



## WHAT YOU NEED:

- The lid of shoe box
- A sheet of paper
- Scissors with rounded tips
- An empty box of cereal
- Threads (something like shoelaces, elastic hair bands, or whatever you have in your house)
- Colored pencils
- Glue
- Printed sheets you will find on the following pages

## THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM IN A BOX

Today we learned that the ecosystem is the set of all living beings and of the natural elements that characterize a particular environment.

Planet Earth is the largest ecosystem that exists, but within it live many small ecosystems and inhabitants with certain specific characteristics. Let's take as an example the marine ecosystem. The inhabitants of the sea are fish, shellfish, algae etc. They live by means of water, rocks, sand and all the other elements that characterize the sea floor.

Combining what we learned about ecosystems with a bit of imagination lets try to build an "aquarium in a box" trying to reproduce a small marine ecosystem: *the coral reef*.

This is what you have to do:

1. Using your colored pencils, color the bottom of the lid as if it were the sea floor.
2. Among all the elements proposed locate the ones that are part of the marine ecosystem and then color, cut and paste only those on your sea floor.
3. From a sheet of paper cut, with the help of an adult, a frame the size of the box. Then paste this frame on the edge of your aquarium.
4. On the cardboard of the empty box of cereal now you have to draw, color, and then cut out your fish.
5. On the fin of the small fish make a little hole, and then slip one thread in every hole.
6. On the top of your aquarium make a hole for every fish you have, and in every hole slip the thread of a fish.
7. Make a knot in each thread so the fish won't drop. You can then make your fish move up and down!

Surely all your aquariums will be very different. I am very curious to see what you have created! So remember to post a picture of your work in my web site!



