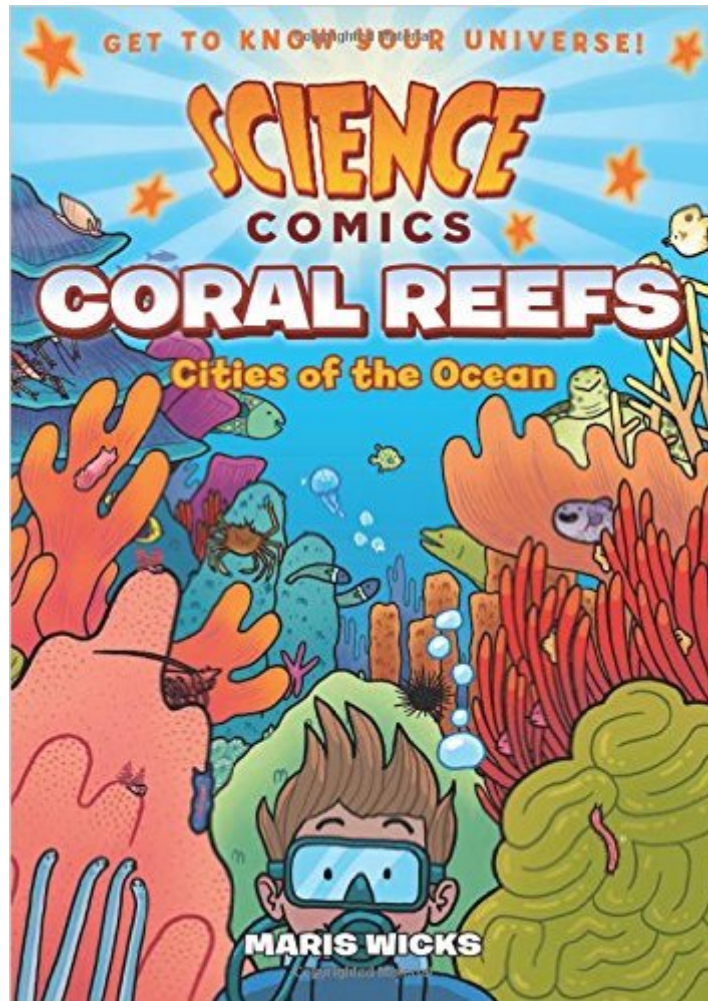


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# Science Comics: Coral Reefs: Cities Of The Ocean



## Synopsis

Every volume of Science Comics offers a complete introduction to a particular topic--dinosaurs, coral reefs, the solar system, volcanoes, bats, flying machines, and more. These gorgeously illustrated graphic novels offer wildly entertaining views of their subjects. Whether you're a fourth grader doing a natural science unit at school or a thirty-year-old with a secret passion for airplanes, these books are for you! This volume: in Coral Reefs, we learn all about these tiny, adorable sea animals! This absorbing look at ocean science covers the biology of coral reefs as well as their ecological importance. Nonfiction comics genius Maris Wicks brings to bear her signature combination of hardcore cuteness and in-depth science.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 890 (What's this?)

Series: Science Comics

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: First Second (March 29, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1626721459

ISBN-13: 978-1626721456

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.3 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #63,503 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Oceans & Seas](#) #38 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Water](#) #171 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Marine Life](#)

Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Learn why coral reefs are so important!

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Hello! I'd like to introduce you to my habitat. The Coral Reef. Is coral a plant or an animal? I think the answer will surprise you. There's so much to learn about these tiny, adorable sea animals.

Another one of Maris Wick's winner! We have her other book, Human Body Theater, and it was a hit. I think we like the Human Body Theater book more, but the Coral Reefs one is also cute and very educational. I highly recommend this book along with Human Body Theater.

I purchased copies of this gem for a middle school marine science class. They are excellent! I am not a fan of graphic novels or comics in general, but this is engaging and contains a LOT of great information about the ocean and organisms unfamiliar to most people. I highly recommend this book to teachers, parents and reef aquarium hobbyists.

Brought to you by OBS Reviewer ScottOnce again Maris Wick provides us an entertaining and educational look at the wonders of the fathomless sea – the living structures of coral reefs. Science Comics: Coral Reefs, is a journey through both the necessity of and impact we're causing on this delicate life form. Educational in form, the Science Comics banner is right up Wick's alley. Having published books like The Human Body Theater, her work never used the word "science," but as a biologist, she has always delivered poignant works that provide budding scientists with appealing material. The writing is Wick at her best. The structure is laid out more, structured and contains a glossary and further readings guide. For the young marine biologist, this is a vast improvement over previous works – not engaged totally with bombarding you with information, but packaging it out a chapter at a time. Covering most aspects you would expect in an educational book: from where coral reefs are found, how they develop, their species and ecosystems, biodiversity and most importantly, man's impact on the 40-60% oxygen source of the planet, Science comics: Coral Reefs delivers in spades. Clear and concise, not holding back on the difficult scientific terms, I found the writing more comfortable, matching the layout of the graphic novel. Writing educational material for young and young adults, is difficult at best, especially when laying out a scientific book, but Wick pulls through. The glossary at the back is an immense help to children, especially when discussing things in their scientific nomenclature. The art is yet another thing that Wick has improved on. Panels are laid out more clearly, with not as much clutter on the page. In her signature style, a small fish is your guide through the story and narrates the book. Seemingly abstruse pictures of coral reefs are drawn in biological school-book fashion, but the more mundane is simplified and gives life to an otherwise dry read (sorry, wet read). The word balloons simplify more difficult concepts and add humor to the grand design. All and all the panels are easy to follow, flow consistently, and convey the information more clearly, than any of Maris' prior works. Thematically, this book does more than merely

discuss the biology of the magnificent living structure of the coral reef. It also delivers a strong message on what mankind has done to either help or hinder the ecosystem in which they exist. Touching on notable points such as pollution, in its many forms, and CO2 emissions, to recycling plastics and fossil fuels, *Science Comics: Coral Reefs* has a dual message to convey. Through raising awareness of the amount of plastics used and the carbon dioxide emissions caused by producing them, to run off pollution by factory or farm, to global warming and its impact on marine life, Wick delivers a strong message about increasing awareness about the geosystem, and offers solutions on how to alleviate some of the more pressing problems “right down to writing governmental bodies. This dualism between teaching the adults of tomorrow about the science and impacts of not just (but primarily) coral reefs, but all marine life and more importantly, raising global environmental awareness really adds charm to this graphic novel. For lovers of the ocean (of which I number), to budding marine biologists, *Science Comics: Coral Reefs* should make an excellent addition to anyone’s library.

*Science Comics: Coral Reefs: Cities of the Ocean* is one of two debut books in a new non-fiction graphic novel line from First Second, and it’s wonderful. Just as she did in *Human Body Theater*, Maris Wicks takes a complex scientific subject and makes it both understandable and beautiful. Our narrator is an adorable cartoon of a glasses-wearing fish who wants to show us its home in the coral reef. Five chapters cover what coral is, the different types, how coral reefs form, the ecosystem around them, and their connection to the rest of the planet. Surprisingly, the topic lends itself to wandering into other areas, such as scientific nomenclature (genus and species) and groupings of animals, including the coral group cnidarians. There are a ton of different organisms, from octopus to giant clam to plankton, that live near or in a reef, so the book expands to cover a bunch of them that make up this food web. I really like Wicks’ treatment of topics like these. Her drawings are cute, friendly, and welcoming, but they’re also educational. She covers the facts but includes jokes and talking fish, making it all entertaining. Although she uses plenty of words, to make sure concepts are clearly explained, she works with them to keep panels interesting. I suspect the last chapter, the one about climate change, will upset some who prefer politics to fact. I applaud the publisher and author for including it, though, as it grounds this knowledge in reasons it matters. It’s great to connect this information to steps readers can take to improve the planet and keep the reefs safe, including why we should care (a little matter of enough breathable oxygen). *Science Comics: Coral Reefs: Cities of the Ocean* also has a brief glossary, a cross-section diagram of a coral polyp, and a bibliography. While obviously targeted at

the educational market, this comic is a good read for all ages. (The publisher provided an advance digital review copy. Review originally posted at ComicsWorthReading.com.)

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