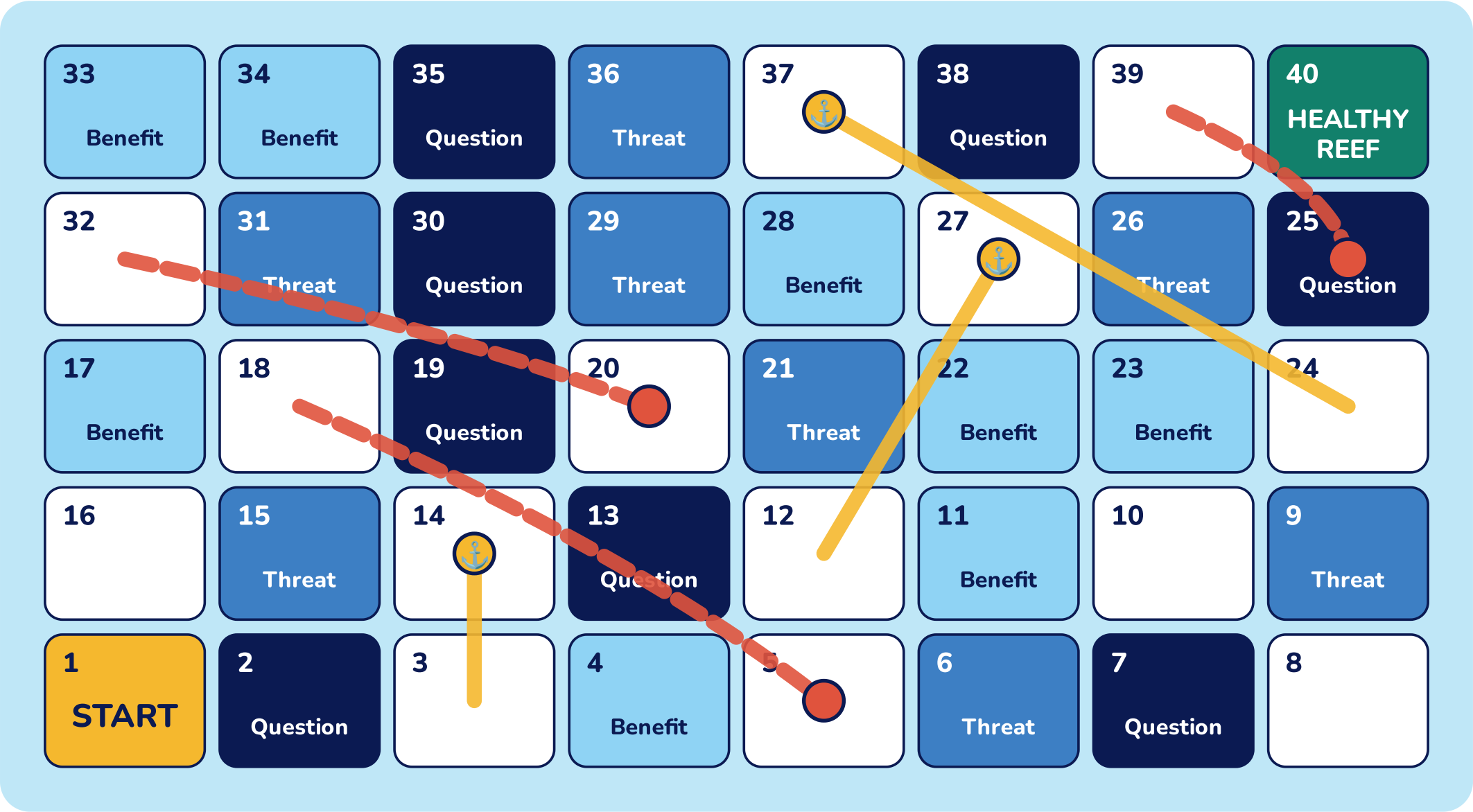


Reef Explorers

Print on A3 if you can. Made by Marine Conservation Philippines.





Reef Explorers

A board game about what harms and helps coral reefs. For 2 to 6 players.

You need The board, the three card piles, one dice, a counter for each player

Time 15 to 25 minutes

How to play

1. Shuffle each pile of cards and put them face down: Benefit (light blue), Threat (mid blue) and Question (dark blue).
2. Everyone puts a counter on Start. The youngest player goes first, then play passes to the left.
3. Roll the dice and move that many squares.
4. **Light blue Benefit square:** take a Benefit card, read it aloud and move forward.
5. **Mid blue Threat square:** take a Threat card, read it aloud and move back. You can't go back past Start.
6. **Dark blue Question square:** the player on your right reads you a Question card. Answer correctly and move forward 2 squares. The answer is printed upside down on the card.
7. **Anchor line (yellow):** if you land at the bottom of one, climb up to the anchor at the top.
8. **Strong current (red dashes):** if you land at the start of one, you get swept back to where it ends.
9. Only follow one card or line per turn. The first player to reach the Healthy Reef wins.

After the game

- Which card do you think would help a real reef the most?
- Which threats could your town or school do something about?
- Invent one new Benefit card and one new Threat card about your own area.

Benefit

A new no-take zone

Fish inside grow bigger and more numerous, and some spill over to nearby reefs.

Move forward 3

Benefit

Beach clean-up

Your class clears plastic from the beach before it reaches the reef.

Move forward 2

Benefit

Mangroves replanted in the right place

A village restores an old, abandoned fishpond where mangroves grew before.

Move forward 3

Benefit

Starfish outbreak controlled

Divers remove crown-of-thorns starfish, so more coral survives.

Move forward 2

Benefit

Mooring buoy

A dive boat ties up to a buoy instead of dropping its anchor on the coral.

Move forward 2

Benefit

Trees planted upstream

Farmers keep soil on the land, so less mud washes onto the reef.

Move forward 3

Benefit

Fishing rules agreed

Fishers agree on size limits and a closed season so fish can breed.

Move forward 3

Benefit

Careful snorkellers

Visitors keep their fins off the coral and never stand on it.

Move forward 1

Benefit

Coral nursery

Coral fragments grown in a nursery are planted back on a damaged reef.

Move forward 2

Benefit

Cleaner energy

Countries cut the greenhouse gases that are overheating the sea.

Move forward 4

Benefit

Sharks are back

Sharks are seen on the reef again, a sign there are plenty of fish.

Move forward 2

Benefit

Wardens on patrol

Bantay Dagat sea wardens stop illegal fishing in the sanctuary.

Move forward 3

Threat

Marine heatwave

The sea stays too hot for weeks and the corals bleach.

Move back 4

Threat

Dynamite fishing

A blast smashes the reef into rubble that takes many years to recover.

Move back 4

Threat

Cyanide fishing

Poison squirted into the coral to stun fish kills the coral too.

Move back 3

Threat

Mud from the land

Heavy rain washes soil from cleared hills onto the reef, blocking the light.

Move back 3

Threat

Starfish outbreak

Thousands of crown-of-thorns starfish eat their way across the reef.

Move back 3

Threat

Anchor drop

A boat drops its anchor straight onto the coral.

Move back 2

Threat

Ghost net

A lost fishing net snags on the reef and keeps catching animals.

Move back 2

Threat

Sewage

Untreated waste flows into the sea and helps seaweed smother the coral.

Move back 3

Threat

Overfishing

Too many fish are caught, including the parrotfish that keep seaweed down.

Move back 3

Threat

Plastic on the reef

Bags and bottles wash onto the reef and tangle around the coral.

Move back 2

Threat

Careless snorkellers

Tired snorkellers stand on the coral to rest.

Move back 1

Threat

Mangroves cut down

Mangroves are cleared to build fishponds, and mud reaches the reef.

Move back 3

Question

Is coral a plant, a rock or an animal?

Answer: An animal

Question

What are the tiny algae living inside coral called?

Answer: Zooxanthellae

Question

What makes a coral bleach?

Answer: Water that stays too hot for too long

Question

Name one animal that eats seagrass.

Answer: Green turtle or dugong

Question

True or false: crown-of-thorns starfish are invaders from another ocean.

Answer: False. They are native. The problem is outbreaks.

Question

Which kind of reef is most common in the Philippines: fringing, barrier or atoll?

Answer: Fringing

Question

In diving, what does thumbs up mean?

Answer: Go up

Question

Name one way mangroves help people.

Answer: Coast protection, fish nurseries, storing carbon or wood

Question

What is a no-take zone?

Answer: An area where no fishing is allowed

Question

Which fish scrapes algae off rock and helps make sand?

Answer: Parrotfish

Question

About how many ocean species depend on coral reefs: a tenth, a quarter or a half?

Answer: About a quarter

Question

Name two of the six Coral Triangle countries.

Answer: Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste