WHERE IN THE WORLD DO CORALS LIVE?

Reefs cover just a tiny fraction (less than one percent) of the earth's surface and less than two percent of the ocean bottom.
Corals are found across the world's ocean, in both shallow and deep water.
Reef-building corals are only found in shallow tropical and subtropical waters so their symbionts can photosynthesize.
There are also deep-sea corals that thrive in cold, dark water at depths of up to 20,000 feet (6,000 m).
Both stony corals and soft corals can be found in these underwater peaks called seamounts.

SPECIFIC PLACES CORALS LIVE

Various species of corals are found in all oceans of the world, from the tropics to the polar regions.
Over half of the world's coral reefs are found within six countries:

AUSTRALIA	INDONESIA	PHILIPPINES	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	FIJI	THE MALDIVES

Caribbean coral reefs have declined significantly from local and global stressors. The average coral cover on these reefs have been reduced by 80% in the past few decades.

THE DIVERSITY OF CORALS

Because coral reefs are so diverse, they are often called the rainforests of the sea!

Coral reefs have the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem on the planet - even more than a tropical rainforest.

They occupy less than one percent of the ocean floor and they are home to more than 25% of all marine life!

Reef species diversity has been estimated at 600,000 to more than 9 million species worldwide.

The family tree of the animals we call corals is complicated, but all corals are considered anthozoans!

Stony corals, soft corals, and sea anemones are all considered anthozoans.

Corals can be mainly split into two groups:

1 The hexacorals (including the true stony corals and black corals, as well as the sea anemones) have smooth tentacles, often in multiples of six.

2 The octocorals (soft corals, seafans, organpipe corals and blue corals) have eight tentacles, each of which have tiny branches running along the sides.