■ Science in the Movies: Finding Nemo (2003)

Grade Level: 4–7 | Topics: Marine Biology · Ecosystems · Adaptations

■ Scene Focus

Clip: Nemo’s first day at school — Mr. Ray takes the class on a field trip over the coral reef to the 'drop-off.'
Timestamp: 00:11:30–00:15:30
Focus: Exploring marine habitats, adaptations, and ocean ecosystems.

■ Before You Watch

1. What do you know about coral reefs?
2. What kinds of animals might live there?
3. What dangers might ocean animals face near the 'drop-off'?

 Prediction Time! Draw or describe what you think makes a coral reef special.

■ During the Clip

As you watch, write or draw:

• Two animals you see in the reef scene
• One way they move or behave
• How the light or color changes near the 'drop-off'

■ A. Understanding the Habitat

1. List three animals from the reef scene and describe one adaptation for each.

2. Why do coral reefs support so much life?

3. How is the reef different from the deeper 'drop-off' zone?

■ B. Cause and Effect

1. When Nemo swims toward the boat, what dangers does he face?

2. How does the coral reef help smaller fish like Nemo stay safe?

3. Draw or label a simple coral reef food web including: algae → small fish → larger fish → shark.

■ C. Data & Analysis

1. Coral reefs cover less than 1% of the ocean floor but support about 25% of all marine species.
If there are 2 million marine species, how many live in coral reefs? Show your math.

2. Temperatures above 30°C can cause coral bleaching. What happens to the reef ecosystem if corals die?

■ D. Real-World Connection

1. Research one human action that harms coral reefs (like pollution, overfishing, or rising temperatures).

2. Write one idea for how people can protect coral reefs.

3. Optional: Design a short poster titled 'Keep Nemo’s Home Safe!'

■ Reflection

• What does Finding Nemo teach us about ocean life and curiosity?

• Why is it important to understand and protect ocean ecosystems?