

SAVE THE CORAL

LUCY MUNT

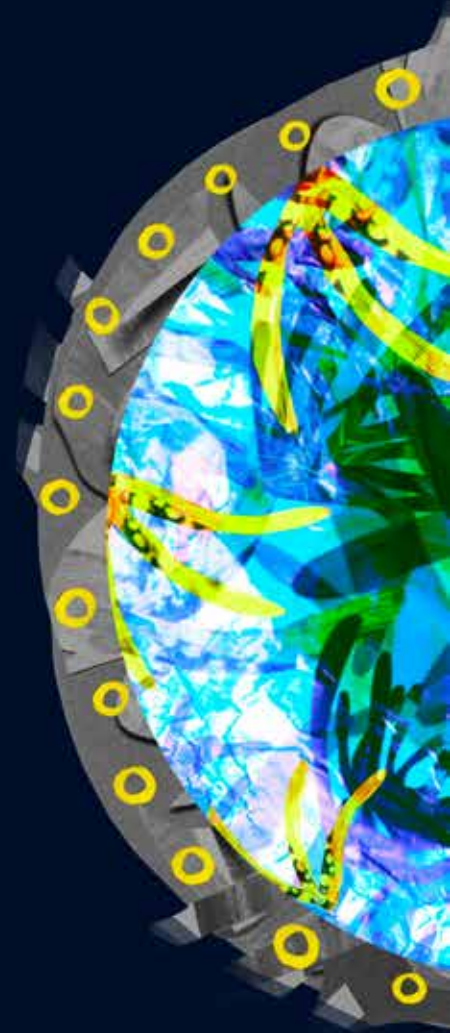
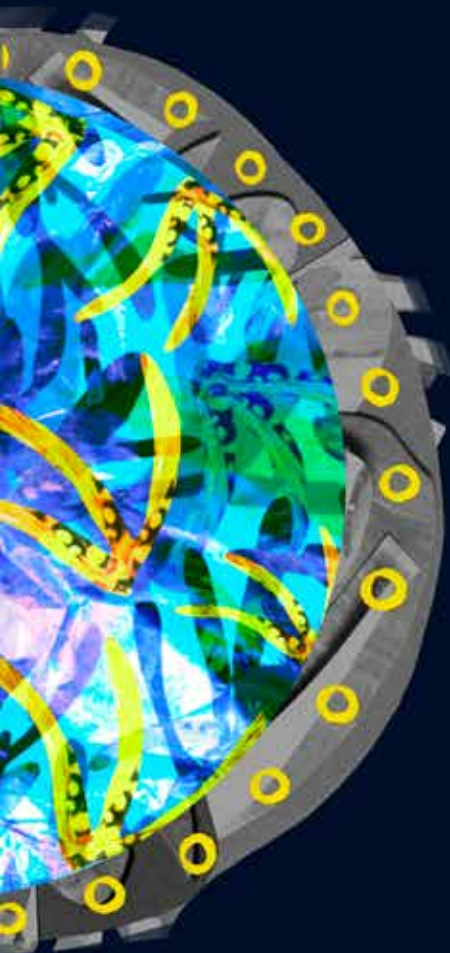






SAVE THE CORAL

written and illustrated by Lucy Munt



Hello buddy, my name is Corella and I am going to take you on a journey.



Come along with me and learn the importance of my coral friends and me who live in our BIG DEEP blue sea.



What is Coral?

Coral organisms are called polyps. They can live on their own, but they come together to form coral reefs.

Coral polyps are tiny, soft-bodied organisms, that are actually related to jellyfish.

The base of coral is hard, and it is formed from a protective limestone skeleton, called a calicle, making the structure of coral reefs.

Over hundreds and thousands of years colonies have grown. They connect with other colonies and become reefs. Infact Some of the coral reefs on the planet today started growing over 50 million years ago.

My Great Great Great Grandad, Corny the Coral, was a part of one of them.





Do you know how important Coral is on this Planet?

The ocean contains 97% of the world's water and it is one of the greatest causes for concern. Reef loss is one of the current biggest threats to the ocean and I don't want to lose my friends.



Coral HELPS humans like you.

IT HELPS TREATMENTS SUCH AS
ARTHRITIS, ASTHMA, CANCER AND
HEART DISEASE.

Coral provides new medicines and
health cures. Over half a billion
people depend on reefs for food,
income and protection.

Did you know
it is estimated that

80% of the
OXYGEN you
humans breathe,
comes from the sea!



Coral reefs reduce
wave energy by up to 95%

...which helps protect coastlines and
humans from storms and erosions.


They are natural barriers that absorb
the force of waves. Without them,
humans would have to rely on
man-made seawalls that are
expensive.



50% of the GREAT BARRIER REEF is dead, this needs to change.

The Great Barrier Reef is a home to thousands of species. They can be found living in just one coral reef.


It contains over **400** SPECIES OF CORAL, 1,500 SPECIES OF FISH, 6 SPECIES OF TURTLE and 4,000 SPECIES OF MOLLUSC.



Coral reefs provide homes, shelter and food for thousands of sea creatures and plants.


They live in the corals' crevices, layers and branches.

The reefs provide species with protection from predators.




Do you know
how humans are hurting the coral and how they are
causing the coral to die?

You need to help us, coral needs to be protected from becoming extinct, if coral dies, at-risk species may face extinction. My friends and I are at risk because humans are not looking after the planet.



Overfishing is affecting us, it is changing the food chains.



Tourism such as careless diving, snorkelling and destructive fishing happens all around the world.



THIS NEEDS TO STOP!

People are touching precious reefs and disturbing the coral, causing it to die.

Careless boating is also happening worldwide, causing damage to the coral reefs.

Humans are killing my coral buddies by dropping anchors on reefs from the boats too.

Cruise boats produce chemicals
polluting the ocean,
causing an increase
in sea temperatures,
leading to
coral bleaching.






Even some tourist resorts have been built too close to our reefs, and some people empty their sewage into the sea which is smelly for us.

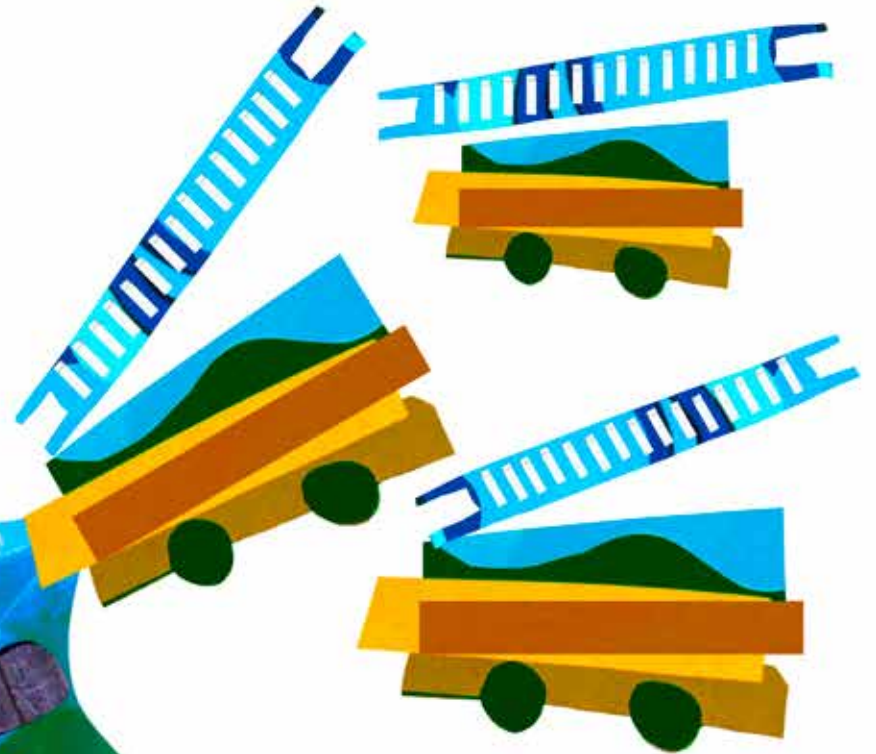
Sewage and pollutants increase the level of nitrogen in seawater, causing an overgrowth of algae, which covers reefs, cutting off their sunlight. We are in darkness, we are bleaching, it is killing us.






Pollution is a big factor that affects us. Urban and industrial waste, sewage, agrochemicals, and oil pollution are poisoning my buddies in the reefs.

Erosion caused by construction, mining, logging and farming is leading to increased sediment in rivers floating into the ocean. We are living in fear under here in the sea.



An illustration featuring numerous hands of various skin tones (brown, orange, yellow, tan) reaching out from the edges of the frame. Each hand is holding a piece of coral, which is depicted in various colors including pink, red, green, blue, and purple. The coral pieces are scattered throughout the scene, with some hands holding them more prominently than others. The background is white, and there are several small, blue, teardrop-shaped elements scattered around the coral and hands.

Corals are also sold as souvenirs to tourists and to exporters who don't know or don't care about the longer term damage done. They are also harvested for the live rock trade. This will lead to exploitation.

CORAL SHOULD NOT BE TOUCHED!



My buddies are being taken away by
mining coral.

Humans take my coral friends
and then use them as bricks,
road-fill, or cement for
new buildings.

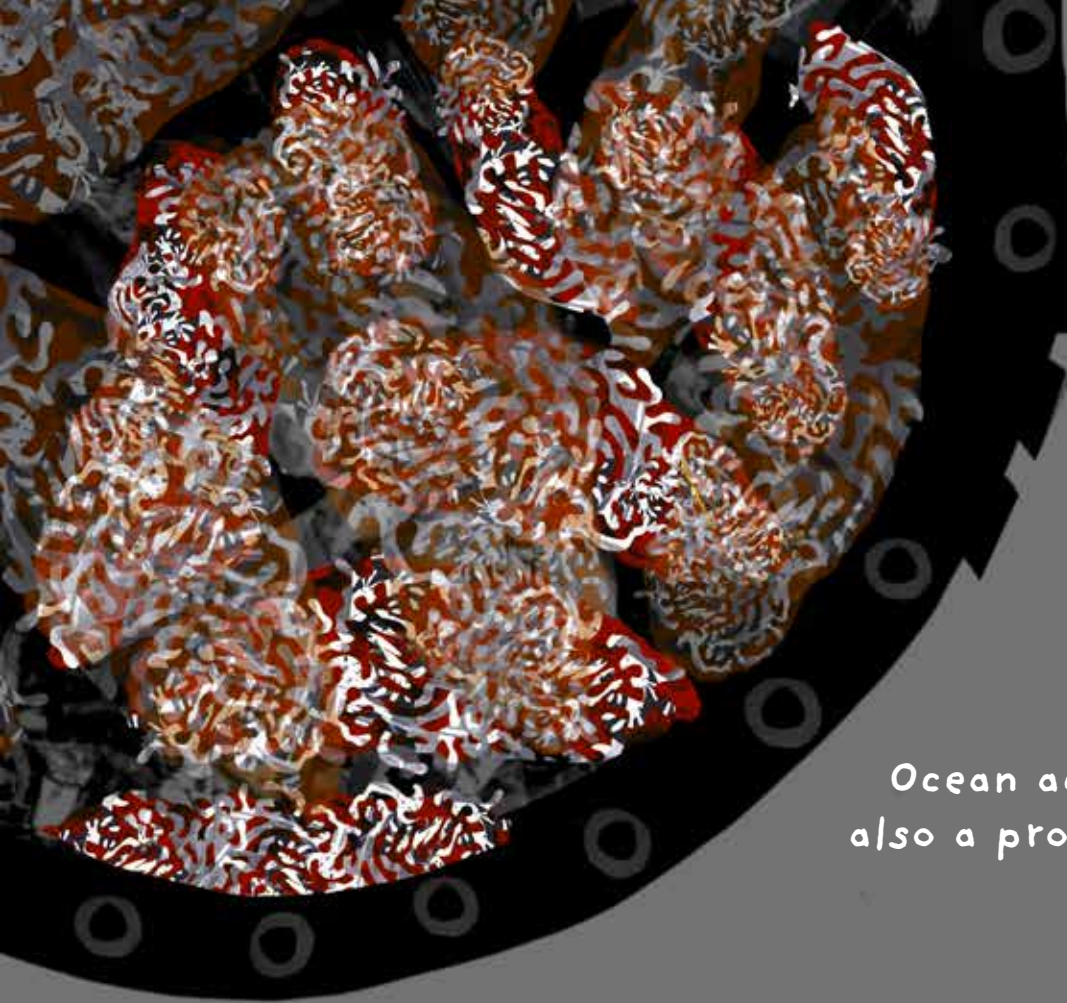
It is not natural.



CLIMATE CHANGE is affecting coral reefs.

Corals cannot survive if the water temperature is too high. As atmospheric temperatures rise, so does the seawater temperatures. This warming causes corals to lose the microscopic algae, that produce food that corals need. Without this algae, coral loses colouration - a condition known as **CORAL BLEACHING**, making it white.






Severe or prolonged bleaching can kill coral colonies or leave them more vulnerable to other threats such as infectious diseases.

Ocean acidification is also a problem for coral.

When carbon dioxide enters seawater, it reacts to form carbonic acid, causing an increase in acidity in our homes. This is caused by humans burning fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas.





Do you know what
you can do to help stop
coral reefs from becoming
extinct?

Small, daily actions can help reduce coral reef loss.
We must address climate change. That means global
and immediate action to reduce emissions.



Please help us by **RECYCLING** and binning your rubbish properly because it is very harmful and scary to us. Remember the three R's (**REDUCE**, **REUSE** and **RECYCLE**). Be a marine crusader. As well as cleaning up your own rubbish go on the hunt and carry away the rubbish that others have left behind. You are a very special human if you do this for us!



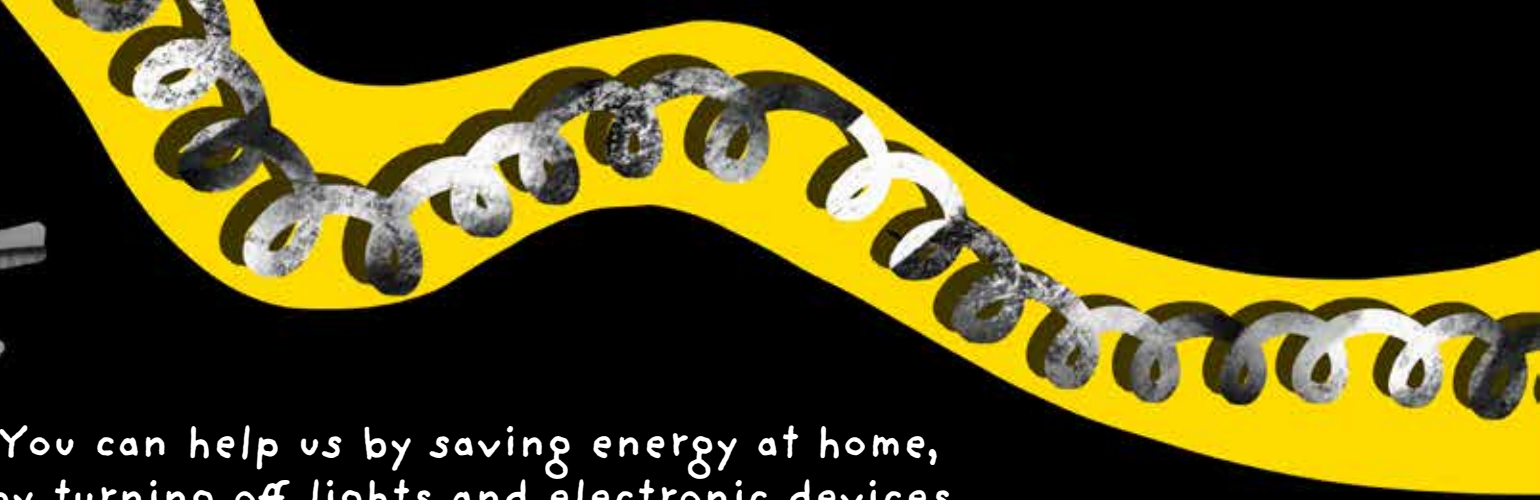


Use environmentally friendly modes of transport.

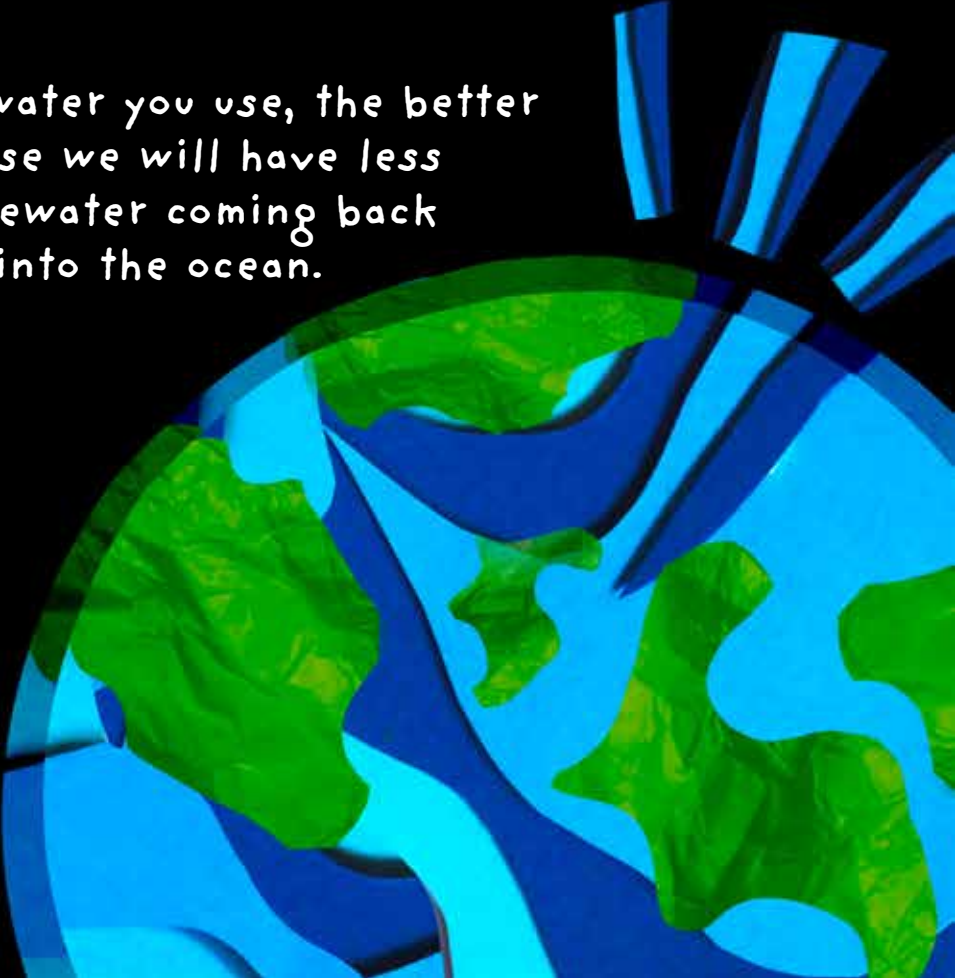
Instead of driving a car, try to walk, bike, or use buses and trains. They can help reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses that are emitted into the atmosphere.





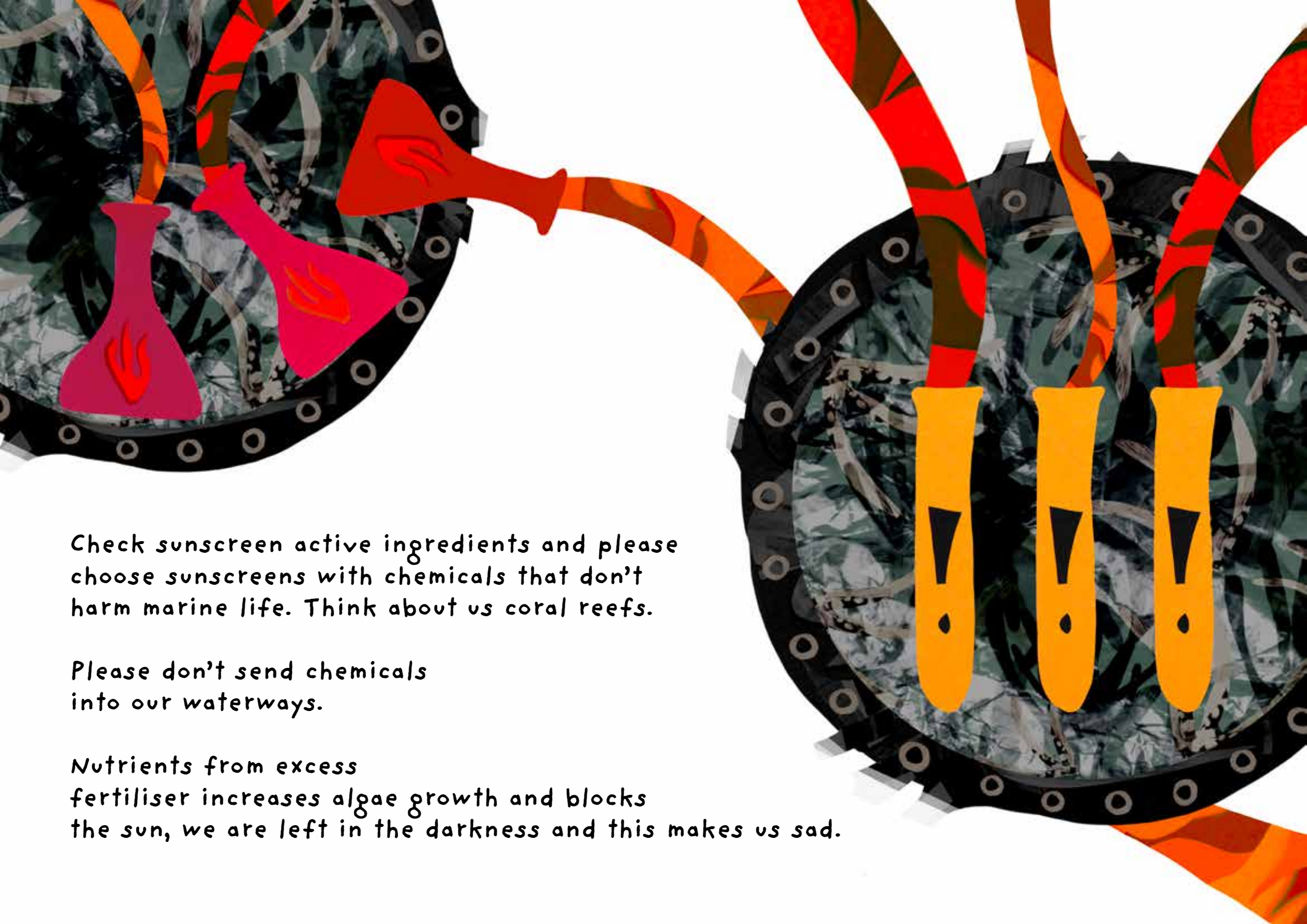


You can help us by saving energy at home,
by turning off lights and electronic devices
when not using them.



The less water you use, the better
because we will have less
wastewater coming back
into the ocean.





Check sunscreen active ingredients and please choose sunscreens with chemicals that don't harm marine life. Think about us coral reefs.

Please don't send chemicals into our waterways.

Nutrients from excess fertiliser increases algae growth and blocks the sun, we are left in the darkness and this makes us sad.

Please be extra careful and think about us when boating and fishing. Anchor in sandy areas like these away from coral and seagrasses so that the anchor and chain do not drag on us and attack us.



Touching coral from diving can disturb and cause physical damage to the coral tissue. Be an *ECO-TOURIST*! There are ways to dive safely, by using responsible operators that have certification and codes of conduct.

Corals are already a gift, we are precious and help you by being in our natural habitat, so please don't take us away and give us to people as presents.





UNDERWATER NURSERIES and **CORAL FARMING** are ways of getting fragments from coral reefs to grow faster in specially built natural environments, to form bigger fragments. Once they have grown, humans replant the corals back into their natural habitat.

The **process** starts by collecting a few finger-sized fragments from wild corals, then taking them to the coral “nurseries” which are located in clear water with good growing conditions. Within a year the corals are **more than 10 times larger.**

The farms are protected from ocean hazards such as boating and global warming. My coral friends are at no risk of being harmed here.

You could be apart of a coral restoration team and grow more friends for me in the ocean.

Go and tell your friends the importance of coral reefs on the planet.


Help make a change and keep the coral **ALIVE** because without coral on the planet, we will not have coral to help form medicines for people, sources for food, or homes for animals.

We need to protect our wildlife and coral needs your help **NOW!**









Come and join Corella on her journey as a living coral. Learn about the importance of coral in the deep blue sea and how you can help prevent coral reefs from becoming **EXTINCT**.

Humans are damaging coral and this needs to change, you can help Corella and her friends by changing the way humans use resources and following the important information told by Corella.

**COME AND LEARN HOW TO
SAVE THE CORAL.**