULARY

Students use picture cards and activities to practice important animal words.

ORGANIZE



Comprehension and sorting pages prepare students to write

Sort facts about coral reef

1 REMEMBER

Students recall important facts after reading about coral reef.

2 CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Students complete a cloze activity using key vocabulary and facts.

3 SORT FACTS

Students organize information into clear categories before writing.

WRITE



From organized notes to a finished informational report

Turn notes into an coral reef report

1 PLAN

Students use note-taking pages to collect and organize research.

2 SUMMARIZE

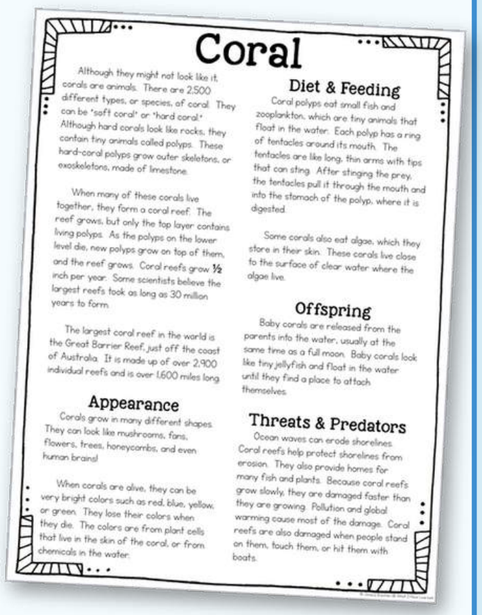
Students turn facts into a focused summary about coral reef.

3 WRITE

Students use report pages to explain what they learned.

FROM READING TO ANIMAL RESEARCH WRITING

READ


Coral

Although they might not look like it, corals are animals. There are 2,500 different types, or species, of coral. They can be "soft coral" or "hard coral."

Although hard corals look like rocks, they contain tiny animals called polyps. These hard-coral polyps grow outer skeletons, or exoskeletons, made of limestone.

When many of these corals live together, they form a coral reef. The reef grows, but only the top layer contains living polyps. As the polyps on the lower level die, new polyps grow on top of them, and the reef grows. Coral reefs grow ½ inch per year. Some scientists believe the largest reefs took as long as 30 million years to form.

The largest coral reef in the world is the Great Barrier Reef, just off the coast of Australia. It is made up of over 2,900 individual reefs and is over 1,600 miles long.

Appearance

Corals grow in many different shapes. They can look like mushrooms, fans, flowers, trees, honeycombs, and even human brains!

When corals are alive, they can be very bright colors such as red, blue, yellow, or green. They lose their colors when they die. The colors are from plant cells that live in the skin of the coral, or from chemicals in the water.

Diet & Feeding

Coral polyps eat small fish and zooplankton, which are tiny animals that float in the water. Each polyp has a ring of tentacles around its mouth. The tentacles are like long, thin arms with tips that can sting. After stinging the prey, the tentacles pull it through the mouth and into the stomach of the polyp, where it is digested.

Some corals also eat algae, which they store in their skin. These corals live close to the surface of clear water where the algae live.

Offspring

Baby corals are released from the parents into the water, usually at the same time as a full moon. Baby corals look like tiny jellyfish and float in the water until they find a place to attach themselves.

Threats & Predators

Ocean waves can erode shorelines. Coral reefs help protect shorelines from erosion. They also provide homes for many fish and plants. Because coral reefs grow slowly, they are damaged faster than they are growing. Pollution and global warming cause most of the damage. Coral reefs are also damaged when people stand on them, touch them, or hit them with boats.

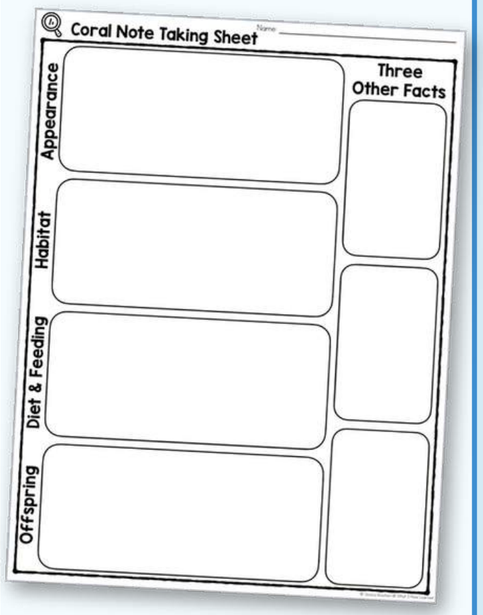
Read an informational article about coral reef in a format that fits your students.

LEARN



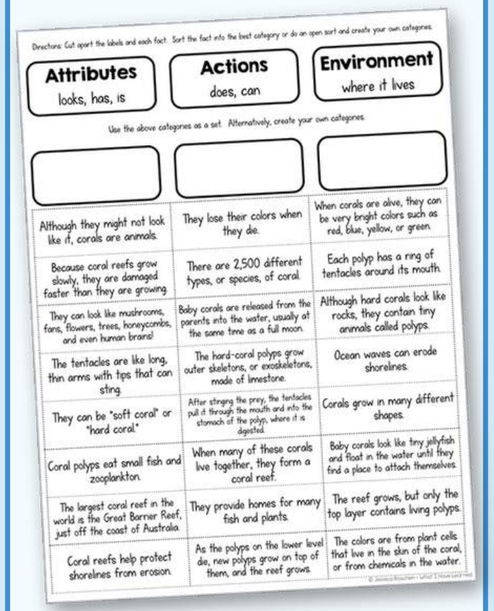
Build vocabulary with picture cards and activities about coral reef features and habitats.

RESEARCH



Gather facts about the coral reef's appearance, habitat, diet, and behavior.

ORGANIZE


Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives

Use the above categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.

Although they might not look like it, corals are animals.	They lose their colors when they die.	When corals are alive, they can be very bright colors such as red, blue, yellow, or green.
Because coral reefs grow slowly, they are damaged faster than they are growing.	There are 2,500 different types, or species, of coral.	Each polyp has a ring of tentacles around its mouth.
They can look like mushrooms, fans, flowers, trees, honeycombs, and even human brains!	Baby corals are released from the parents into the water, usually at the same time as a full moon.	Although hard corals look like rocks, they contain tiny animals called polyps.
The tentacles are like long, thin arms with tips that can sting.	The hard-coral polyps grow outer skeletons, or exoskeletons, made of limestone.	Ocean waves can erode shorelines.
They can be "soft coral" or "hard coral."	After stinging the prey, the tentacles pull it through the mouth and into the stomach of the polyp, where it is digested.	Corals grow in many different shapes.
Coral polyps eat small fish and zooplankton.	When many of these corals live together, they form a coral reef.	Baby corals look like tiny jellyfish and float in the water until they find a place to attach themselves.
The largest coral reef in the world is the Great Barrier Reef, just off the coast of Australia.	They provide homes for many fish and plants.	The reef grows, but only the top layer contains living polyps.
Coral reefs help protect shorelines from erosion.	As the polyps on the lower level die, new polyps grow on top of them, and the reef grows.	The colors are from plant cells that live in the skin of the coral, or from chemicals in the water.

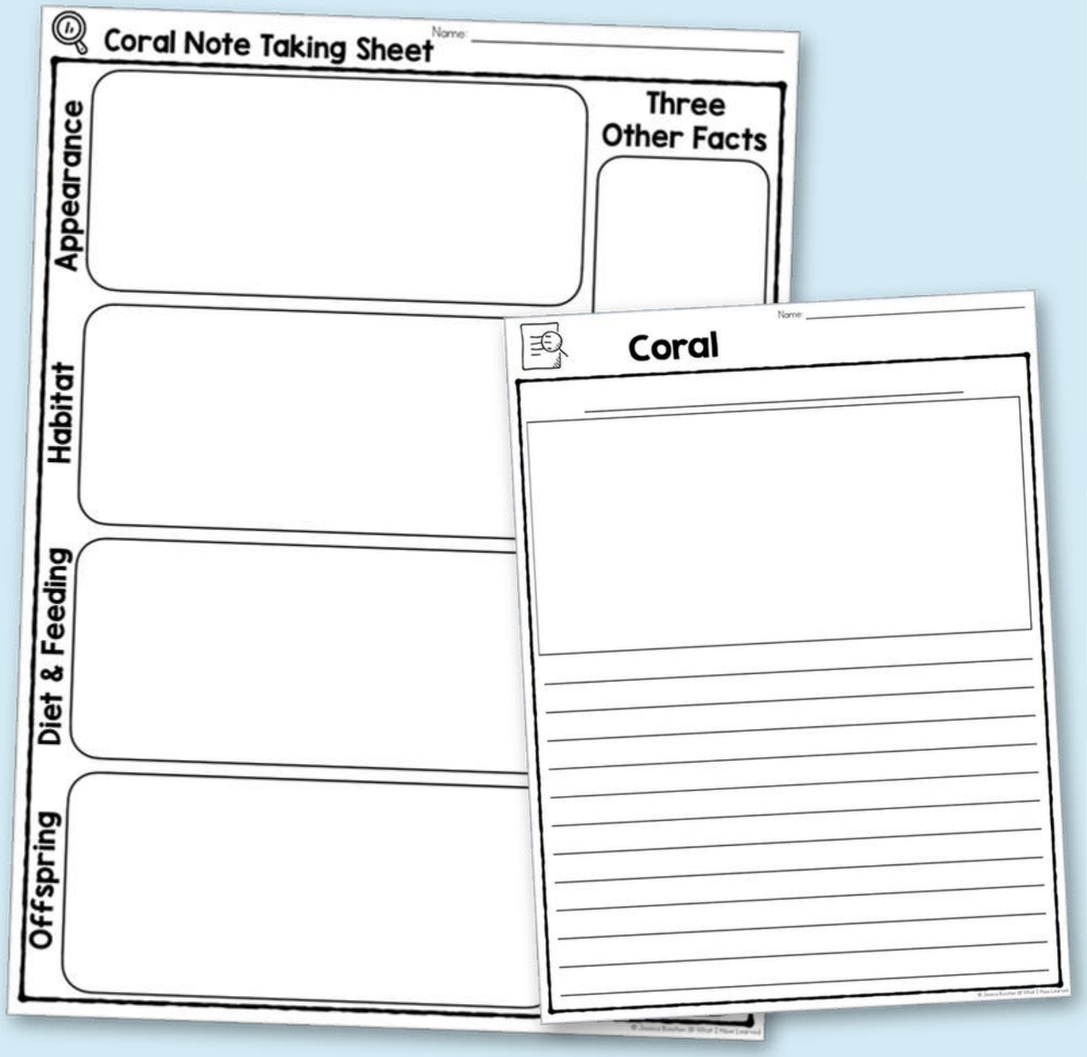
Sort facts into appearance, habitat, behavior, and life cycle categories.

WRITE



Use the writing pages to turn notes into an animal research report about coral reef.

WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE



1

ANIMAL STUDY

Use the articles and vocabulary pages during a science or nonfiction unit about coral reef.

2

GUIDED READING

Choose the article format and comprehension pages that fit your readers.

3

ANIMAL RESEARCH

Use QR-code research and note-taking sheets to collect facts from multiple sources.

4

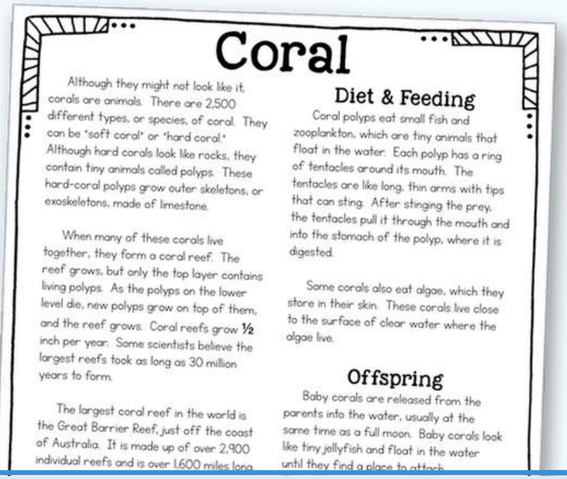
INFORMATIONAL WRITING

Move from organized notes to a clear report about coral reef.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE

PERFECT FOR SCIENCE AND ELA

Students read, write, sort, and research while learning about coral reef adaptations and habitats.


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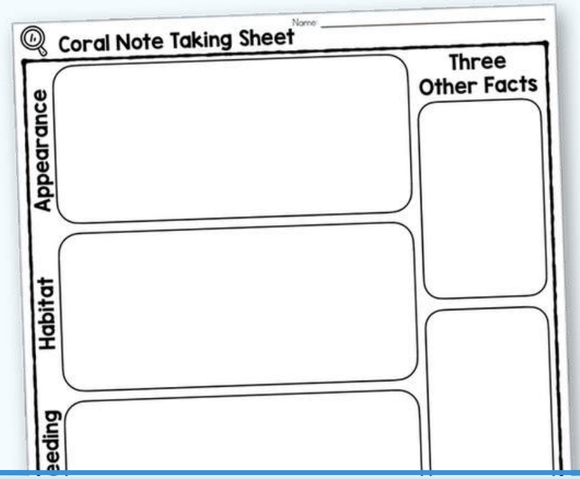
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SAVES TIME WITH CONSISTENT LAYOUTS

Clear article, activity, and writing pages make planning simple and support independent work.


Coral Note Taking Sheet

Name:

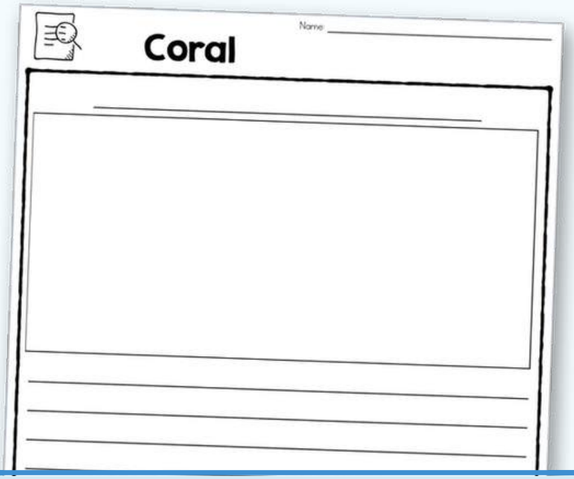
Three Other Facts

Appearance

Habitat

SUPPORTS ANIMAL RESEARCH

Vocabulary cards, fact sorts, and note-taking organizers help students prepare an informational report.


Coral

Name:

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

★★★★★

I used this for a global research project and the kids LOVED it! This was a very valuable resource.

Megan P.

★★★★★

Great way to learn about coral and practice looking for evidence. My students always enjoy reading non fiction texts.

Teri M.

★★★★★

My students loved learning about coral reefs!

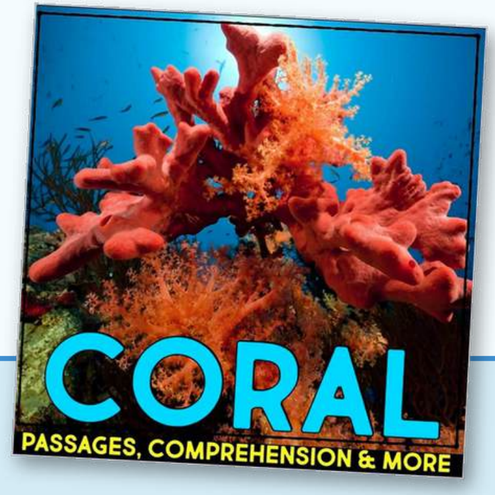
Kathy Y.





READY FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

- **Informational articles in two formats**
- **Vocabulary, comprehension, and research activities**
- **Note-taking and informational writing pages**



My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



teach MATH | teach SCIENCE | teach READING | teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED