

Calling The Coral Clean-up

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Maintaining the health of our coral reefs is hard, but this amazing fish can do it. Parrot fish have a big beak, have amazing colours and are edible. They also play an important role within the coral reefs within which they live (image 1). Coral bleaching is caused by a rise in water temperature, turning coral white. Eventually the coral dies, but while this is happening, algae settles on the coral, which prevents new coral from growing (image 2). Algae helps coral get rid of waste (sand). But too much algae blankets the coral and it starts dying (image 3). Parrot fish eat the algae, while keeping a little bit on the coral, allowing a balance in the coral reef (image 4). Parrot fish have big strong beaks, made up of lots of little teeth tightly packed together, allowing them to eat dead coral and allow new coral to grow (image 5). Humans consume parrot fish, with some countries seeing them as a delicacy (image 6, 7). If parrot fish are the silent heroes that could save our coral reefs, then why are we killing them (image 8)?



The parrot fish was given its name due to its colour. But why is it so important?



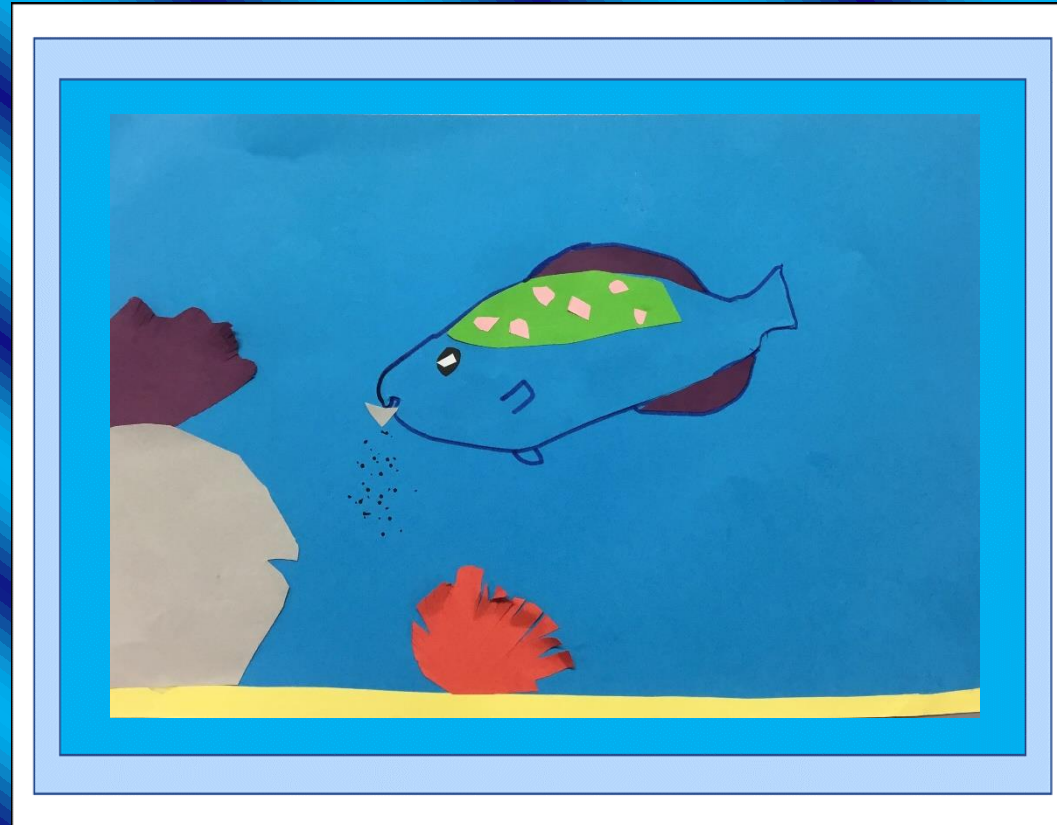
Coral bleaching turns coral white.
Eventually, algae settles on the coral.



A little bit of algae is ok, but too much and the coral will die.



Parrot fish eat the algae to keep it all balanced in the coral reef.



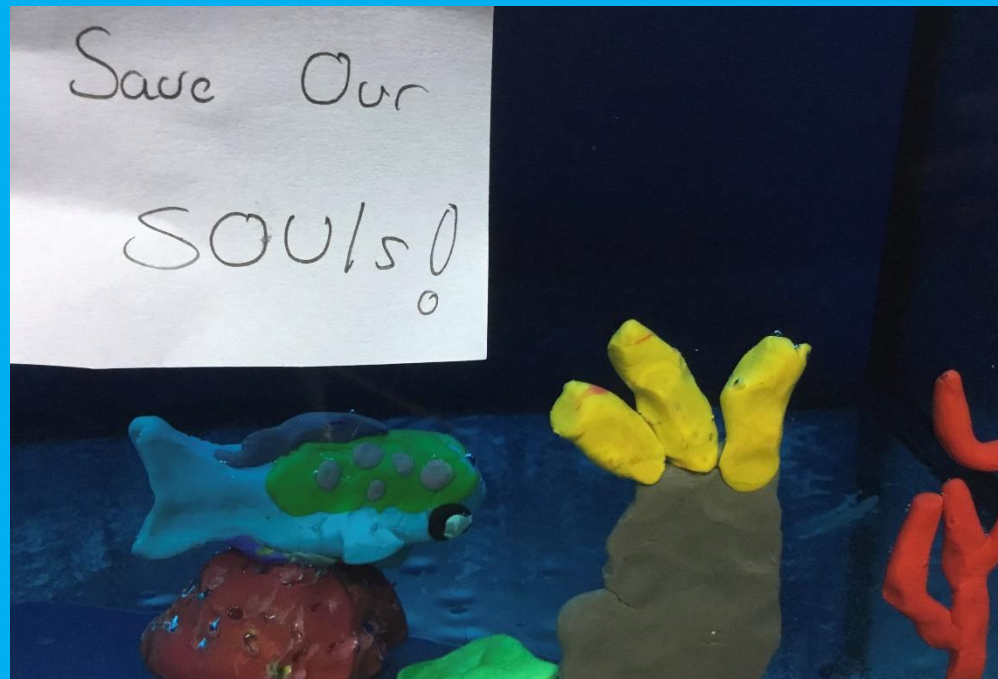
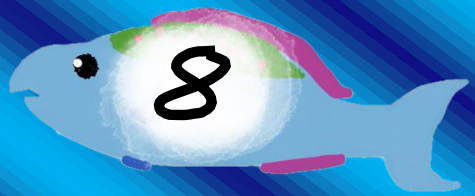
Parrot fish eat dead coral;
they are truly cleaners.



Us humans are threatening parrot fish. We catch them and eat them.



Parrot fish can save coral reefs, but with us threatening them, that might not be possible.



How can we preserve our
parrot fish?

Acknowledgements

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Mr French: Providing Supplies

Bibliography

National Geographic. (2020). Parrot fish

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State of the planet. (2011). Losing our coral reefs

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Photos

Photo 1 – Painted Fish: June 11th 2020 (cropping)

Photo 2 – Clay Dead Coral: June 10th 2020

Photo 3 – Turtle with algae: June 14th 2020 (cropping)

Photo 4 – Paper Collage Fish: June 15th 2020 (cropping)

Photo 5 – Fish Filet: June 14th 2020 (cropping)

Photo 6 – Clay Fish: June 16th 2020 (cropping)

Photo 7 – Black Fish: June 16th 2020

Photo 8 – Clay Fish In Water: June 16th 2020 (cropping)