

CORALS:

WARM WATER VS. COLD WATER

Most people associate corals with warm, tropical waters—but did you know that a stunning variety of corals live off the coast in the decidedly chilly waters of the Pacific Northwest?

Warm-water corals:



Build reefs

Most species need clear water so light can reach the photosynthetic algae that provide nourishment

Live closer to the surface

Require water temperature of more than 64 degrees F



Cold-water corals:



Generally do not build reefs

Do not need sunlight to survive; they feed on plankton and organic particles

Are found at depths ranging from 10 feet to over 6,000 feet

Live in temperatures as low as 39 degrees



SEATTLE AQUARIUM

Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment

You can see both warm—and cold-water corals at the Seattle Aquarium!