

Coral Polyp Colony

Objective: To create a model of a coral polyp colony that illustrates the parts of a polyp body and the formation of a coral reef.

Materials Required:

- 1 small paper plate
- modeling clay, 2 colors
- 6 pieces rigatoni pasta, uncooked
- 3 pipe cleaners, cut into 3/4" pieces
- Markers

Instructions:

1. Form a layer of modeling clay (about 1/2" thick, and 3" in diameter) on the paper plate.
2. Use markers to brightly color the rigatoni.
3. Press each piece of rigatoni firmly into the clay base. Place them together to form a tight group.
4. Form a modeling clay ball for each piece of rigatoni. The ball should be slightly bigger than the hole in the rigatoni, so that it will fit tightly.
5. Insert 6 or 8 pipe cleaners into each modeling clay ball, making a circle like flower petals. Press the ball into the end of the rigatoni.
6. The rigatoni represents the polyp's hard shell, the clay represents its soft body, and the pipe cleaners represent the tentacles.

