MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

Reef Street

Peek inside the ocean’s rainbow neighborhood.

littlestorybook.ai



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CHAPTER 1

Welcome to Reef Street

Come visit Reef Street! It has busy lanes, cozy homes, and secret hideouts. Fish zip past coral towers. A turtle glides by slowly. The amazing part? This whole neighborhood is alive.

Not a Rock!

Coral can feel hard, like a pebble. Many people think it is rock. But it is made by tiny animals. They live together in hard homes. Look closely. Soft little bodies peek out, like fingers from mittens.



IN THIS PICTURE
Soft coral animals peek from their hard shared home.



IN THIS PICTURE *One soft polyp rests inside its hard cup.*

Tiny Room Builders

Meet one polyp. A polyp is one soft coral animal. It sits inside a hard cup it made. Its tiny arms are called tentacles. They open in the water to catch little drifting snacks. Lots of these builders live side by side.

Cup by Cup

One little cup is small. Then another grows beside it. And another. Slowly, the cups join up. They can make branches, bumps, and walls. It is like adding blocks to a giant playhouse. Together, the tiny homes become a reef.

WOW FACTS

A reef’s tiny builders can make homes for much bigger animals.

IN THIS PICTURE

Many small coral cups grow into a branching reef home.



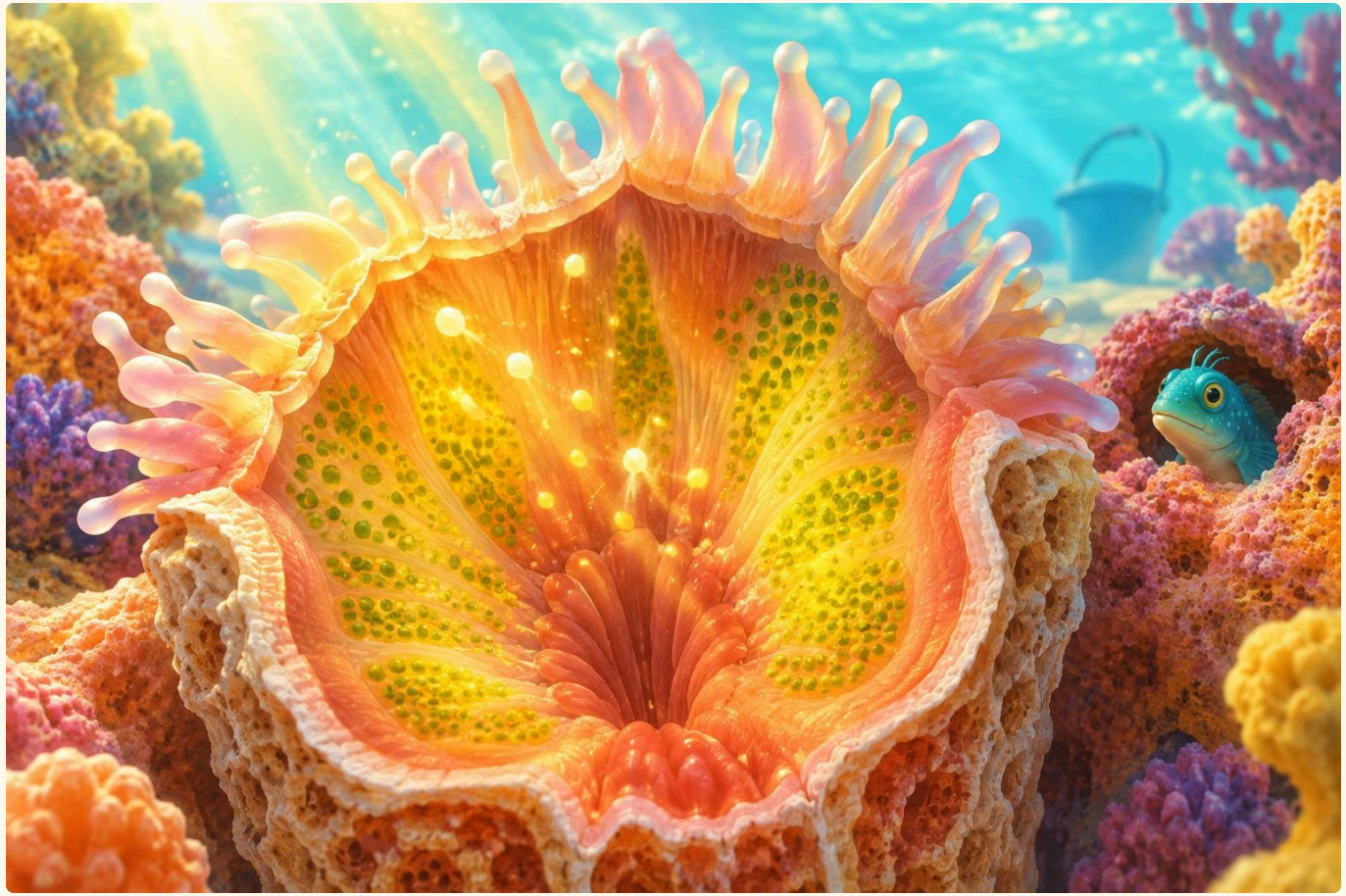


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CHAPTER 2

Sun Snacks

Sunshine does more than warm the reef. It helps tiny algae make food. Algae are tiny plant-like helpers. Coral animals give them a safe place. In return, the helpers share snacks. Come peek inside a glowing coral home.



IN THIS PICTURE *Sunlight helps algae make food inside a coral polyp.*

A Snack From Light

Light slips down through clear water. It reaches a coral polyp, one tiny coral animal. Little algae live inside its soft body. Algae are tiny plant-like helpers. They use the light to make food. Then they share some food with the polyp. The coral gives them a safe, snug home.

IN THIS PICTURE
Coral and algae share a safe home and food.



Roommates Who Share

Think of roommates sharing one cozy room. The coral gives algae a safe place to live. Algae are tiny plant-like helpers. They make food from sunshine. Some of that food goes to the coral. Both roommates get what they need. That is a helpful sharing team.

WOW FACTS
Many shallow corals have these tiny helpers living inside them.

Rainbow Buildings

Many people think coral is a plant. But coral is an animal. Tiny algae live inside many corals. Algae are plant-like helpers that use sunshine. Their colors can help coral look pink, gold, or brown. Coral skin can add color too. A sunny reef can glow like crayons under water.

IN THIS PICTURE
Sunlight brings out lovely colors in a living reef.





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CHAPTER 3

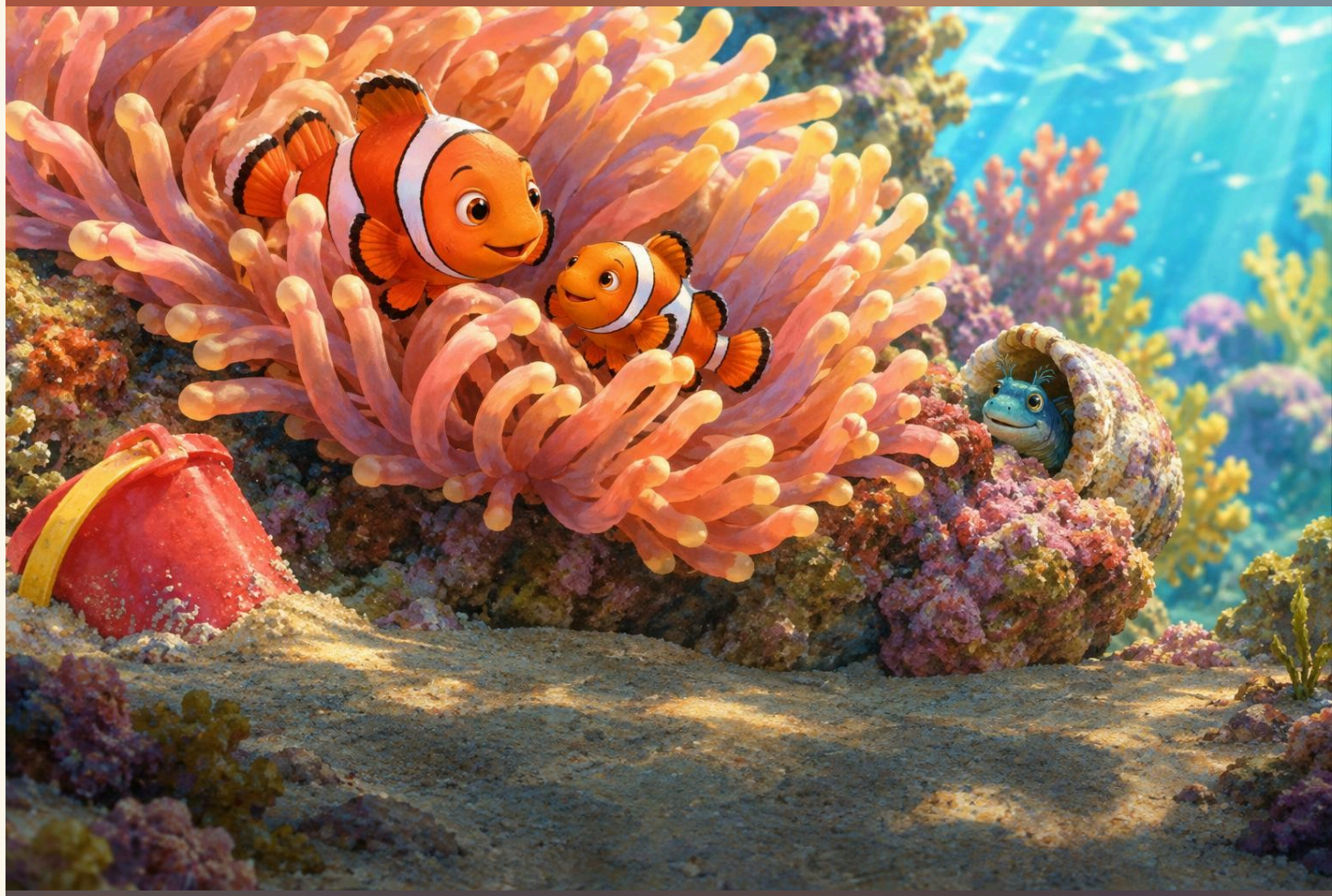
Neighbors on the Reef

Welcome back to Reef Street. Every neighbor needs a spot. Some hide. Some get cleaned. Some munch. Come see the busy reef homes!

Clownfish Blanket

See those orange clownfish wiggle! They live in an anemone. An anemone is a soft animal with wiggly, protective feelers. Its feelers can bother other fish. But clownfish wear a slimy coat. That helps keep them safe inside this cozy home.

IN THIS PICTURE
Clownfish nestle safely among an anemone's wiggly feelers.



IN THIS PICTURE

A cleaner shrimp tidies a peaceful turtle visitor.



Shrimp Spa

A big animal pauses at a cleaning station. A cleaning station is a reef spot where tiny helpers clean. This cleaner shrimp picks away old skin and tiny hitchhikers. The turtle stays still, like you during a gentle hair brush. Both neighbors get something helpful.

> WOW FACTS
>
> Cleaner shrimp also clean fish that pause at their reef stations.

Crunch, Hide, Wow!

1. An octopus can hide by matching its colors and bumps to nearby coral.
2. Parrotfish scrape algae from coral and rock, helping algae not crowd coral.
3. When parrotfish grind coral skeleton bits, some can become soft white sand.
4. Coral builders and sea anemones are relatives: both are soft animals with feelers.





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CHAPTER 4

Day, Night, and Helping Hands

At sunset, Reef Street changes jobs. Bright fish slip into snug coral nooks. Then little coral animals wake and reach out. Moonlight makes the water look blue and quiet. Come see who works the night shift.

Night Shift

When night comes, many polyps wake up. A polyp is one tiny coral animal. It stretches soft tentacles into the water. The tentacles are like little hands. They catch tiny drifting animals for dinner. By morning, many polyps tuck away again.

WOW FACTS

Many coral animals feed after dark.



IN THIS PICTURE

Open coral polyps catch tiny food at night.

IN THIS PICTURE
Warm water can leave coral pale and tired.



Too-Warm Water

Coral likes water that is not too warm. Warm water that stays can tire coral. It may lose its colorful algae helpers. Then it can look pale. This is bleaching, when tired coral loses algae. Pale coral is not always dead. Cooler, cleaner water can help it recover.

> **WOW FACTS**
> Pale coral may recover when conditions improve.

TRY IT!

Help the Reef From Home

Try these small, kind choices with your grown-up.

1. With a grown-up, switch off a lamp when you leave a room.
2. Fill a reusable bottle instead of using a throwaway one.
3. Put wrappers and rubbish in a bin so wind cannot carry them away.
4. Ask your grown-up to help choose less plastic when your family shops.

Do this together with a grown-up.



Check your wonder

1 **What is coral made of?**

- **A.** Tiny ocean animals living together
- **B.** One big underwater plant
- **C.** Pieces of rock stacked up

2 **How do algae help many corals?**

- **A.** They make food from sunlight
- **B.** They build fish nests
- **C.** They carry coral at night

3 **Why might a fish visit a cleaning station?**

- **A.** Tiny helpers clean its body
- **B.** It learns to build a reef
- **C.** It finds a place to sleep

4 **What can happen when water stays too warm?**

- **A.** Coral can lose algae and look pale
- **B.** Coral turns into a new fish
- **C.** The reef grows overnight

ANSWERS 1-A 2-A 3-A 4-A

1. Coral is made of many tiny animals sharing a hard home. 2. Algae use sunlight to make food and share it with coral. 3. Cleaner shrimp and fish pick off tiny pests from visitors. 4. Warm water can make coral lose its algae helpers and turn pale.

New words

coral
A tiny ocean animal that often lives with many others in a hard shared home.

polyp
One soft coral animal with a mouth and tiny tentacles.

reef
A hard underwater neighborhood built by coral animals and other living things.

algae
Tiny plant-like helpers that use sunlight to make food.

anemone
A soft ocean animal with wiggly feelers where clownfish can hide.

cleaning station
A reef spot where tiny animals clean bigger visitors.

camouflage
Hiding by looking like the place around you.

bleaching
When tired coral loses its algae helpers and looks pale.

Where we looked

We used web research from trusted ocean science groups, including NOAA, aquariums, museums, and conservation organizations.

Are corals animals or plants?
oceanservice.noaa.gov

Threats to Coral - NOAA/AOML
aoml.noaa.gov

Tough Teeth and Parrotfish Poop | Smithsonian Ocean
ocean.si.edu

Basic Information about Coral Reefs
epa.gov

Coastal Pollution Tutorial: NOAA's National Ocean Service Education
oceanservice.noaa.gov

Shallow Coral Reef Habitat | NOAA Fisheries
cd1-www.fisheries.noaa.gov

NOAA confirms 4th global coral bleaching event | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
noaa.gov

World's Fourth Mass Coral Bleaching Event Likely Ended in 2025 | NESDIS | National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
nesdis.noaa.gov

Now you know Reef Street is alive with tiny builders and helpful neighbors. You know sunlight, clean water, and kindness can help this busy underwater home. Keep wondering about the amazing lives under the waves!

THE END

Who else might be hiding on Reef Street tonight?

Make this book about your child

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