



coral reef

By Leandro

Fact 1

coral reefs cover less than 1% of the ocean but are home to almost 25% of all known marine species!
Corals are in fact animals, not plants. Coral reefs are the largest structures on earth of biological origin.

Fact 2

Corals come in a wide array of shapes, sizes, and colors. Some are thought to resemble deer antlers, trees, giant fans, brains, and honeycomb.

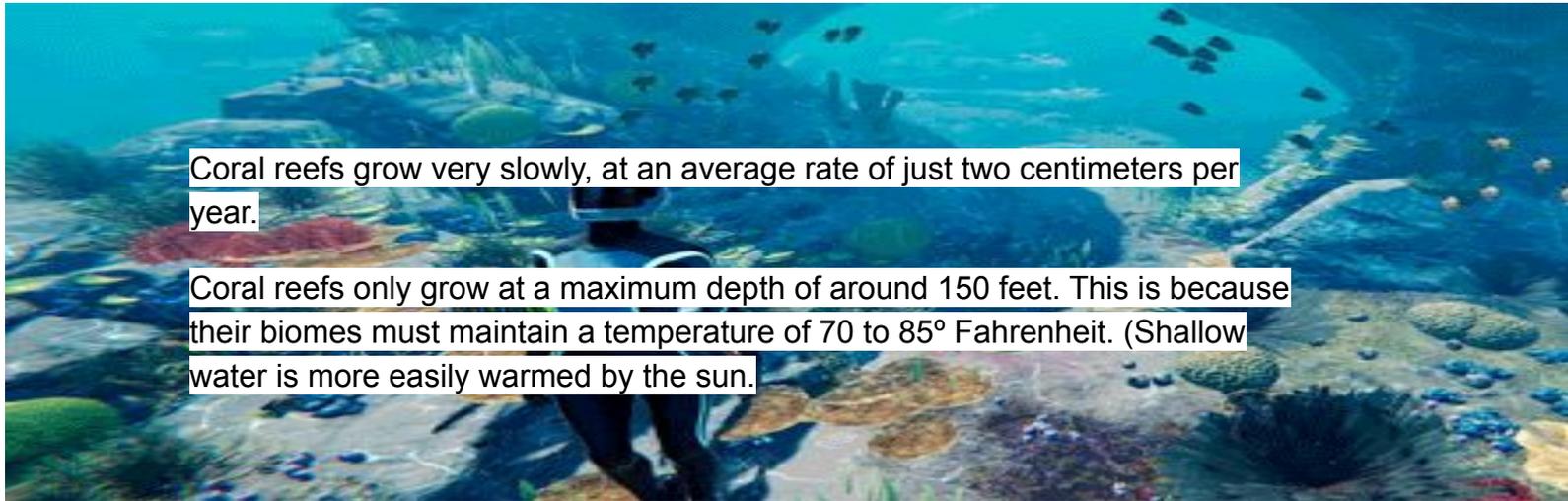


Fact 3

There are three different types of coral reef formations—barrier reefs, coral atolls, and fringing reefs. Barrier reefs help to protect lagoons and other types of shallow water, coral atolls (which are often mistaken for islands) are made from volcanic remains, and fringing reefs are found right along the coastline.



Fact 4

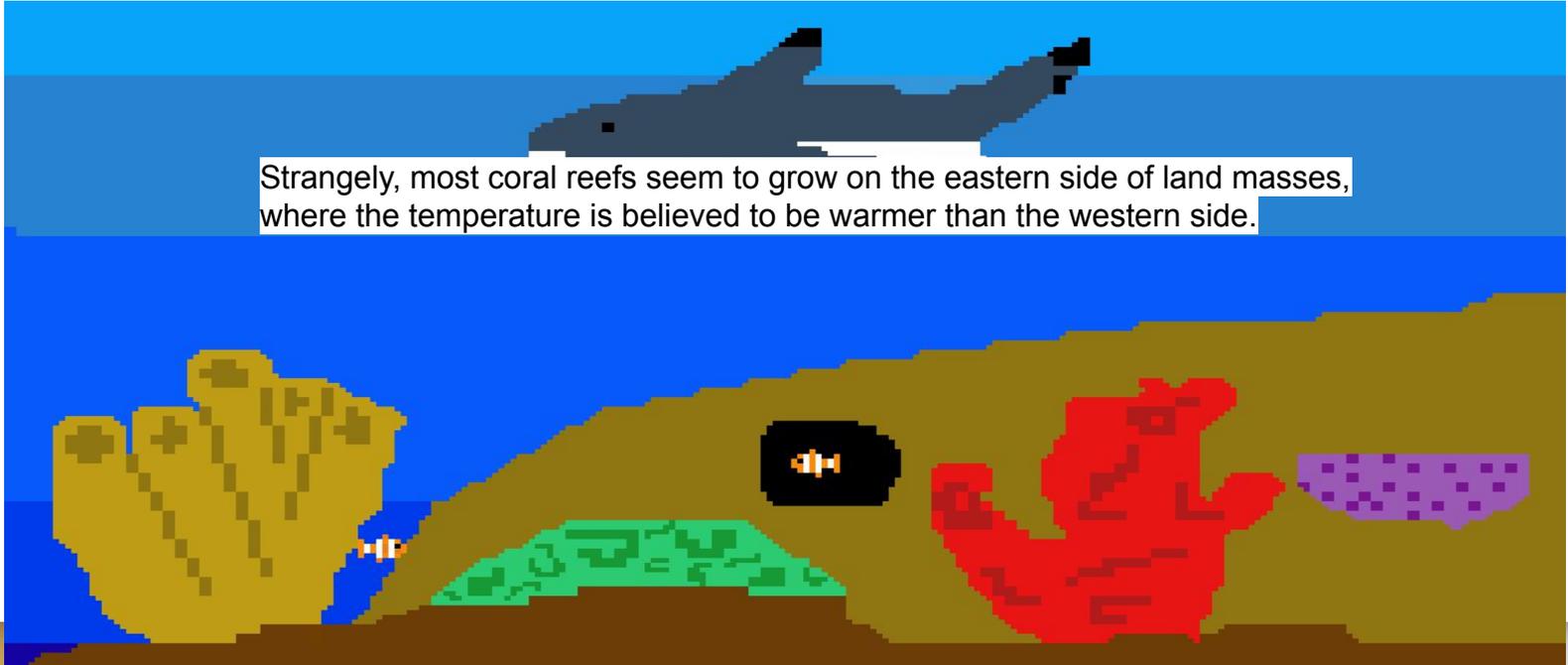


Coral reefs grow very slowly, at an average rate of just two centimeters per year.

Coral reefs only grow at a maximum depth of around 150 feet. This is because their biomes must maintain a temperature of 70 to 85° Fahrenheit. (Shallow water is more easily warmed by the sun.)

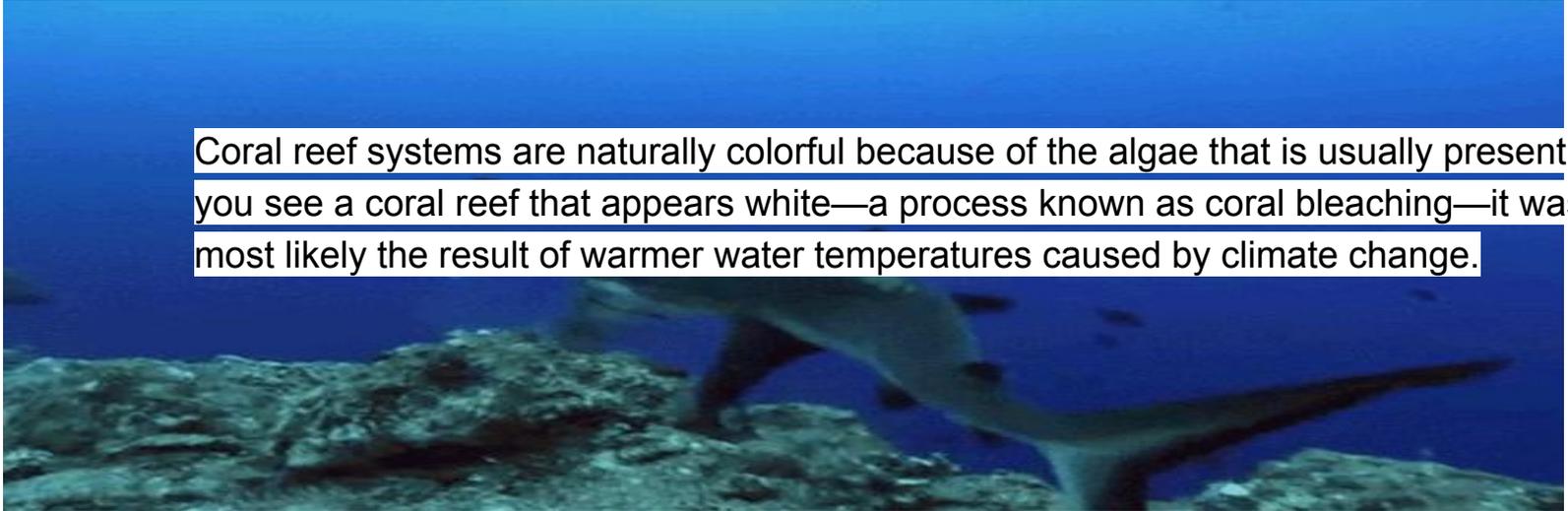
Fact 5

Strangely, most coral reefs seem to grow on the eastern side of land masses, where the temperature is believed to be warmer than the western side.



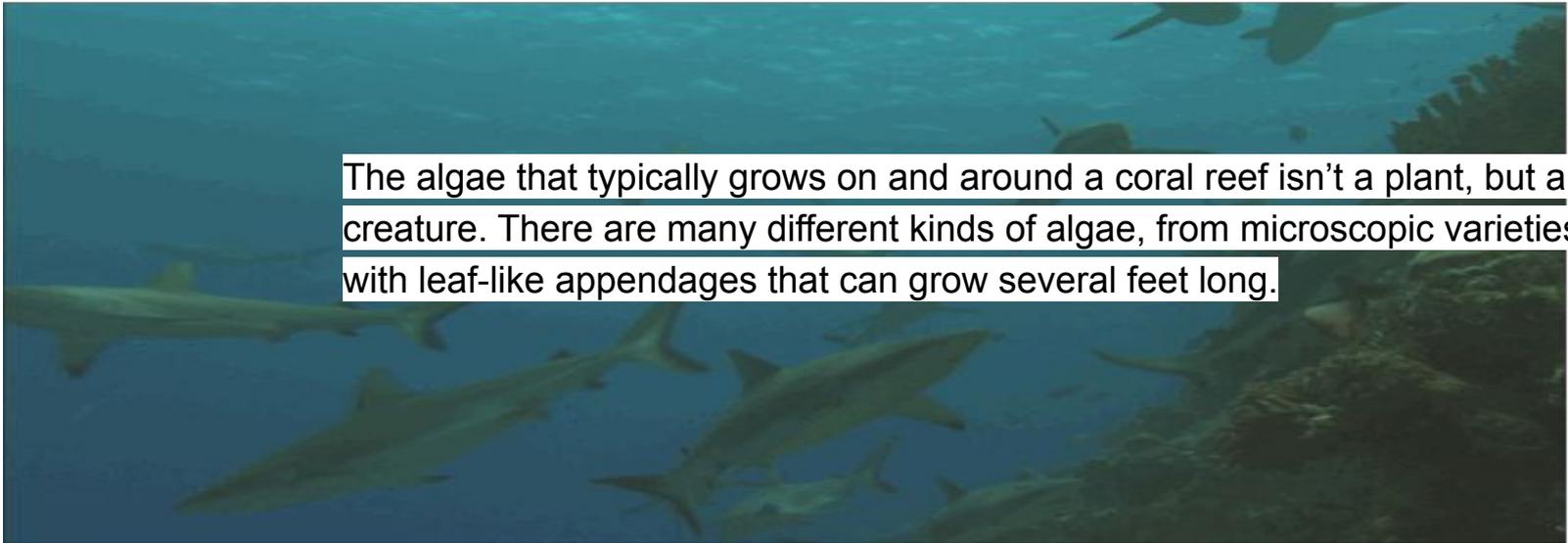
Fact 6

Coral reef systems are naturally colorful because of the algae that is usually present. If you see a coral reef that appears white—a process known as coral bleaching—it was most likely the result of warmer water temperatures caused by climate change.



Fact 7

The algae that typically grows on and around a coral reef isn't a plant, but a living creature. There are many different kinds of algae, from microscopic varieties to ones with leaf-like appendages that can grow several feet long.



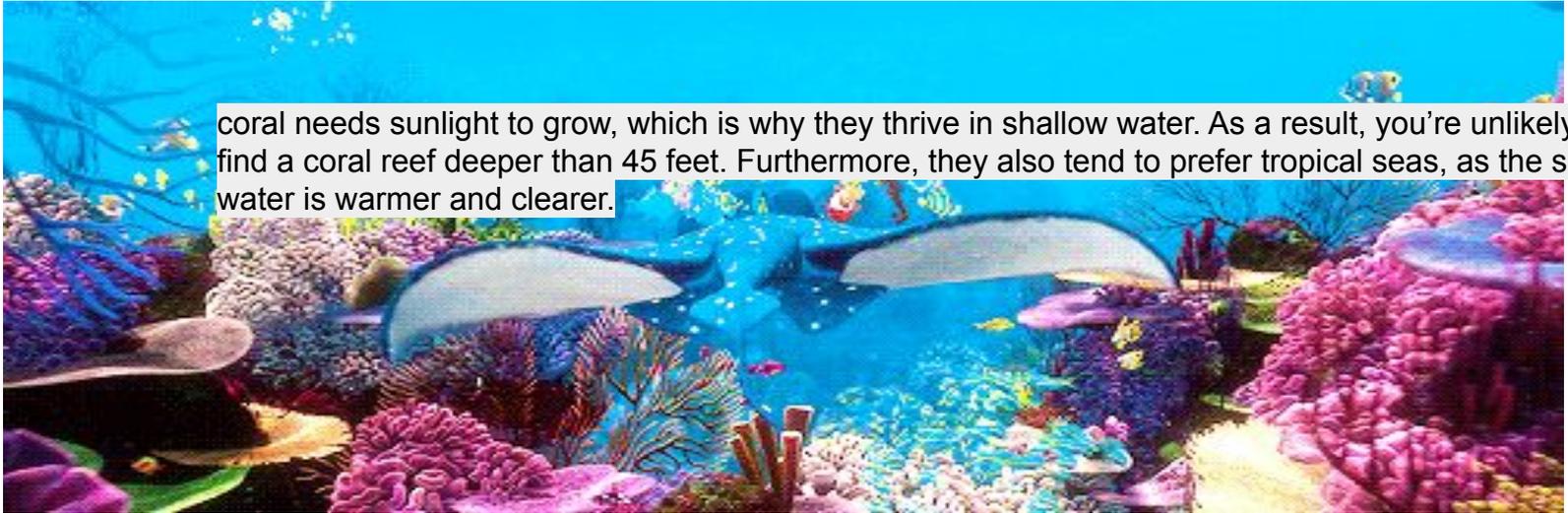
Fact 8



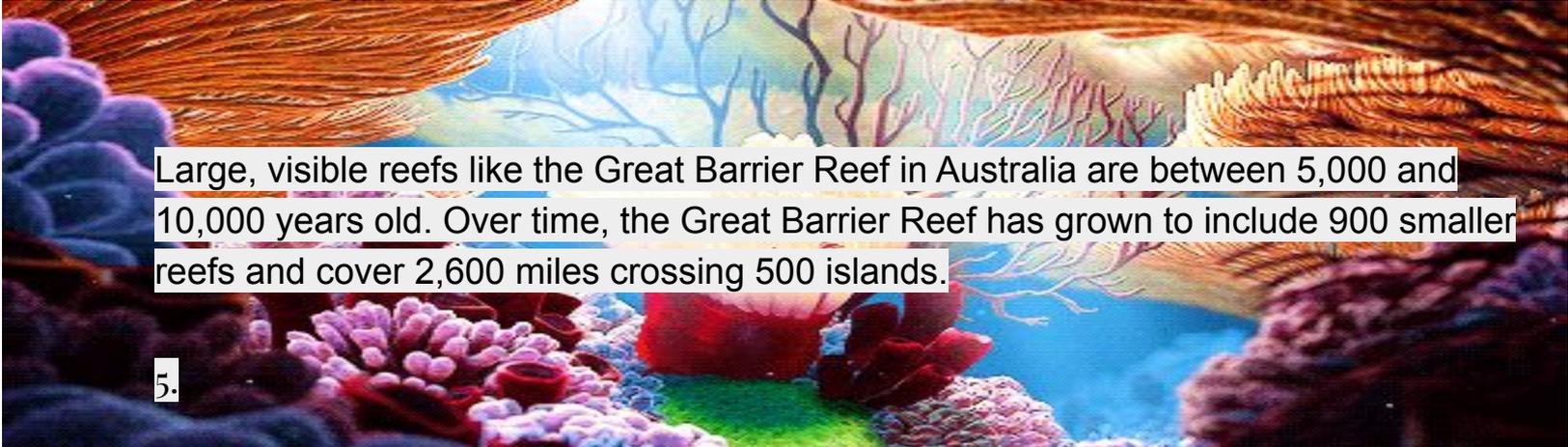
Coral reefs can be divided into three types: fringing reefs, barrier reefs, and atolls. Fringing reefs are close to shore, whereas a barrier reef will lie further out to sea. Often, atolls will be mistaken for islands because they are so large and generally appear on the rim of a lagoon.

Fact 9

coral needs sunlight to grow, which is why they thrive in shallow water. As a result, you're unlikely to find a coral reef deeper than 45 feet. Furthermore, they also tend to prefer tropical seas, as the sea water is warmer and clearer.



Fact 10



Large, visible reefs like the Great Barrier Reef in Australia are between 5,000 and 10,000 years old. Over time, the Great Barrier Reef has grown to include 900 smaller reefs and cover 2,600 miles crossing 500 islands.

Thank you

