# Coral Territory Wars

[Number of participants] 20 to 40 [Duration] 1.5 to 2 hours

# **Coral Reef**

Coral reefs can be found mainly in tropical and subtropical oceans and are called the "tropical rainforests of the sea" for their complex ecosystems and rich biodiversity.

Coral reef area, which features calm, transparent water with a variety of life forms, is considered important not only for its biodiversity and beauty, but also for its productivity and economic value.

Nevertheless, coral reefs have been threatened by local environmental changes, such as fishing without resource management and an inflow of earth and sand from the land, and global environmental changes, such as climate change. Many of these environmental changes are attributable to human activities. For this reason, we need to learn the basics about coral and coral reefs, and how human lifestyles and activities adversely

affect them. In addition, we must discuss how we can reduce and control the human impact on coral reefs to conserve and restore their ecosystems and prevent further damage.



# **Coral Territory Wars**



Coral Territory Wars is an experiential science education activity. Participants will learn how coral reefs are formed, and how their number increases or decreases due to various environmental factors. Since this activity is done in groups, students can learn a lot by communicating with other group members.

Part 1: Learn the basics about coral

Part 2: Play a simulation game about making coral reefs

Part 3: Discuss the game results

Part 4: Replay the simulation game

Part 5: Review the activity and discuss real coral reefs

# What Participants Learn from Playing Coral Territory Wars

#### The Varieties of Coral

Participants will learn about the many species of coral, the different places they can grow, their rates of growth and their tolerance for environmental loads.

#### The Human Impact on Coral

Participants will learn what kind of impact we have on coral and to what degree, as well as discuss what we can do to make healthy coral reefs.

### The Future for Coral Reefs

Participants will learn that coral reefs can recover if a suitable growth environment is provided and that our lifestyles greatly affect their recovery.



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