

Build your Own Edible Pink Sea Fan



What you will need

- 1 paper plate
- 1 large marshmallow
- 2 strawberry laces
- 1 straw
- 1 toothpick
- 1 spoonful of jam
- 1 teaspoon
- 2 round biscuits
- Green, pink or red sugar sprinkles

STEP 1: Prepare for the experiment

- A. Wash your hands before starting.
- B. Ensure all your equipment is clean and ready to use.

STEP 2: Create the polyp body

- A. Place your marshmallow in the centre of your paper plate.
- B. This represents the body of your coral polyp.

STEP 3: Make the mouth and stomach

- A. Take a straw and carefully poke a hole in the centre of the marshmallow.
- B. Remove the straw, leaving the hole behind. This represents the mouth and stomach of your coral polyp.

Coral polyps use this hole to eat and digest food, with their tentacles helping to catch tiny food pieces and guide them inside. Pink sea fans have just one hole that they use for both.

STEP 4: Add tentacles

- A. Use a toothpick to create 8 small holes around the marshmallow.
- B. Cut your strawberry laces into 8 small pieces (about 3cm each).
- C. Insert the strawberry lace pieces into the holes. These represent the tentacles of your coral polyp.

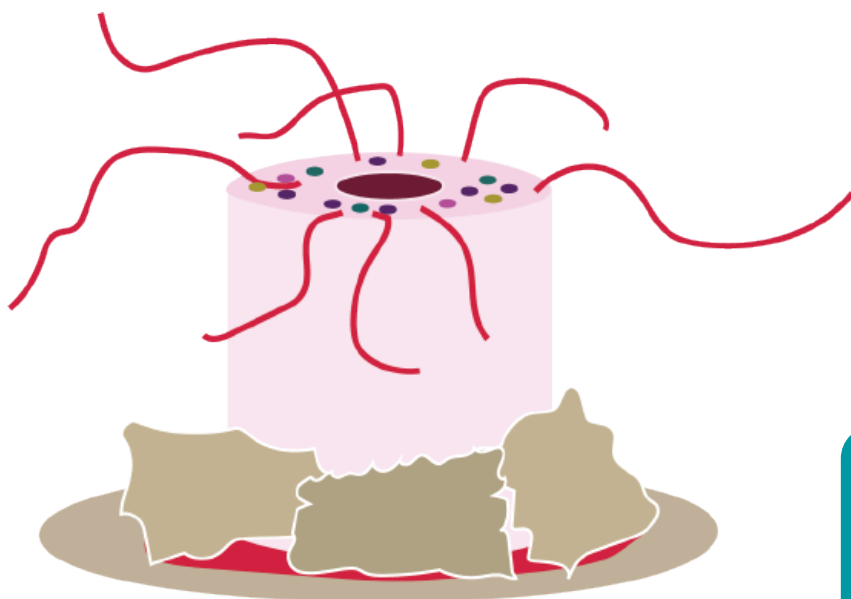
STEP 5: Attach your polyp to its base

- A. Use a spoon to spread a small amount of jam onto one of your round biscuits.
- B. Stick the marshmallow onto the jam. This represents the coral polyp gluing itself to a rock.

STEP 6: Add skeleton protection

- A. Break the second biscuit into 4 pieces.
- B. Arrange these pieces around the marshmallow. These represent the coral skeleton, which provides protection and structure to the polyp.

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STEP 7: Add algae

A. Sprinkle some sugar (green, pink, or red) on the marshmallow. This represents the algae that live inside the coral.

Some corals produce food by teaming up with tiny algae that live inside their bodies. These algae use sunlight to create energy through photosynthesis, similar to how plants make food. The algae shares this energy with the coral, while the coral provides nutrients and a safe home for the algae.

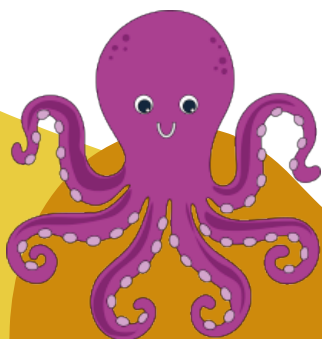
STEP 8: Form a coral colony

- A. Work with 2 other learners.
- B. Place your marshmallows (coral polyps) close together on one plate to represent a coral colony.
- C. If you have permission, you can eat your coral polyp creation!

Pink sea fan coral is made of colonies of tiny animals called polyps. These polyps live together, working as a team to form the coral!

ADDITIONAL TASK

Encourage learners to use the Marine Life Information Network website to view where pink sea fans are found: www.tiramor.cymru/pinkseafan (Resource 2). Where along the the Welsh coast are pink sea fans located? What types of habitats do pink sea fans prefer?



A coral polyp with 8 tentacles is called an octocoral, as "octo" means eight.