

SUMMARY OF CORAL REEFS IN PICTURES:

A coral reef is a limestone rock that is formed from the deposition of calcium carbonate within the skeletons of marine living organism called polyps.

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So when these marine organism called polyps die their skeletons are deposited and they accumulate to form a rock called coral reefs or landforms.

The skeletons have calcium that makes it to form a hard rock.



Randy Wilder / Monterey Bay Aquarium

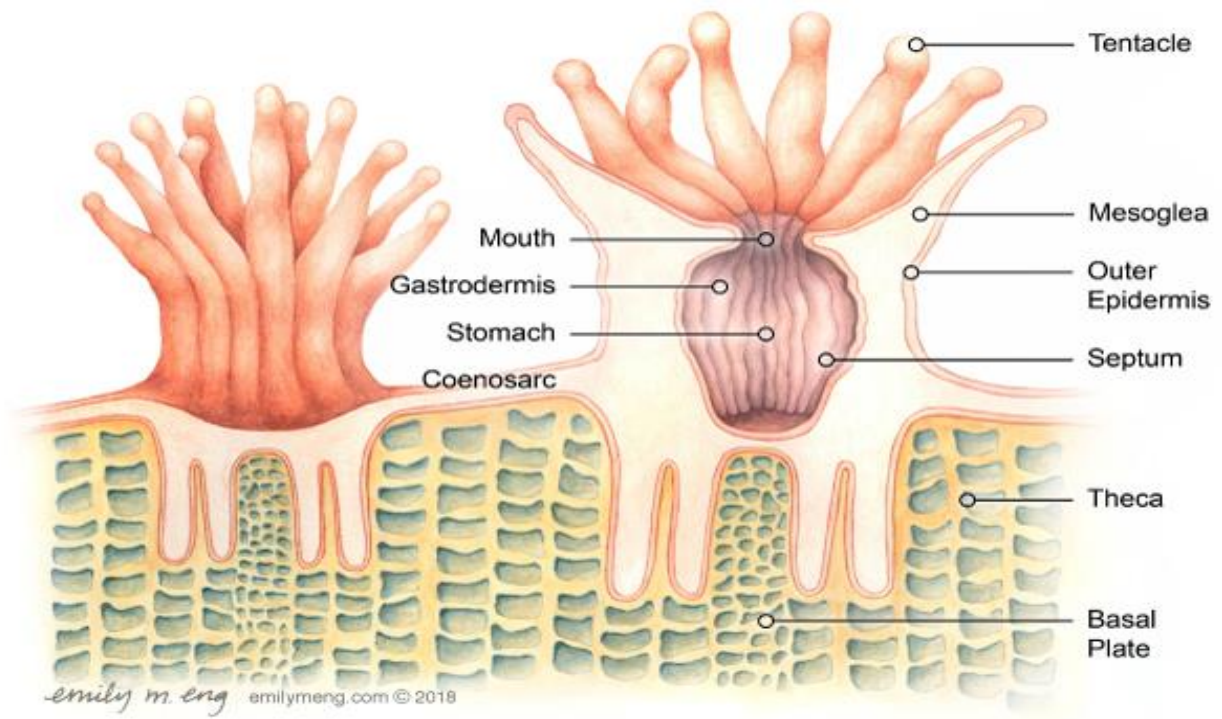
Coral polyps: also called sea horses



Coral polyps: also called sea horses



Other types of Polyps



A cross section of polyps.



Coral polyps



Coral reefs of different colors under water

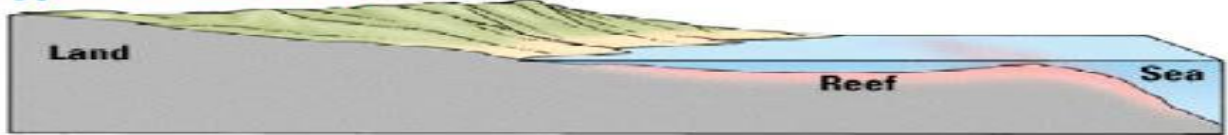


Coral reefs

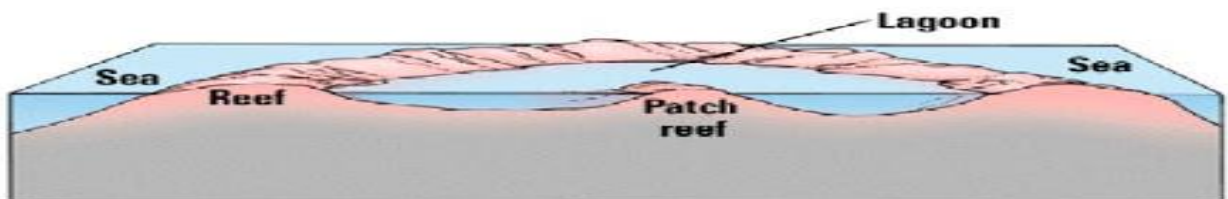


Coral reefs

Types of coral reefs



Fringing reef



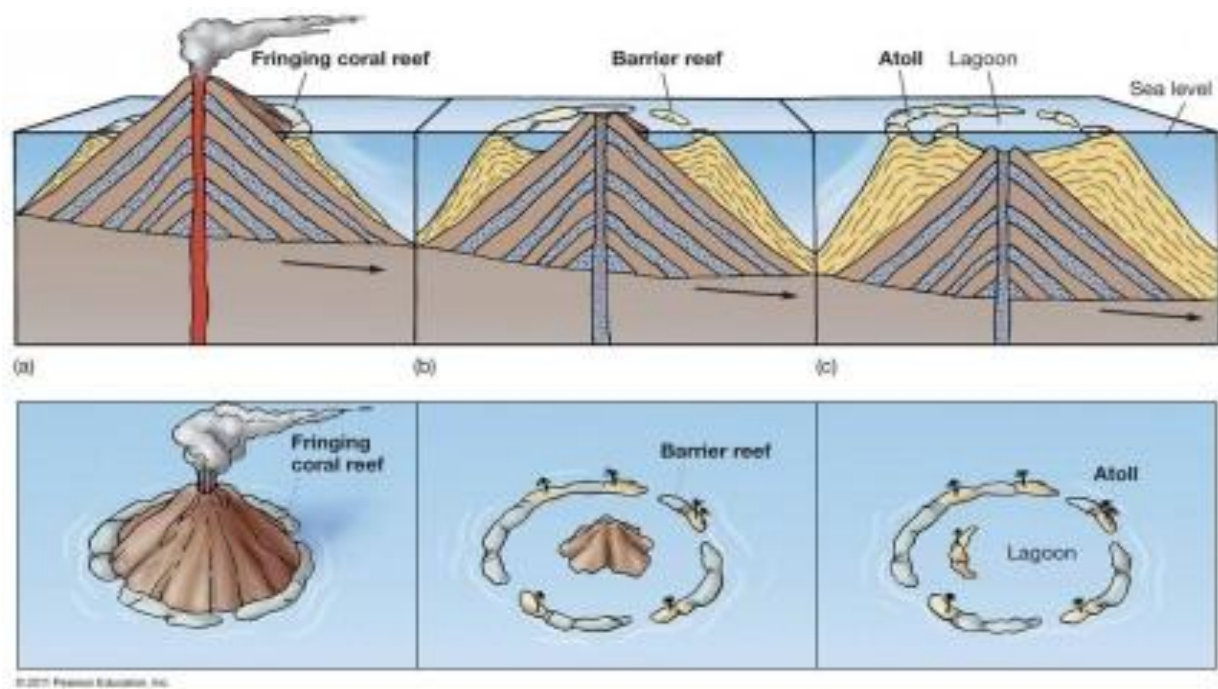
Atoll



Barrier reef



Coral reefs

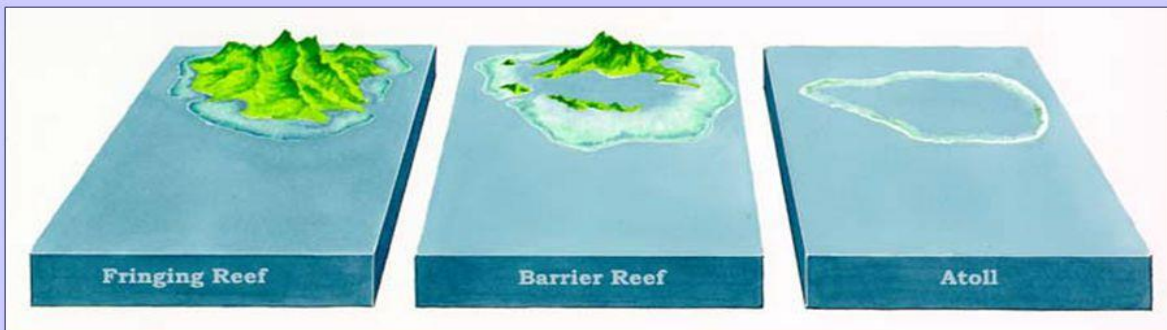


Coral reef types



Accumulation of dead polyps

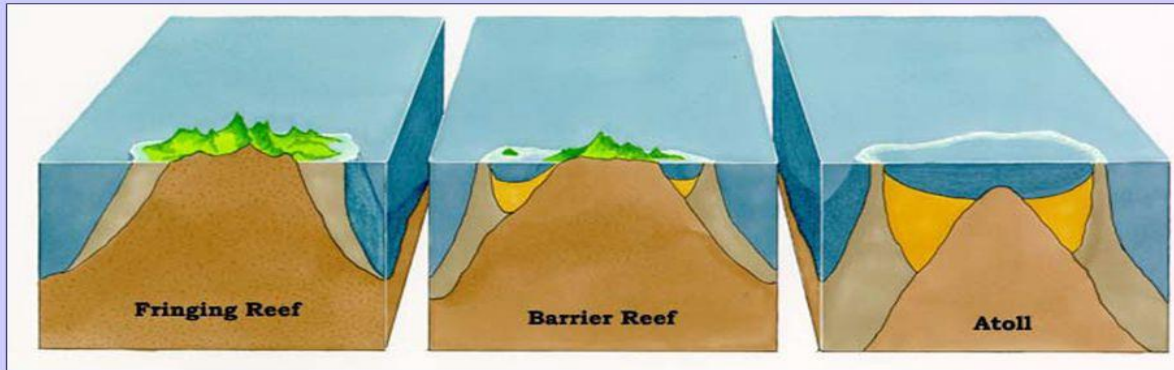
Coral Reef Formation



Aerial view of the stages of coral reefs (fringing, barrier, atoll).

Darwin originally developed the theory of reef formation, (mid-1800's) and his hypothesis has been supported by the data collected using modern oceanographic technologies.

The three stages of coral reef formation - fringing, barrier, and atoll.



A fringing reef





A barrier reef



A toll reef



A toll reef

