

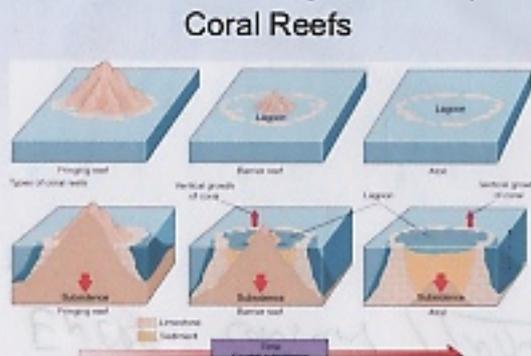
CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM

- Coral reefs have a very high biodiversity and a high biomass (7000+ species)
- There is a very complex food web involving: corals, sponges, crustaceans, molluscs, fish, turtles, sharks, dolphins; which depends on the photosynthesis of sunlight by algae.

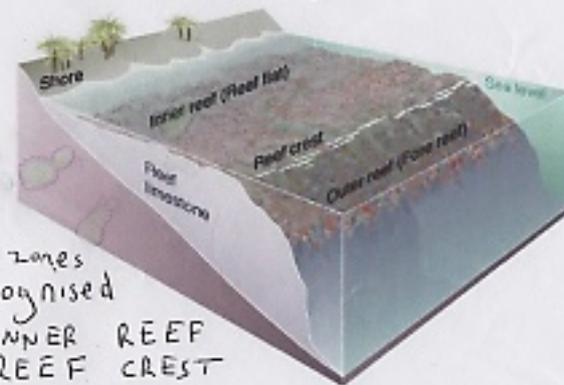
Benefits - protect coast from storms and erosion
 - jobs, fishing, diving, tourism
 - net economic value of world reefs > 30 billion \$ pa.



- 25% of ocean fish depend on coral reefs, even though they only make up 1% of marine area
- used for spawning, nursing, breeding, feeding



- Coral reefs grow at 2-3 cm pa
- 3 reef types are found FRINGING, BARRIER and ATOLL



- 3 reef zones are recognised
- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| INNER REEF | REEF CREST | OUTER REEF |
|------------|------------|------------|