

# Reefs and Atolls

## Knowledge Organiser



Year 6, Summer 1: Geography

Topic: Reefs and Atolls

Whole School Topic: Why is Earth So Angry?

### Key Vocabulary

Atoll	a ring-shaped coral reef, island, or series of islets
Coral	a hard stony substance secreted by certain marine organisms as an external skeleton, typically forming large reefs in warm seas.
Coral Reef	an underwater ecosystem built by reef-building corals. Reefs are formed of colonies of coral polyps held together by calcium carbonate. Most coral reefs are built from stony corals, whose polyps cluster in groups.
Lagoon	a stretch of salt water separated from the sea by a low sandbank or coral reef.
Volcanic Island	are formed by eruptions of volcanoes on the ocean floor.
Topographical	relating to the arrangement or accurate representation of the physical features of an area

### What will I know about Reefs and Atolls by the end of this topic?

- A coral reef is an underwater system built up by corals ( a hard stony substance) in which aquatic animals can thrive within
- Most reef-building corals depend upon zooxanthellae (tiny little algae that grow inside of them) to photosynthesize and provide food.
- The three main types of coral reefs are fringing, barrier, and atoll.
- Coral reefs protect coastlines from storms and erosion, provide jobs for local communities, and offer opportunities for recreation. They are also a source of food and new medicines. Over half a billion people depend on reefs for food, income, and protection.
- Human and Physical Geography: Coral reefs face many threats from local sources, including: Physical damage or destruction from coastal development, dredging, quarrying, destructive fishing practices and gear, boat anchors and groundings, and recreational misuse (touching or removing corals).
- We are Geographers: Looking at a Study of the Kiribati (Maldives Atoll Island)

Of all coral reefs in the world, only three types distinguish itself from the others. These include...



**Barrier Reefs**

A barrier reef is a coral reef parallel to the shore but is separated by a channel of water.



**Atolls**

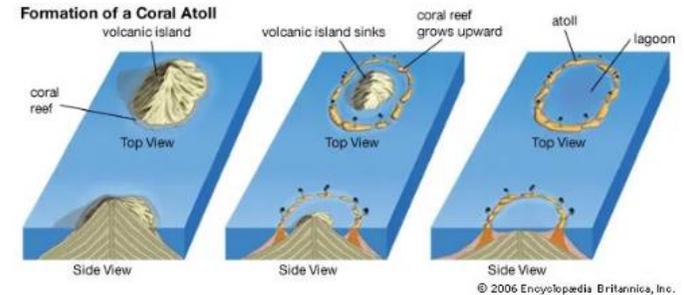
An atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef, consisting of a coral rim that encircles a lagoon.



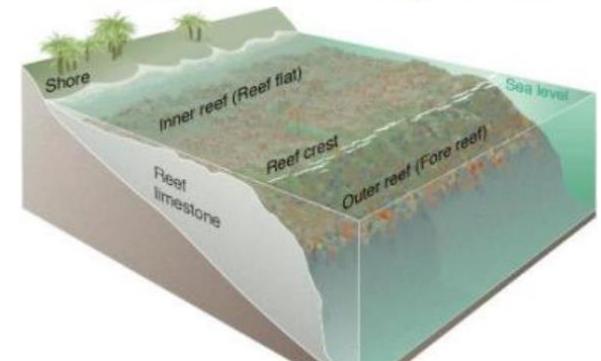
**Fringing Reefs**

A fringing reef is a reef that forms around a land mass.

## Atolls and Zones



*An atoll is a ring of land surrounding a pool of water called a lagoon. This kind of island forms from a volcanic island circled by a coral reef.*



**Zones of the Reef: Shore (Inner) reef, Crest Reef, Fore (outer) reef**

