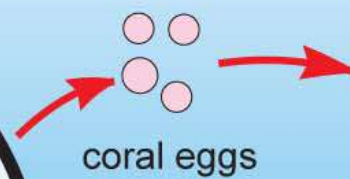
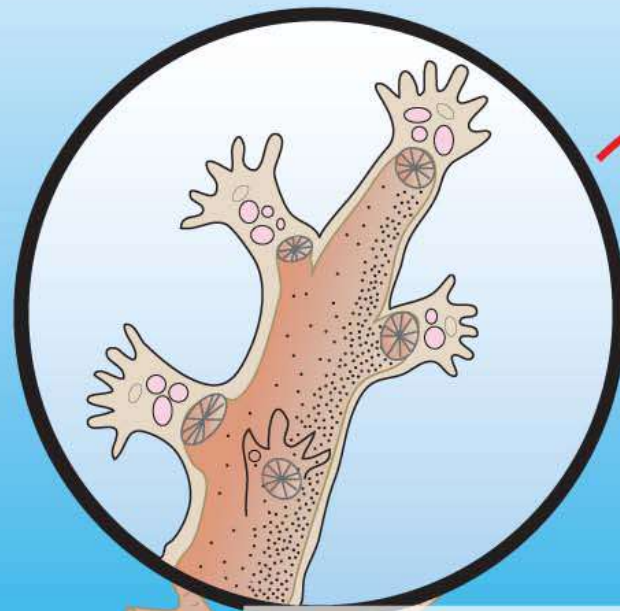


CORAL REPRODUCTION

Baby corals need hard, clean rock surfaces to settle on and begin growing



coral eggs



swimming babies

Coral babies do not settle onto sand or onto a weed-covered rocks

Tiny coral animals



Corals make babies by throwing their eggs and sperm into the water, where they join to make coral babies. These baby corals swim and drift in the water looking for hard, clean, rock surfaces to settle on and begin growing.

Baby corals can settle on dead broken corals, but then they are killed as the dead coral pieces shift around and turn over.

Broken reef areas may never recover corals because of this. Dynamite fishing and coral harvesting break corals and create dead reef areas. Coral branches can sometimes be successfully replanted to broken reef areas, but only if the right methods are used, and if the cause of the damage is stopped.

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