Project Title: Coral Reef Microsite

1. Project Overview
   a. The goal of my microsite is to educate viewers about coral reefs — not just as beautiful underwater environments, but as complex, fragile ecosystems that are vital to our planet's health. I want the site to highlight both the wonder and the urgency of preserving coral reefs, presenting them as living organisms that sustain countless species and protect coastal communities. The microsite will use visuals, interactivity, and strong organization to help viewers understand how reefs form, why they matter, and what's threatening them today.

2. Resources
   a. Most copy and factual information will come from the Wikipedia article on coral reefs, supplemented by scientific sources such as NOAA and National Geographic. Photography and media resources will include free image databases like Unsplash, Pexels, and NOAA's photo archives. Infographics and diagrams will be custom-designed to clearly explain coral anatomy, reef types, and the symbiotic relationships within reef ecosystems.

3. Audience
   a. This is an informational and educational site that will become part of my design portfolio. Its primary audience includes:
      i. Instructors and peers reviewing the site's design, layout, and structure.
      ii. Prospective employers or clients who may view it as part of my portfolio.
      iii. Secondary audiences include high school and college students or anyone with an interest in marine life and environmental conservation.
      iv. The audience is broad but skewed toward young adults and environmentally conscious viewers.

4. Message
   a. The microsite will communicate that coral reefs are essential yet endangered ecosystems — a cornerstone of marine biodiversity and human survival. The key message: "Coral reefs are living, breathing systems that connect us all — their survival depends on ours." It's about both the beauty of life under the sea and the urgency of protecting it.

5. Tone
   a. The tone should be awe-inspiring, educational, and reflective. It should invite curiosity and respect, conveying both the scientific wonder of reefs and the

emotional weight of their decline. The writing will be accessible, engaging, and slightly poetic — balancing facts with visual storytelling.

6. Visual Style
    a. My initial instinct is to use a clean, modern, and immersive design that feels alive — emphasizing color, depth, and organic shapes.
    b. Two possible directions:
        i. Vibrant natural palette — deep blues, coral reds, sandy neutrals, and turquoise gradients that echo underwater light.
        ii. Scientific clarity — minimal layouts with strong imagery and data visualization (maps, diagrams, stats).
    c. I'm leaning toward the first approach, using photography and subtle motion to evoke being submerged in a living reef. Typography will be clean and contemporary, with generous spacing and smooth scrolling transitions. The site will be fully responsive for both desktop and mobile experiences.

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Meet the Coral Program

Meet the Coral Program Story Map: Established in 2000, NOAA's Coral Program is a metered program across NOAA Line Offices. We use a science-based management approach, focused on conservation that supports the ability of corals to withstand and recover from stress. This story map teaches you all about our work from the view of our people - as come along and meet the Coral Program! Focal areas of the Program include climate change, land-based sources of pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, disease, and coral restoration.

Spotlight on Corals

Spotlight on Corals: Our 2023 featured story archive highlights some of the Program's accomplishments over the past year. The Coral Reef Conservation Program brings together expertise from across NOAA for a multidisciplinary approach to studying the complex coral ecosystems to inform more effective management. Collaboration is critical to coral reef conservation and we work closely with NOAA scientists in the National Ocean Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service.

Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease

Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease: Atlantic-Caribbean coral reef ecosystems are in the midst of an unprecedented outbreak of stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD). Characterized by rapid spread, rapid tissue loss, and high mortality rates, SCTLD has affected corals along the entirety of Florida's Coral Reef and in 22 Caribbean countries and territories, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and the Flower Garden Banks in the Gulf of America (formerly Gulf of Mexico). This page provides NOAA's strategy on addressing SCTLD, including prevention, preparedness, and response plans.

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