



GROUPEL MOON

An integrated, marine sciences curriculum.

INVESTIGATION I: A WALK THROUGH THE REEF COMMUNITY

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY: INTRODUCTION TO THE CORAL REEF COMMUNITY

ACTIVITY: READ ALOUD AND COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

TEXT: Extreme Coral Reef! **Q&A By:** Melissa Stewart

THE THINKING BEHIND:

For the pre-activity, our primary goal is to build student's background knowledge on the subject of coral reefs. The book, *Extreme Coral Reef!*, explains some of the big ideas that students will need to understand as we move into our study of the Nassau Grouper and the book, *Grouper Moon*. Specifically, this activity will prepare students for the first activity we will do together where we learn about the food web and the grouper's role as a keystone species.

Part I:

Read Aloud: *Extreme Coral Reef*, pg. 1-19.

Introduce the book to the students. Explain that we are reading this story to prepare for our work with the *Grouper Moon* project. In order to understand the grouper, we need to know a little about where they live, coral reefs. This book will explain some important ideas about coral reefs. Today we will read the first half of the book and then the second half tomorrow. Also explain that they will be answering questions about the book following the read aloud.

Comprehension Questions: Following the read aloud, have a quick discussion about what they learned about coral reefs. What are some interesting facts you learned? Did you learn something new? Then review the comprehension questions. Explain that they can work individually or in small groups to answer the questions (which ever works best).





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Part II:

Read Aloud: Extreme Coral Reef, pg. 20-37.

Read Aloud: Have a quick conversation to review what you learned the previous day about coral reefs. Explain that today we will read the second half of the book, *Extreme Coral Reef*. Remind the students that they will be answering questions following the read aloud. Note: please stop reading after page 37. I do not want to begin talking about the troubles facing coral reefs. For the purposes of this activity, we want to focus solely on understand the different elements that make up a coral reef.

Comprehension Questions: Following the read aloud, have a quick discussion about what they learned today about coral reefs. What new information did you learn from the read aloud? Did you find out anything that surprised you? Then review the comprehension questions. Explain that they can work individually or in small groups to answer the questions (which ever works best). After the students have completed the questions, explain to the class that REEF scientists will be visiting next week to begin an exciting project with Cayman Prep students and a very special reef fish, the Nassau Grouper!

