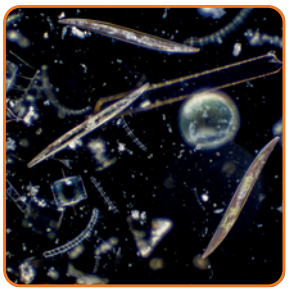
Habitats and Environments (Science, Geography)

Coral Reef or Open Ocean?

Did you know...?
Not all parts of the ocean are the same. Two very different habitats are:
Coral Reefs —busy, colourful, full of life
Open Ocean —deep, wide, not much shelter

Your Task:
Cut out (or draw a line to) the sea creatures and sort them into the habitat where they are most likely to be found

Coral Reef Habitat	Open Ocean Habitat

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After sorting, answer these questions:

1. Which habitat has more hiding places? Why?
2. Which animals are fast swimmers? Why might they need speed?
3. How might the food chain be different in each habitat?

Extension Task: Choose one creature. Write 2–3 sentences explaining why its habitat suits it:
Example: **"A Great White Shark lives in the open ocean because..."**

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Teacher Guidance

Objective:
Students will compare two marine habitats and explain how animals are adapted to live there.

Curriculum Links (S2 Science & Geography):
- ★ Living things and their habitats—dependency relationships between animals and environments
- ★ Adaptation — explaining how features suit habitats
- ★ Geography — physical geography of the ocean

Key knowledge:

Coral reefs	Open ocean
Warm, shallow water	Deep waters, far from land
Lots of light	Less light, depending on depth
Shelters in corals	Few hiding places
High biodiversity (many species)	Large predators, migrating animals

Important: Some animals move between habitats during their life cycle (e.g., sea turtles).

Expected sorting answers:
Coral Reef: Clownfish, Parrotfish, Moray Eel, Plankton
Open Ocean: Tuna, Manta Ray, Great White Shark, Sea Turtle

Suggested lesson steps:
1. Introduce coral reefs and the open ocean (show images if possible).
2. Ask: “What might be different about living here?”
3. Pupils complete the cut-and-sort activity.
4. Discuss adaptations (speed, shape, camouflage, shelter).
5. Pupils complete the written extension.

Di erentiation:
- ★ **Support:** Provide creature fact cards (diet, speed, predator/prey).
- ★ **Stretch:** Pupils choose an ocean animal not listed and research its habitat.

Assessment:
- √ Correctly sorted animals
- √ Uses vocabulary (habitat, adaptation, biodiversity)
- √ Explains how a habitat meets animal needs

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