

NEWS AND KNOWLEDGE... NEWS YOU CAN USE APRIL, 2025



UPCOMING CONNECTIONS OUTINGS FOR APRIL, 2025:

- Tuesday, April 1, 2025-Happy April Fools' Day-Watch out for Pranksters!
- Thursday, April 3, 2025-Bowling at the Pin Station.
- Friday, April 4, 2025-Unit Grocery/Supply Shopping at the Neighborhood Walmart Market (Subject to Change).
- Saturday, April 5, 2025-Baseball Game at Lenoir Rhyne University and Lunch (Please bring Money for Lunch!).
- Monday, April 7-Trip to the Catawba County Library.
- Thursday, April 10, 2025-Easter Crafts at the Clubhouse.
- Friday, April 11, 2025-Unit Grocery/Supply Shopping at the Neighborhood Walmart Market (Subject to Change).
- Monday, April 14-Trip to the Catawba County Library.
- Thursday, April 17, 2025-Employment/Education Dinner.
- Friday, April 18, 2025-Food Pantry/Food Lion (**Please** Sign up in Advance!).
- Monday, April 21, 2025-Trip to the Catawba County Library.
- Thursday, April 24, 2025-Bingo, Baby! at the Clubhouse.
- Friday, April 25, 2025-Cookout at the Park.
- Saturday, April 26, 2025-Hickory Farmers' Market and Out to Eat (**Please** Bring Money for Shopping and for Meal!)
- Monday, April 28, 2025-Trip to the Catawba County Library.



Some Facts about Easter Day:
(From: <https://geckocustom.com>):

One of the most significant dates on the Christian calendar is Easter Day, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Easter Day symbolizes hope, joy, and renewal. It is observed with various religious and cultural traditions all over the world. The observance of Easter Day brings people together in celebration in various ways such as church services, Easter egg hunts, and family festivals. Many countries do recognize Easter Day as a public holiday, which also allows families to gather together and share in Easter Day festivities.

-Easter Day is a Christian holiday that marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, as described in the New Testament of the Bible. It marks the culmination of the Passion of Jesus in His crucifixion. Easter Day is preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance. Various Christian denominations celebrate Easter Day in various ways. However, the message of Easter Day marks victory over death and the promise of eternal life. Easter Day marks the themes of rebirth, of redemption, and of divine love, which makes it a significant part of the Christian faith. Easter Day is both a religious holiday and a day for families to come together and participate in joyful celebrations.

-The origins of Easter Day date back to early Christianity. According to the Bible, the Romans crucified Jesus Christ on Good Friday and He rose up from the dead on the third day, creating the Easter Day holiday. The name, "Easter," is believed to come from the Old English word, "Eastre," which referred to a pagan festival that celebrated spring. Over time, both Christian traditions and local customs merged together, resulting in the present-time holiday of Easter. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is considered the foundation of Christian faith, which symbolizes both hope and salvation. As a result, Easter Day has become one of the most observed Christian holidays in the world.

-For Christians, Easter Day is recognized as the cornerstone of their faith, signifying Jesus' victory over sin and death. It represents hope, redemption, and the fulfillment of God's divine plan. The holiday brings various communities together in worship, reflection, and joy. Easter also marks the importance of faith, love, and renewal, which encourages people to strengthen their spiritual connection. It brings about a sense of togetherness to both families and communities worldwide.

-Easter Day does not have a fixed date. It is always celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 20 or March 21 each year). As a result, Easter Day can fall anywhere between March 23rd and April 25th. The way of calculating Easter's date resulted from the ancient lunar calendars used by the early Christians. Western Christianity, which follows the Gregorian calendar, and Eastern Christianity which follows the Julian calendar, often celebrate Easter day on different dates. The variability of Easter Day's date can cause confusion, but it enhances the unique nature of the Easter Day holiday.

-Holy Week is the final week of Lent, which marks the events leading up to Easter Sunday. Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday, which marks Jesus' triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday observes the Last Supper, where Jesus



where Jesus shared His last meal with His disciples. Good Friday is a solemn day that marks the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His ultimate sacrifice for all people. Holy Saturday marks a day of waiting and reflection before the joyous celebration of Easter Sunday. Each day of the Holy Week has a deep meaning and these days are observed with various traditions among Christian communities.

-Easter Day is a holiday with a lot of symbols. Each symbol carries a deep historical and religious meaning. For example, the Easter egg symbolizes new life and resurrection, representing Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. The Easter bunny, which is a more modern addition to the Easter holidays, represents fertility and renewal. The tradition of the Easter bunny goes back to ancient spring festivals. The cross, the main symbol of the Christian faith, serves as a reminder of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and His victory over death. Lilies, another key symbol of Easter Day, symbolize purity hope, and new beginnings. These symbols reinforce the themes of the Easter holiday, making the Easter Day holiday more meaningful.

-Different countries celebrate Easter day in various, unique ways, which reflect local customs and traditions. In the United States, Easter egg hunts and parades are popular. In the United Kingdom, people eat hot cross and they also participate in egg rolling competitions. People in Italy hold grand religious processions, while people in Spain observe solemn Semana Santa (Holy Week). Many Latin American countries combine colorful celebrations, which blend both indigenous and Christian traditions. In Australia, the Easter bilby replaces the traditional Easter bunny, while raising awareness about Australian wildlife. These different customs show both the universal appeal and the significance of the Easter holiday all over the world.

-Easter foods vary from hot cross buns to chocolate eggs, but each Easter food carry both deep symbolism and deep Easter tradition. Traditional Easter meals include lamb, symbolizing Jesus as the, "Lamb of God,,". In many cultures, people eat sweet treats such as cakes and pastries, both to observe Easter and to celebrate joy. Chocolate eggs have become a staple at Easter celebrations. Special breads like the Italian Columba di Pasqua and the Greek Tsoureki are baked during the Easter season.

-Easter has become a more commercialized holiday, with chocolate sales and holiday marketing flourishing. Retailers promote Easter-themed products from clothing to home decorations, capitalizing on the festive spirit of Easter. Each year, retailers generate billions of dollars in revenue, especially with candy and gift sales. While commercialization has made Easter more accessible, it has overshadowed the religious meaning of Easter. People try to balance both the faith-based observances of Easter and modern-day celebrations. In spite of commercialization, the spiritual meaning of Easter still remains at the center of the holiday for many Christians.

**Ten of the Greatest April Fools' Pranks of All Time:
(From: www.cnn.com, written by Todd Leopold, April 1, 2019):**

Companies will develop gags that will make everybody laugh; however, nobody is fooled. Despite the fact that people seem smarter than ever, there are people who would be fooled by an April Fools' jokes. Here are 10 of the best April Fools' pranks that people have developed as follows:

1. Pasta grows on trees: On April 1, 1957, the BBC (British Broadcasting Company) aired a show named, "Panorama." On that show, a segment about the Swiss spaghetti harvest, having a, "bumper year," due to mild weather and the elimination of the spaghetti weevil. The segment fooled many British citizens, who thought that, because the story appeared in television, that the story was true. Television was a relatively new invention in the world. The story got a rating as being the Number 1 April Fools' of all time by the Museum of Hoaxes Museum.
2. Siddhartha, "Sidd," Finch is the fastest pitcher of all time: A writer known for his dry sense of humor named George Plimpton, invented the story of the New York's Mets pitcher, Siddhartha, "Sidd," Finch for the *Sports Illustrated* magazine. The story about Finch stated that he could throw a pitch of 168 miles per hour. The story appeared in the April 1, 1985 issue of *Sports Illustrated*. Perceptive readers caught on quickly, realizing that, "Sidd Finch," did not really exist. There was a secondary headline underneath the story that spelled out, "Happy Aprils Fools' Day." But other people thought that the story was really a new additional to the New York's team. Later on, George Plimpton turned this story into a novel.
3. Redefining Pi: Pi is a challenging odd number that goes and on in its sequence. However, lawmakers in Alabama thought that pi was too long. So, they passed a law in 1998 that redefined pi as 3.14159. A man named Mark Boslough developed this hoax, which was both disseminated and believed by many people. However, the Indiana legislature tried to pass a bill in 1897 that defined pi at 3.2.
4. Left-handed toilet paper: In 2015, the company that makes Cottonelle Toilet Paper tweeted on Twitter that the company would introduced left-handed toilet paper. This hoax was inspired by a 1998 hoax from Burger King, saying they had developed the, "Left-handed Whooper."
5. The Taco Liberty Bell: In a 1996 prank, Taco Bell took out newspaper ads, stating that it had bought the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to, "Help the national debt." Even a few senators were fooled and the National Park Service held a press conference, announcing the news. At noon, Taco Bell admitted that the news was a joke and they donated \$50,000.00 to take care of the Liberty Bell.



6. The Big Ben Clock in London, England went digital: In 1980, the BBC's overseas service stated the Big Ben Clock in London would be getting an update. However, this joke did not go over well and the BBC apologized for the joke. But variations of this joke has popped up in the digital era.

7. Color Television and Nylon: In 1962, the Swedish Broadcast System broadcasted a technical expert, who told the audience that black-and-white broadcasts could be turned into color ones by viewing them through nylon stockings. Many Swedish people fell for this hoax. However, there is no truth to a rumor that the Swedish people got their revenge by burning a giant goat each year.

8. Goodbye, Space Needle: In 1989, in Seattle, Washington State, members of a comedy show went on the air and they said that the city's Space Needle has fallen down. The members of the comedy show even had pictures of the Space Needle after it fell down. This news was only a joke, but 700 panicky callers called the station about this news and they reported it anyway.

9. In 2005, Google announced that the company came out with a new drink called the, "Google Gulp." According to the announcement, the Google Gulp would help drinkers, "to achieve maximum optimization of your soon-to-be-grateful cerebral cortex," while also being low in calories. However, Google has also announced fake products such as Google Romance, Gmail Paper, and Google Voice.

10. Don't drink and surf!: in 1994, *PC Magazine* ran a column about a bill going to Congress that would prohibit the use of the internet while inebriated. Even though the name of the contact person (Lirpa Sloof) was, "April Fools," backwards, many people thought the story was a serious one.



Connections Clubhouse will be hosting our annual, "Market on the Lawn," this year on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025. We are looking for shoppers, as well as arts and crafts vendors to come and participate. We hope that you will share this post and help us get the word out about our event! More information coming soon. Look for our vendor applications on our website at www.connectionsclubhousecatawba.org and don't forget to follow us on Instagram at ConnectionsClubhouseNewton. The Market on the Lawn will be held at Connections Clubhouse at 1679 Southwest Blvd, Newton, NC, United States, North Carolina 28658 on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The phone number at Connections Clubhouse is (828) 466-0030.

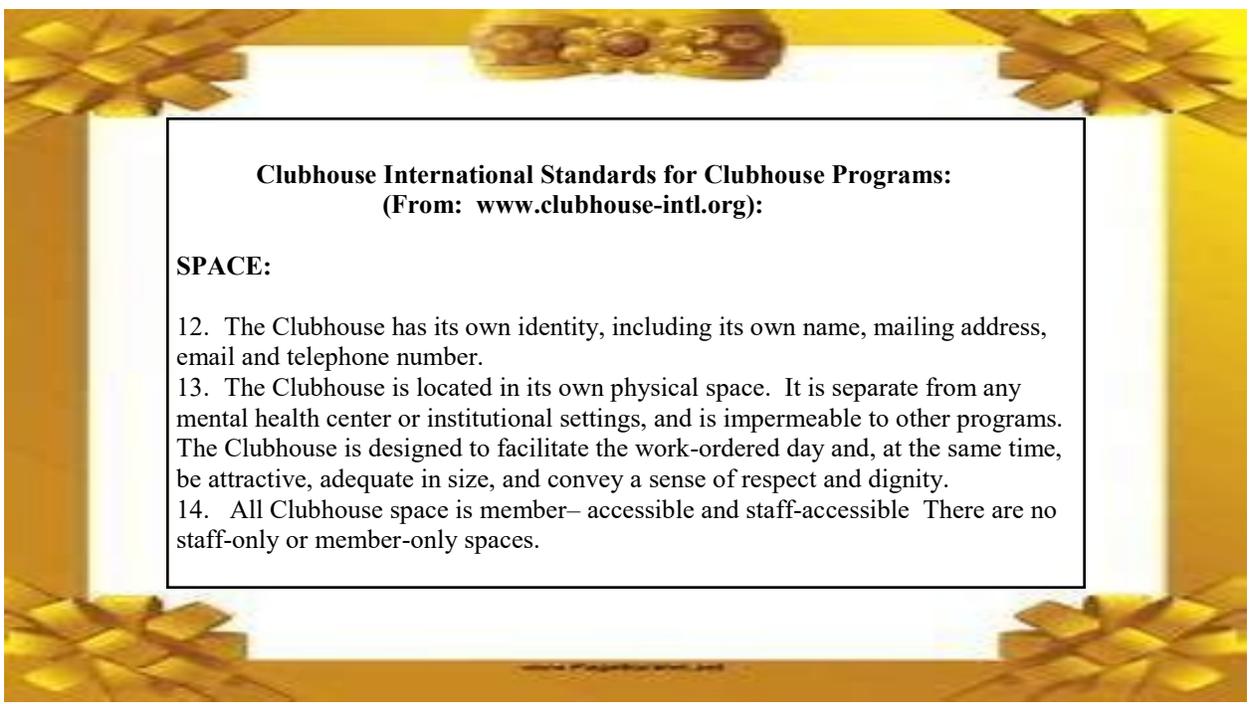
**Unusual April Holidays:
(From: www.timeanddate.com):**

Tuesday, April 1, 2025-April Fools' Day/Fun at Work Day.
Thursday, April 3, 2025-World Party Day.
Friday, April 4, 2025-Tell a Lie Day/Walk to Work Day.
Saturday, April 5, 2025-Read a Road Map Day/First Contact Day.
Sunday, April 6, 2025-Sorry, Charlie, Day.
Tuesday, April 8, 2025-Be Kind to Lawyers Day.
Thursday, April 10, 2025-Siblings' Day.
Friday, April 11, 2025-Submarine Day/Barbershop Quartet Day.
Saturday, April 12, 2025-Grilled Cheese Day/Yuri's Night.
Sunday, April 13, 2025-Scrabble Day.
Monday, April 14, 2025-International Moment of Laughter Day/Reach as High as You Can Day/Look Up the Sky Day.
Tuesday, April 15, 2025-Tax Day in the United States.
Wednesday, April 16, 2025-Eggs Benedict Day/Wear Pajamas to Work Day.
Thursday, April 17, 2025-Haiku Poetry Day.
Friday, April 18, 2025-Good Friday/Columnist Day.
Sunday, April 20, 2005-Easter Sunday/Look Alike Day.
Monday, April 21, 2025-Easter Monday.
Tuesday, April 22, 2025-Jelly Bean Day.
Wednesday, April 23, 2025-Take a Chance Day/Impossible Astronaut Day/Lover's Day.
Thursday, April 24, 2025-Take Our Daughters and Our Sons to Work Day.
Friday, April 25, 2025-DNA Day.
Saturday, April 26, 2025-Pretzel Day/Richter Scale Day.
Sunday, April 27, 2025-World Pinhole Photography Day.
Tuesday, April 29, 2025-Zipper Day.
Wednesday, April 30, 2025-Honesty Day.



A Few Easter Jokes:
(From: <https://easyfamilyfun.com>):

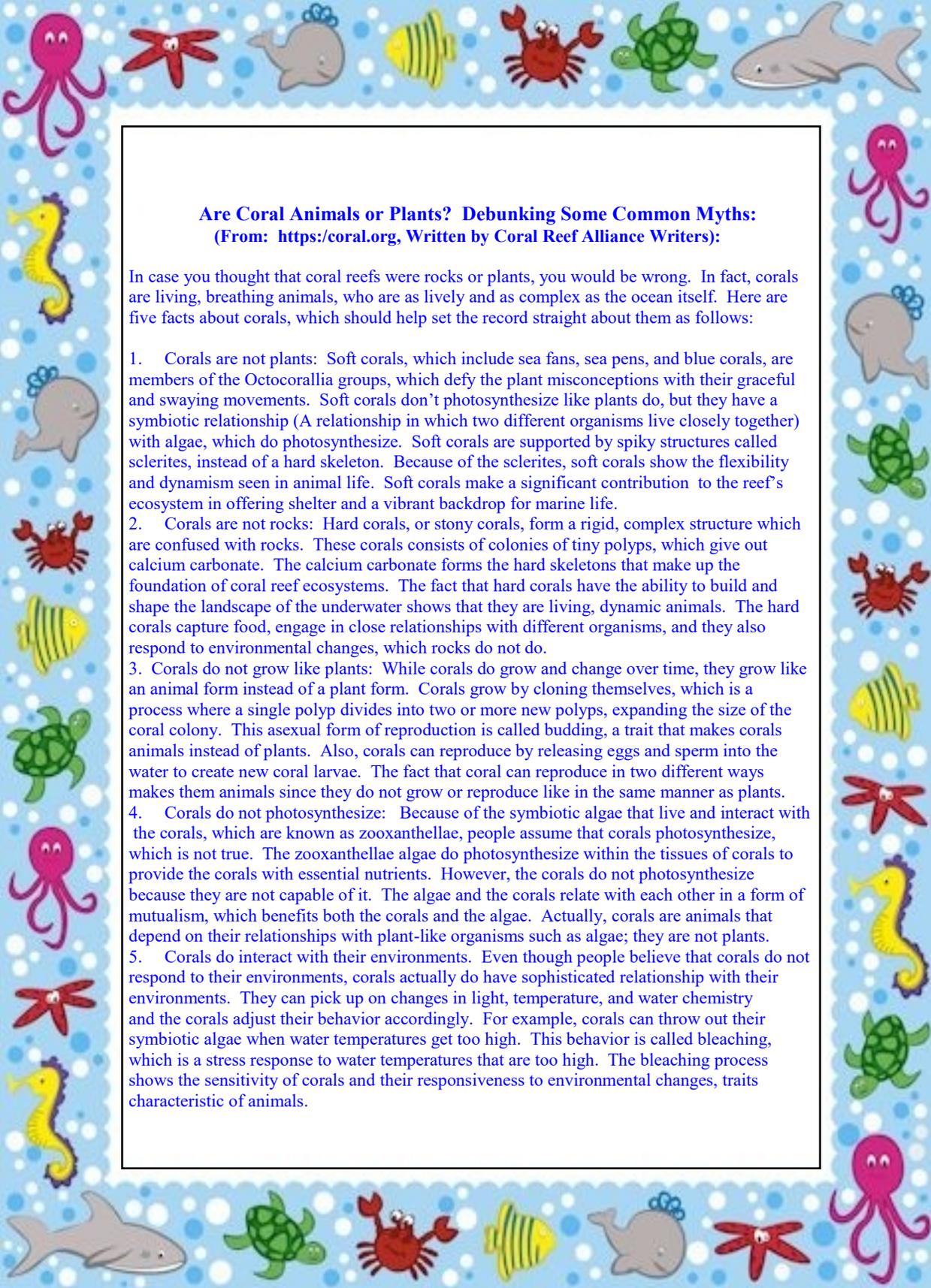
- What song is the Easter Bunny's favorite? "I wanna dance with somebunny!"
- Why do we paint Easter eggs? Because it's easier than trying to wallpaper them!
- What did the Easter egg ask for at the hair salon? A new color!
- What is the Easter Bunny's favorite story? A Cotton Tale!
- What kind of vegetable is angry? A steamed carrot!
- What does the Easter Bunny order at Starbucks? Eggs-presso!
- Why is the letter A like a flower? Because a bee comes after it!
- What kind of stories do eggs tell their children? Yolk tales!
- What do you call a bunny with money? A millionhare!



Clubhouse International Standards for Clubhouse Programs:
(From: www.clubhouse-intl.org):

SPACE:

12. The Clubhouse has its own identity, including its own name, mailing address, email and telephone number.
13. The Clubhouse is located in its own physical space. It is separate from any mental health center or institutional settings, and is impermeable to other programs. The Clubhouse is designed to facilitate the work-ordered day and, at the same time, be attractive, adequate in size, and convey a sense of respect and dignity.
14. All Clubhouse space is member- accessible and staff-accessible. There are no staff-only or member-only spaces.



Are Coral Animals or Plants? Debunking Some Common Myths:
(From: <https://coral.org>, Written by Coral Reef Alliance Writers):

In case you thought that coral reefs were rocks or plants, you would be wrong. In fact, corals are living, breathing animals, who are as lively and as complex as the ocean itself. Here are five facts about corals, which should help set the record straight about them as follows:

1. Corals are not plants: Soft corals, which include sea fans, sea pens, and blue corals, are members of the Octocorallia groups, which defy the plant misconceptions with their graceful and swaying movements. Soft corals don't photosynthesize like plants do, but they have a symbiotic relationship (A relationship in which two different organisms live closely together) with algae, which do photosynthesize. Soft corals are supported by spiky structures called sclerites, instead of a hard skeleton. Because of the sclerites, soft corals show the flexibility and dynamism seen in animal life. Soft corals make a significant contribution to the reef's ecosystem in offering shelter and a vibrant backdrop for marine life.
2. Corals are not rocks: Hard corals, or stony corals, form a rigid, complex structure which are confused with rocks. These corals consists of colonies of tiny polyps, which give out calcium carbonate. The calcium carbonate forms the hard skeletons that make up the foundation of coral reef ecosystems. The fact that hard corals have the ability to build and shape the landscape of the underwater shows that they are living, dynamic animals. The hard corals capture food, engage in close relationships with different organisms, and they also respond to environmental changes, which rocks do not do.
3. Corals do not grow like plants: While corals do grow and change over time, they grow like an animal form instead of a plant form. Corals grow by cloning themselves, which is a process where a single polyp divides into two or more new polyps, expanding the size of the coral colony. This asexual form of reproduction is called budding, a trait that makes corals animals instead of plants. Also, corals can reproduce by releasing eggs and sperm into the water to create new coral larvae. The fact that coral can reproduce in two different ways makes them animals since they do not grow or reproduce like in the same manner as plants.
4. Corals do not photosynthesize: Because of the symbiotic algae that live and interact with the corals, which are known as zooxanthellae, people assume that corals photosynthesize, which is not true. The zooxanthellae algae do photosynthesize within the tissues of corals to provide the corals with essential nutrients. However, the corals do not photosynthesize because they are not capable of it. The algae and the corals relate with each other in a form of mutualism, which benefits both the corals and the algae. Actually, corals are animals that depend on their relationships with plant-like organisms such as algae; they are not plants.
5. Corals do interact with their environments. Even though people believe that corals do not respond to their environments, corals actually do have sophisticated relationship with their environments. They can pick up on changes in light, temperature, and water chemistry and the corals adjust their behavior accordingly. For example, corals can throw out their symbiotic algae when water temperatures get too high. This behavior is called bleaching, which is a stress response to water temperatures that are too high. The bleaching process shows the sensitivity of corals and their responsiveness to environmental changes, traits characteristic of animals.

If you need help in stopping smoking, you can contact the QuitlineNC Program (Website address: <https://quitlinenc.dhp.ncdhhs.gov>). QuitlineNC helps smokers by providing free smoking cessation services to smokers from commercial tobacco use. The QuitlineNC website defines commercial tobacco use as any tobacco products offered for sale, excluding sacred and traditional ceremonies held by many American Indian tribes and communities. You can go to the website address as listed above to enroll online or text, "Ready," to 34191. You can also call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669). To help teenagers with vaping, you can text, VAPERFREENC," 877373. Support from QuitlineNC is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service is free and it is nonjudgmental.

PARTNERS CRISIS LINE: If you are experiencing a non-medical mental health emergency, you can call the Partners Crisis Line at 1-833-353-2093. They are available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, please call 911 or go to your local emergency room. Also, Catawba Valley Healthcare has crisis support and mobile crisis response services available 24 hours, 7 days a week, The Catawba Valley Healthcare Crisis Support/Mobile Crisis Response Line Number is (828) 695-2511.

**Think big and don't listen
to people who tell you it
can't be done. Life's too
short to think small.**



Tim Ferriss
www.getdiamondfly.com