

## Global Treasure

*Read the following article to learn about efforts to protect coral reefs.*

Corals can hold up under a lot of stress, Dr. Fujita says, "but we're beating our corals to death." And it's time to stop. Coral reefs are not only beautiful, they are valuable. The reefs protect tropical shorelines from erosion. (Without a protective wall of reef in front of it, the shore would wash away very quickly.)

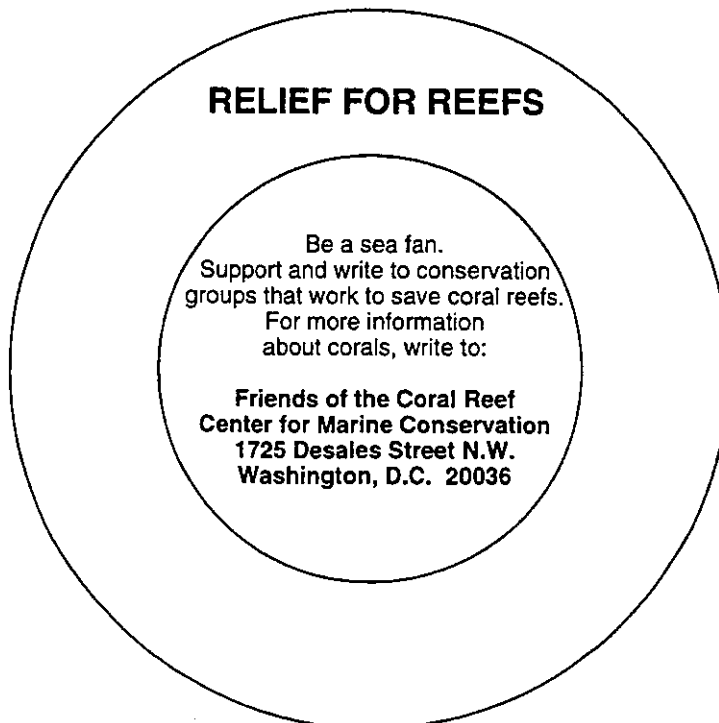
And just as life-saving drugs have come from tropical rain forests, many drugs are being made from chemicals found in the reefs. Some of these new drugs are helping treat arthritis, cancer and heart disease, notes Dr. Fujita.

What is being done to save the "rain forests of the ocean"? Conservation organizations are buying land near the reefs and turning them into parks to help protect marine life. "Wildlife Conservation International is helping save the reef system off Belize—a nation in Central America," Jacque Carter says.

Many environmental groups in the Florida Keys are working to protect the last living reef system there. Last December, Congress passed a law making the entire Florida reef a safe place for marine life. This sanctuary is off limits to freighters.

Local groups are trying to help, too. People living in the Keys are starting a sewage recycling system to prevent sewage from seeping into the reefs. And thanks to Reef Relief, some polluting detergents can no longer be used in the Keys. "We've also got a three-year drilling ban," DeVon Quirolo adds. "This means no offshore oil drilling near the reefs." Says Quirolo, "We're trying to make a difference."

Text of an article "Ocean Blues Are We Killing Our Coral Reefs" section entitled "Global Treasure" from the July/August 1991 issue of 3-2-1 *Contact Magazine*.



10. In the article what are corals compared to?
- A new drugs
  - B national parks
  - C the Florida Keys
  - D the rain forests
11. Making coral reef areas off limits to freighters protects the reefs from which of the following?
- A oil drilling
  - B powerful wave action
  - C detergents
  - D harvesting of chemicals
12. If you wanted general information about many protective programs, what would be the *best* place to write?
- A Friends of the Coral Reef
  - B Reef Relief
  - C Congress
  - D Wildlife Conservation
13. If you wanted specific information about protecting the reefs of Belize, what would be the *best* place to write?
- A Friends of the Coral Reef
  - B Reef Relief
  - C Congress
  - D Wildlife Conservation International