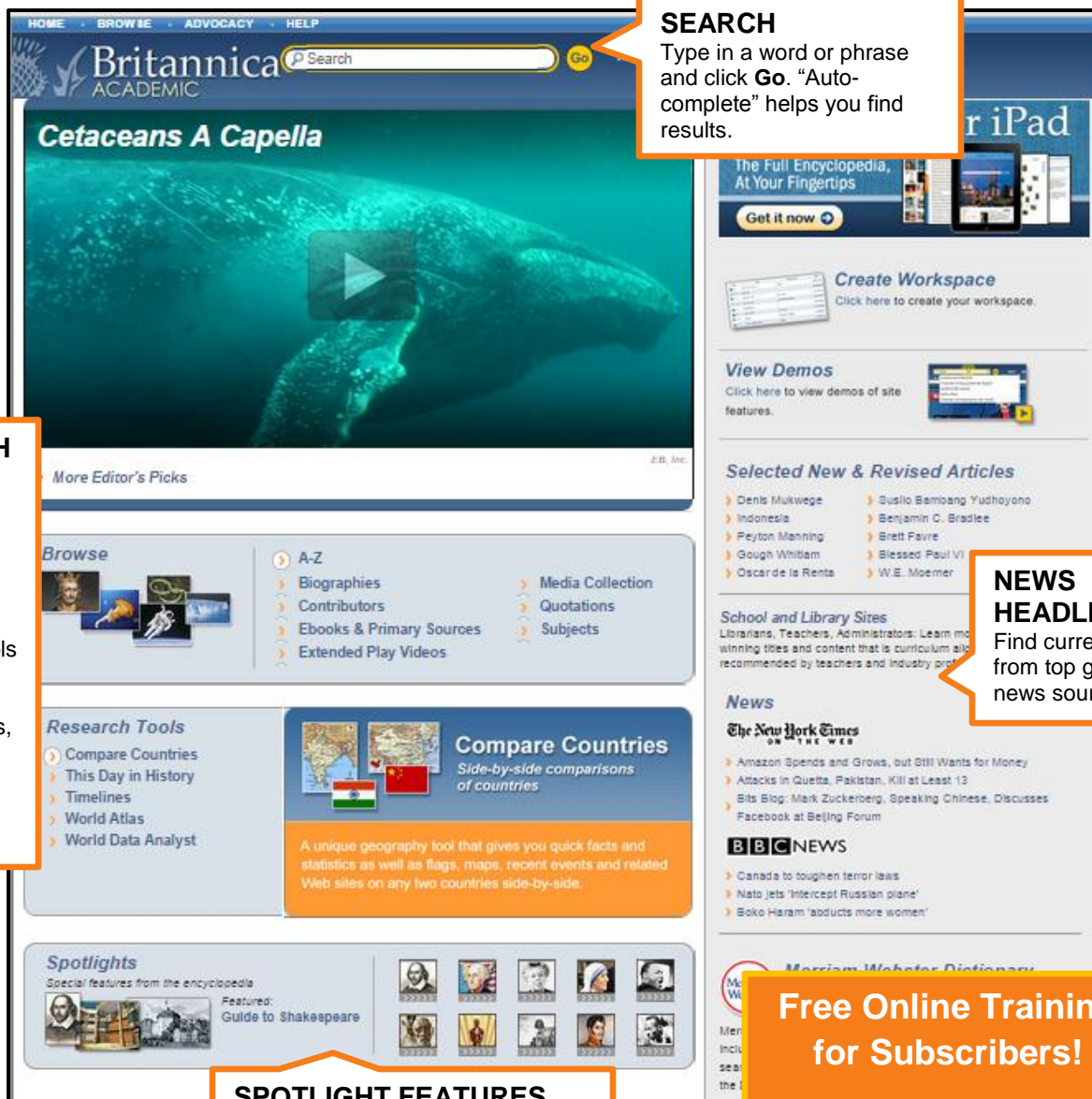


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Belize Barrier Reef: sea fan



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## coral reef

ARTICLE from the Encyclopædia Britannica



**coral reef**, ridge or hummock formed in shallow ocean areas by algae and the calcareous skeletons of

certain coelenterates, of which coral polyps are the most important. A coral reef may grow into a permanent coral island. Often called the "rainforests of the sea," coral reefs are home to a spectacular variety of organisms.



A coral reef is actually a complex of features, only part of which is a living coral or algal framework, although the other associated features

result from this live segment. The accumulations of carbonate sand and mud provide a habitat for sea grasses and mangroves and for almost inconspicuous blue-green algal mats. These plants and algae trap and stabilize sediment, and their accumulations are also accreted to the whole reef complex. Storms and surf heap up fragmental

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"coral reef." *Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Online Academic Edition.* Encyclopædia Britannica Inc., 2014. Web. 24 Oct. 2014.  
<<http://academic.eb.com/EBchecked/topic/137083/coral-reef>>.

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Type	Description	Contributor	Date
Modified age appropriateness	Kids Do Ecology - World Biomes - Coral Reef.	Satyavrat Nirala	30-Jul-2014
Added/Edited contact info	Kids Do Ecology - World Biomes - Coral Reef.	Satyavrat Nirala	30-Jul-2014
Modified title of Web site	Kids Do Ecology - World Biomes - Coral Reef.	Satyavrat Nirala	30-Jul-2014
Deleted Web site	Seminar on Corals and Coral Reefs by Nancy Knowlton (Smithsonian).	Grace Young	27-Sep-2013
Deleted Web site	National Coral Reef Institute.	Gloria Lotha	12-Jul-2013
Deleted Web site	.	Yamini Chauhan	11-Nov-2012
Invalidated site	.	Yamini Chauhan	11-Nov-2012
Modified title of Web site	Untamed Science - Biology - Coral Reefs Biome.	Vivek Abhinav	13-Sep-2012
Add new Web site	Untamed Science - Biology - Coral Reefs Biome.	Vivek Abhinav	13-Sep-2012
Add new Web site	Defenders of Wildlife - Coral Reef.	Gloria Lotha	20-Aug-2012
Modified title of Web site	ThinkQuest - Types of Reef.	Parul Jain	24-Nov-2011

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ARTICLE	volcano (geology)	check this out	04/17/2014	Biographies
VIDEO	cell: cell as basic unit of life	Cells are the basic units of life	05/15/2012	Cells
ARTICLE	cell	Main cell article	03/13/2012	Cells
ARTICLE	cell	Main cell article	03/13/2012	Default
IMAGE	Huang Mountains	Pine branch framing peaks in the Huang Mountains, Anhui province, China.	01/20/2012	China
			12/01/2011	Default
		this for tomorrow's quiz.	10/13/2011	China
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