

Protect our ocean.

" by Grace B., 9th-grade student "



In French Polynesia, a team of young people is working hard to save coral reefs. They are called the "Coral Gardeners". Their mission is simple but so important: bringing coral reefs back to life.

It all started in 2017, when Titouan Bernicot a young man from Moorea realized the corals around his island were dying because of pollution, climate change and overfishing. With his friends, he decided to take action. Today, their team dives underwater to collect damaged corals fragments, grows them in underwater nurseries, and replants them on the reefs to help rebuild the ecosystem.

Why does this matter? Because coral reefs shelter 25% of marine life and protect coastlines from storms. Without them, entire ocean ecosystems are at risk.

In May, my 9th grade class went on a trip to visit them (the coral gardeners) in Moorea, it was an amazing experience! First the Coral Gardeners team gave us a presentation, they explained to us what they do; we learned why the coral reefs are important and why they need to be saved.

Then, we went into the water to help clean the corals, it was amazing to take part and see the corals up close.



In the end, we did a quizz to check what we had learned, it was fun and interesting. We all loved this day, and we left feeling motivated to help protect OUR ocean!