

Coral reefs are underwater structures somewhat large composed of the colonies of marine invertebrates called coral. Corals form rocks in the sea, called coral reef. They are composed of Calcium Carbonate. They are classified as “hard” and “soft” corals.

IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS:

Coral reefs are some of the most diverse and valuable marine ecosystems on earth. This biodiversity is considered a key to find many drugs that might be the cure for diseases such as cancer, arthritis, viral infections and many other diseases. Healthy coral reefs support commercial fisheries and tourism. Coral reefs also protects shorelines against the energies coming from the waves, floods and storm thus protecting human life, property damage and soil erosion. They are the source of nitrogen and other essential nutrients for marine food chains and also help in carbon and nitrogen fixation. The most important feature of reefs is that they provide shelter for high species diversity.

Despite their great ecological importance, the coral reefs are severely threatened by pollution, and habitat destruction which is the sole reason for the destruction of the diverse population residing there.

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