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Jo and the white coral

A Sensory Story inspired by [The Undiscovered Island](#)

Brought to you by Attenborough Arts Centres Learning and Outreach Team

The telling of this story can be enhanced with sensory items you can find around your house.

You will need:

- Something squishy e.g. a sponge, foam ball
- Something spikey e.g. A massage ball
- Something rough e.g. piece of hessian, rope, rough material
- Something really rough, e.g. rough side of a sponge.
- Paper to make a wobbly coral
- Bubbles

Jo and the white coral

Jo had always lived by the sea. They loved everything about it. The sounds, like the sea gulls squawking, or the sound of the water softly lapping the shore, or the crash of waves against the rocks during a storm.

Joe loved the smells. Like the smell of the salty water and the sea weed. They loved the things they could touch, like the feeling of the sand between their toes or the shells they collected on the beach. But most of all they loved seeing the creatures under the sea when they went swimming.

On a nice day Jo liked to go snorkelling. Under the water lived the most amazing colourful world full of fishes and beautiful rocks. There were red ones and orange ones and blue ones and green ones and yellow ones.

So many different colours!

Let's imagine diving under the water with Jo!

What do we need?

We need our

- Goggles
- Breathing tube
- Flippers on our feet



Are you ready?

The colourful rocks weren't really rocks, oh no! In fact they were coral! Under the water near where Jo lived there was a coral reef. Coral reefs are underwater echo systems, like underwater cities. Coral's aren't really rocks they're actually living, breathing creatures! They come in hundreds of different colours and textures!

Jo loved to explore the coral reef.

Let's explore all the different textures...what can we find?



Squishy coral



spikey Coral



Rough coral



Wobbly coral

One night Jo's parents told them something very special was happening. The coral was spawning. This meant the coral was releasing millions of tiny coral babies, throwing them into the ocean. Jo swam out to watch what happened next! The water was swirling with tiny little corals all different colours. They were dancing and floating!



Blow Bubbles like the baby coral spawning in the ocean.

Some of the tiny corals get eaten by other fish but don't worry this helps hungry fish, and some find new homes ready to start a new coral reef.

As Jo grew up they moved away from the sea into the big city. They missed the sea, the city didn't have nice smells, or nice sounds and it didn't have beautiful colours to explore.

After many years Jo grew tired of the big city with its loud noises and grey buildings. So Jo decided to go back to their favourite beach with their favourite coral reef.

Jo arrived in car and parked by their favourite beach. Jo felt so excited! Straight away all the memories came back, the smell of the sea weed, the sound of the water lapping against the sand and the feel of the sand between their toes as they walked towards the ocean.

Jo put their snorkelling gear on and dived back into the ocean

Do you remember what we need?

We need our

- Goggles
- Breathing tube
- Flippers on our feet



Are you ready?

As Jo dived into the water they noticed something wasn't right. Where are the colourful fish? Why is the coral all white? Jo knew something was wrong. When coral goes white it means it's dying. There's lots of different reasons coral dies, it might be because the sea is too hot or there isn't enough light.

Jo felt really sad. They missed the colours and the fish and the magical underwater world they used to swim in. But what's that?!

Jo could see someone on the sea floor in a diver's suit. They had something in their hand. It looked like they were sticking small corals to the floor of the ocean. Back at the beach Jo found the diver and asked them what they were doing. They were a coral conservationist. This meant they were trying to save the coral reef. By sticking live coral to the ocean floor, they hoped they could bring the reef back to life. They told Jo that it would take long time to grow back but every little thing that we do can help us save the coral and there's teams of scientist all over the world working together to the save coral reefs, just like the one Jo loves so much.



Let's imagine we are coral growing. Coral starts the size of your hand. Imagine each of your fingers are the little corals growing bigger and bigger and bigger!

Jo made it their mission to find out more about coral conservation, and find ways they could save and restore the coral.

I'm very happy to say that many years later when Jo was old and grey they still snorkel in the magical colourful coral reef.

Continue to the next page for wobbly coral instructions...

How to make your wobbly paper coral

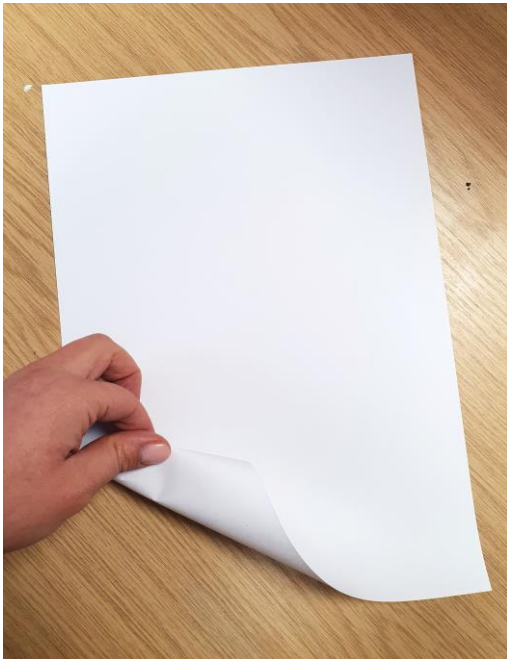
You will need:

- A piece of paper
- Scissors
- Cellotape

Roll a piece of paper up into a tube shape and tape it so it holds its shape.

Now cut small slits running from one end into the middle of the tube. Bend each piece of paper so it looks like strands of wavy/wobbly coral.

1.



2.



3.

