

# Reef Restoration Program

**Grade Level:** All

**Summary:** Students spend an hour in the classroom discussing the need for reef restoration and various restoration efforts, including efforts MarineLab instructors assist with in waters of Key Largo. Students will be taken to one of the Coral Restoration Foundation's coral nurseries to observe CRF's efforts while snorkeling. The students will then snorkel a restoration site to see corals MarineLab instructors have assisted to take from the nursery and outplant on the reef.

## **Program Objectives:**

- Students will understand the need for reef restoration and various restoration techniques
- Students will get a firsthand look at Coral Restoration Foundation's work
- Students will snorkel CRF's coral nursery and observe outplanted corals

## **Concepts Covered:**

- Human vs. natural influences on the reef
- boat grounding damage
- Ecological Restoration: passive vs. active
- Physical vs. biological restoration efforts
- Pros and cons of reef restoration techniques used locally and worldwide
- MarineLab's role in local reef restoration efforts
- Coral Restoration Foundation
- Coral outplanting procedures

**Vocabulary:** prop wash, ecological restoration, active restoration, passive restoration, physical restoration, biological restoration, fragmentation, biorock, ecoreef, reefball, coral nursery, outplanting

**Procedures:** Students will discuss concepts and vocabulary listed above with an instructor in the classroom. Students will then go on a boat for two snorkels. The first will be to CRF's Elbow nursery and the second to a restoration site to observe outplanted corals.

**Extensions:** Service Learning/Citizen science options are available for students to directly work with the Coral Restoration Foundation. Snorkelers can assist CRF with various land based activities and SCUBA divers can participate with coral outplanting and/or nursery maintenance.

**Resources:** [www.coralrestoration.org](http://www.coralrestoration.org), <http://www.reefball.org/>, <https://www.ecoreefs.com/>, <https://mote.org/research/program/coral-reef-restoration>, <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/wellwood2.html>



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