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| ../Desktop/download-1.jpg Tourists can damage coral reefs without being aware simply to due lack of education about coral reefs. This image is by the Oceanic Engineering society of IEEE. What do we do next?  * Get to know the environment and do research before visiting an environment. * Respect all organisms and anything in the environment * Get involved and spread awareness * Reduce number of visitors to reefs this will help reduce activity since some reefs can see 1.4 million visitors in a year (Lamb 2011) * Need more conservation or regulations to protect the reefs because the current regulations are not doing enough (Done 2004). | |  | | --- | | What are Coral ReefsBackground Corals are composed of small polyps. Many of these small polyps makeup stony coral. There are two basic types of coral which are soft or as mentioned above hard. Coral reefs also are composed of a skeleton like structure that also contributes to its structure (Hinrichsen, 2017). Coral reefs have a symbiotic relationship with algae. This simply means that they benefit one another. For example, the coral reefs provide a home for the algae while the algae provide nutrients to the polyps. Another interesting thing about the algae is it provides the color we see on the corals(Salm, 1983)  **Impact on marine environment**   * Provides shelter and protection to many marine organism (Miller 2007) * Filters sediments * Act as buffer when waves hit * Build islands (Salm 1983) * Removing corals disrupts the entire ecosystem (Hinrichsen 2017) | |  |  Image taken from Daily mail from article titled World's coral reefs 'will be wiped out by 2050', researchers warn | |  | | --- | | https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/2028/5101/products/coralreefeu-1_1024x1024.jpg?v=1496263933 | | Image by Eurographics Inc. | | Tourism and Coral Reefs | | Why are Coral Reefs important? | |
| Image is by Sookkasame Jarupong which shows how tourist have engraved into a coral. They scratched off the polyps from the coral since these polyps are found on the outer region of corals. Effects of tourism on Coral reefsDestruction of Coral reefs  * Damage by humans during tourism such as engraving into the reefs or stepping in the reefs. | * Other damage done by tourist is seen on the other side of the pamphlet where tourists simply step on these organisms. * When corals are destroyed, the exterior is damage which includes the polyps. Without the polyps, the corals can die. * If corals are destroyed this not only affects them but also the entire ecosystem. * Human activity also stresses the corals and deteriorate their health. This is partly due to snorkeling and diving (Lamb 2011)   “We know what we must do and we must act quickly. If we don’t, future generations will be denied the demonstration of the power and beauty of nature and the lifting of the spirit that corals reefs so uniquely provide (Done 2004).”  **Coral Disease**   * Damage to living tissue which results in the death of the coral or an entire colony. * Human activity seems to reduce the corals ability to fight off pathogens that degrade the corals (Lamb 2011) | This image shows the effects of coral disease by Richard Aronson taken at FKNMS. This is what active spreading of the coral disease appears like on a coral. Impact that Fort Collins Resident have in the marine environment  * Vacations to regions where coral reefs are found. * Protects from storms and erosions for humans that live near coast (Miller 2007) * Coral reefs are a new source for medicine and medicine research (Salm 1983) * Without coral reefs this impacts fish which is a part of some resident’s diet (Miller 2007) * It’s important that future generations known of this marine environment. * You should care because you or someone you known is interested in this environment and plans to visit one of these environments. |