



Ancient Cold-Water Coral



Pictured: Some of the corals on Cacho De Coral in the Galápagos Marine Reserve. **Source:** Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) X page.

A recent expedition has found two pristine, ancient, cold-water coral reefs in the Galápagos Islands Marine Reserve that are filled with life! The marine reserve is one of the largest in the world. It covers 133,000 square kilometres and surrounds the Galapagos Islands in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The research, conducted by scientists from the Schmidt Ocean Institute, has discovered one reef that measures 800 metres, and another that is 250 metres long. The reefs have been dated as thousands of years old. 'The Galápagos Marine Reserve is an area of outstanding biological importance,

connected to partner marine protected areas across the Eastern Pacific. Finding such deep and long-lived reefs takes us important steps closer to protecting hidden dimensions of ocean diversity and understanding the role that deep habitats play in maintaining our ocean's health,' said Charles Darwin Foundation's CEO, Stuart Banks, who explained the importance of the study. 'These fascinating new findings continue to feed important research to inform better management of existing and future marine protected areas in the region.'

Saving Seals

Lizzi LARBalestier, a volunteer for British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR), has won an international award for saving hundreds of animals. After caring for injured seals in her own property for nine months, Lizzi built and runs a larger, fully functioning hospital for injured seals in Cornwall. She has also volunteered through the BDMLR to rescue many kinds of sealife, including whales, dolphins, and porpoises. She has recently been awarded the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Animal Action Award for her heroic efforts. Lizzi, who stresses that her accomplishments have been achieved as being part of a hardworking team, spoke

about the hospital saying, 'The pups get rescued by any one of us volunteer medics and, if necessary, get brought into the hospital where a vet will check them over and create a treatment plan. We have clear protocols to ensure pups get the very best care, it is a real team effort. We offer critical care for these animals post-rescue, [and] this stabilises the pups and prepares them to move to larger rehabilitation centres.' The seal patients then move on to the Cornish Seal Sanctuary or West Hatch RSPCA facility, before being released back into the wild.

Do you think you would enjoy volunteering to help animals?



Pictured: A Seal. **Source:** BDMLR Cornwall Seal Hospital Facebook page.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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Prince of Wales is awarded green Blue Peter badge!



Pictured: His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales with his green Blue Peter badge. **Source:** BBC Press Office @bbcpress X page.

His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, has been awarded with a green Blue Peter badge by presenter, Joel Mawhinney, at Blue Peter's special 65th Birthday celebration. The green Blue Peter badge was introduced in November 1988, and since then it has recognised and rewarded children, who show they care about the planet, climate change, recycling, protecting animals and their habitats. Prince William was presented with the green badge for his work with The Earthshot Prize. The Earthshot Prize awards were set up three years ago by the Prince to fund projects that aim to save the planet. They promote five 'Earthshots' or goals: Protect and Restore Nature; Clean Our Air; Revive Our Oceans; Build a

Waste-free World; and Fix Our Climate. Every year, there are five winners, who each receive a £1 million prize and the support of the organisation to 'accelerate their projects and continue making a positive impact on people and the planet.' Prince William said at the awards, 'Our winners and all our finalists remind us that, no matter where you are on our planet, the spirit of ingenuity, and the ability to inspire change, surrounds us all.' Appearing on the Blue Peter special birthday programme, the Prince also helped Joel introduce the 'big badge wall', which showcases drawings and letters sent in by viewers on the subject of nature and the environment. **Would you like to be awarded a Blue Peter badge?**

Last week's topic:

How important is it to understand money?



I think it is very important to learn about money whilst we are at school because when we are older we will need to learn how to budget and pay our bills.

Nora

I don't think that we need to learn about coins as my parents pay for everything online or with cards. We need to learn how to use these.

Katya

I think it is very important as I need to make sure I have enough for all the things I want to buy.

Charlie

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 Picture News Ltd,
Colber Lane,
Bishop Thornton,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR

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