Coral Reef Identification
What is a Coral Reef?

- A marine ecosystem structured from the calcium carbonate secreted by coral animals
- Home - fish, invertebrates, algae, and other marine species
- Largest living structure on earth!
  - Great Barrier Reef - 1600 miles
  - Belize - 186 miles
Why are Reefs Important?

- Protect shorelines from erosion & storm damage
- Supply food to coastal communities
- Recreational and economical opportunities
- New source of biomedicine - antibiotics & anti-cancers
- High biodiversity = greater resistance to climate change

Hurricane Sandy October, 2012
Threats to Coral Reef Communities

- Sewage and chemical runoff = algae overgrowth, oxygen depletion, and disease
- Fishing with heavy trawls and explosives harm not only the organisms but also the structure
- Careless tourist and boat anchors
- Thermal pollution due to global climate change and power
Elkhorn Coral
Finger Coral
Brain Coral

- Hard coral
- Lifespan is 900 years
Fire Coral

- Not a typical coral, more closely related to a type of jellyfish called hydroids.
- Don't Touch!
Mustard Hill Coral
Diadema Sea Urchin
Worms!

Christmas Tree Worm

Split Crown Feather Duster

http://gregwagner.com/the%20sea/pages/christmas%20tree%20worms.htm

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ae/Anamobaea_orstedii_%28Split-Crown_Feather_Duster_-_red_variation%29.jpg

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Giant Anemone

Lettuce Sea Slug
How do we ID fish?

- Body Shape
- Markings
- Color
- Size
- Behavior
- Where
Angelfish

Queen Angelfish

Grey Angelfish

French Angelfish

Wednesday, March 19, 14
Butterfly fish

Four-eye butterfly fish

Banded butterfly fish
Damselfish
Sergeant Major
Bluehead Wrasse
Sharpnose Puffer
Fairy Basslet
Blue Tang

Ocean Surgeon
Stoplight Parrotfish
Nassau Grouper
Yellowtail Snapper
Blue Stripe Grunt

French Grunt
Squirrel Fish
Invasive Lionfish
Trumpetfish