

Ocean Habitat Matchup

The ocean is home to many different animals, partly because there are so many unique habitats within the sea. In this activity, discover what part of the ocean different animals call home: the open ocean, coral reefs, or the sandy bottom.

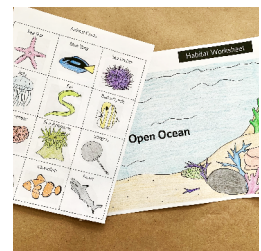
Please note: Younger kids may need some help printing, cutting, and taping during this activity.

Materials

Habitat Worksheet (page 3)
Animal Cards (page 4)
Scissors
Colored pencils
Tape or glue sticks

Directions

1. **Print out** the Habitat Worksheet and Animal Cards found on pages 3–4.
2. **Color** the habitat on the worksheet.
3. **Color and cut out** the animals on the cards.
4. **Tape or glue** the animals onto the worksheet. To figure out which animal should go where, check out the Habitat Information on page 2. Many can be found in more than one habitat, so place them where you think they fit best.



Habitat Information

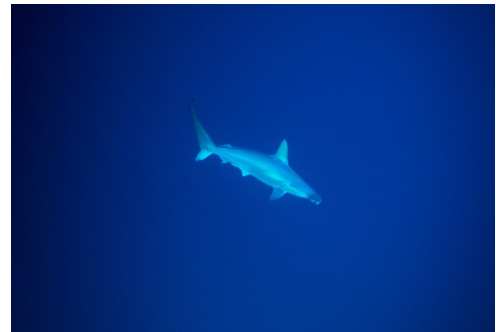
Coral reefs are underwater habitats created by corals. Corals themselves are actually animals, related to anemones and jellies. Fish that live in coral reefs will be small and slender, so they can swim between corals or hide in the cracks. These fish usually have bright colors. Other animals found in coral reefs—including the corals themselves—are either slow or don't move at all.



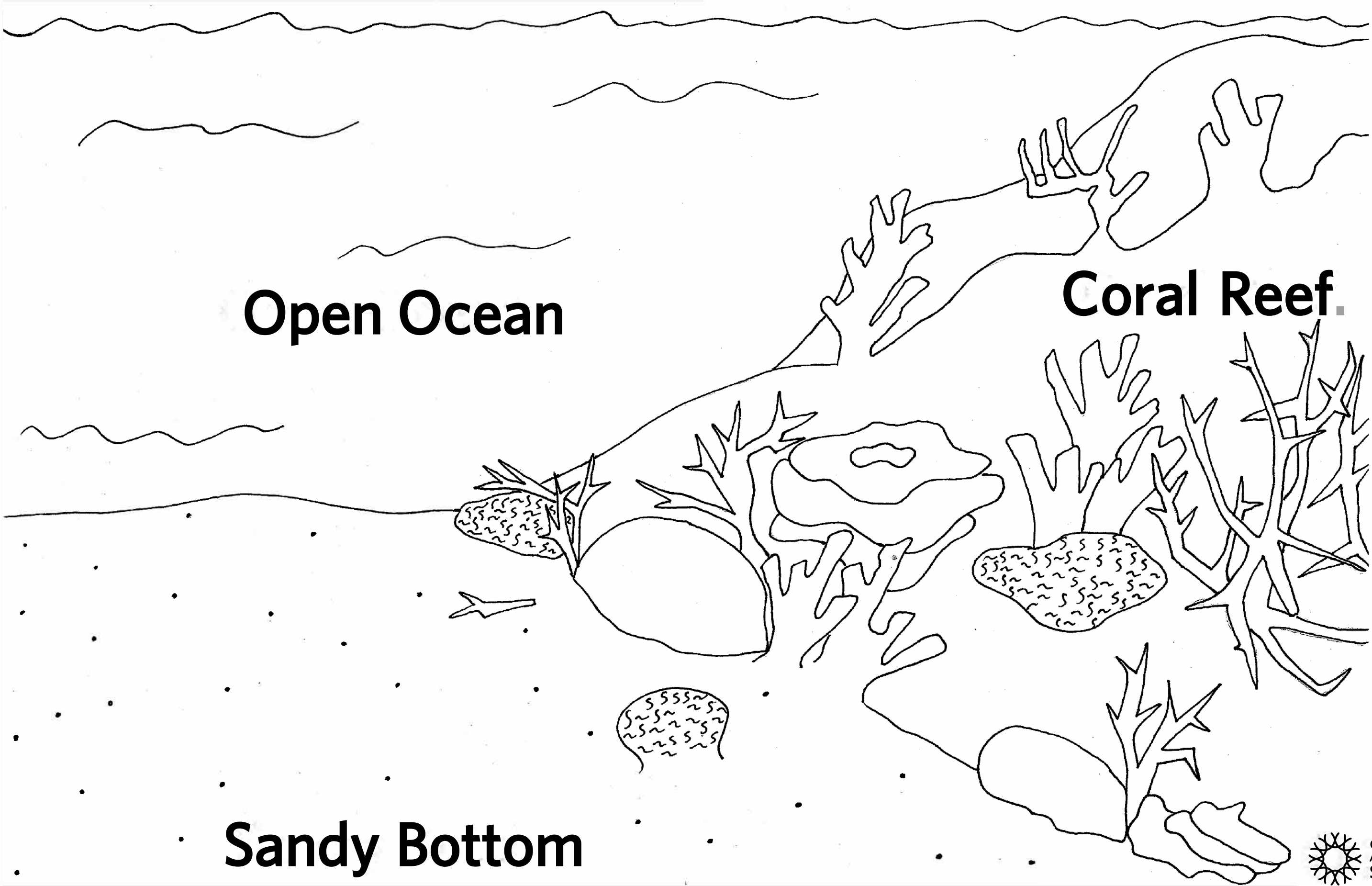
The sandy bottom is just that: the sandy bottom of our ocean. Very small animals live between the grains of sand while larger animals, like stingrays and different species of flatfish, bury themselves beneath it. Fish found on the sandy bottom will be flat, with their belly resting on the sand and their eyes above. They will often be a neutral color that will blend in with sand.



The open ocean is where you can find animals that are strong swimmers. They are often large, like whales or sharks, or swim in schools, like anchovies. Some animals, like jellies, float through the open ocean instead of swimming!



Habitat Worksheet



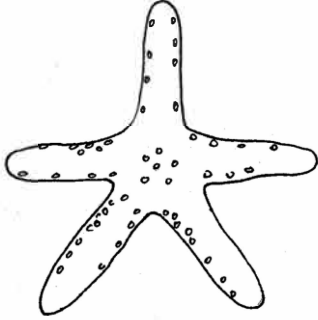
Open Ocean

Coral Reef.

Sandy Bottom

Animal Cards

Sea Star



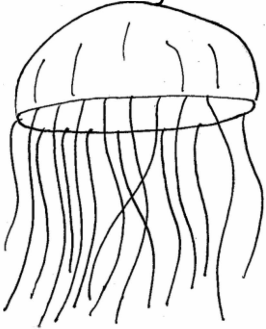
Blue Tang



Sea Urchin



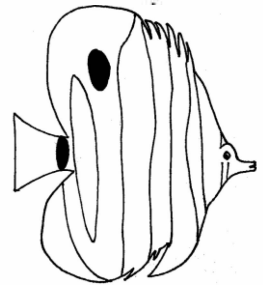
Jelly



Eel



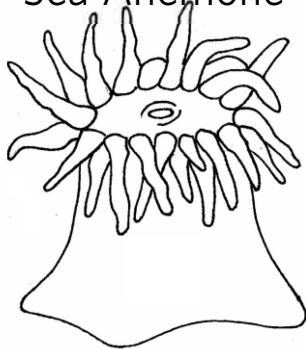
Butterflyfish



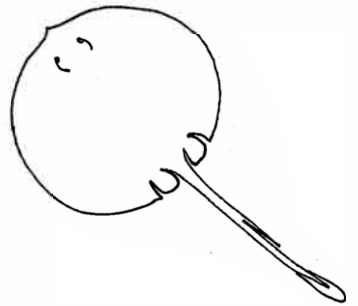
Sea Cucumber



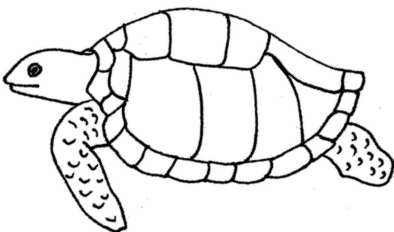
Sea Anemone



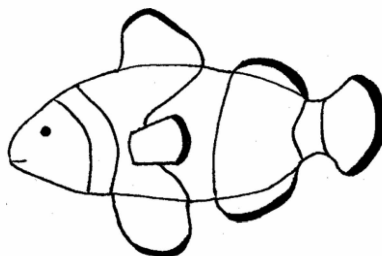
Stingray



Sea Turtle



Clownfish



Shark

