

# Preserving Our Coral Reefs: Teams of Success

Donna Wissinger and Joy Myers, ARTZ OUT LOUD



## An Educator's Guide Grades 2-5

### **Welcome to the show!**

Music, visual art, participation, and beautiful media introduce students to the exciting STEAM careers that can save our planet and the teamwork that creates success in the reef and beyond. Our blue earth is 71% water; 95% is in our oceans! The ocean is a model, like the symphony orchestra of individuals, each with their role, working together for balance and beauty. One of the most important parts of the ocean is the coral reef, they are like the rainforests of the ocean! Although only 1% of the ocean, coral reefs support over 25% of all marine life on earth. Without the coral reefs, every form of marine life on earth is threatened with loss of habitat, food, and even extinction. In this STEAM and arts-integrated program, students, costumed as scientists, technologists, engineers, media artists and mathematicians, are coached by the artists to state their roles in rebuilding the reef. More students are costumed as the indicator species that reveal that the reef is rebuilt and healthy! Curriculum knowledge and the emotional connection of the arts help students to see their role in preserving their world.

**45 minutes**

# Before the show

Dear Teachers,

Students will gain confidence and have greater retention with some preparation if they are not currently immersed in ocean studies. It will also assist you in creating richer follow-up after the program. Please review the life science curriculum and the interdependence of organisms and the specific aspects related to coral reefs.

**Review of Knowledge:** some general science information for review and discussion

- Plants and animals, including humans, interact with and depend upon each other and their environment to satisfy their basic needs.
- Both human activities and natural events can have major impacts on the environment.
- Earth is home to a great diversity of living things, but changes in the environment can affect their survival.
- Individuals of the same kind often differ in their characteristics and sometimes the differences give individuals an advantage in surviving and reproducing.
- Recognize that animals cannot make their own food and they must eat plants or other animals to survive.
- Recognize that plants use energy from the Sun to make their food and animals eat plants or other animals for their food
- Recognize things that people do to help or hurt the environment, such as recycling and pollution.

**The artist uses the following definitions:**

- **Threatened:** Number of individuals in the species is becoming dangerously low
- **Endangered:** The number of individuals is on the brink of extinction; there are few to mate and loss of any one is critical to survival
- **Extinct:** There are no more living individuals of a species
- **Animal:** Species that can move from place to place, must find food to eat, has multiple cells that are encased in membrane

- **Plant:** Species that cannot move from place to place, can make its own food, has cell walls, and can turn sunlight into food
- **Zooxanthellae:** a type of algae that lives inside coral cells; the coral and zooxanthellae help each other to live; the zooxanthellae give coral its color
- **Polyps:** the living portion of corals, extract calcium from seawater and combine it with carbon dioxide to construct the limestone skeletons that form the reef backbone
- **Ichthyologist:** a person who studies fish

### **Important Plant and Animals of the Coral Reef**

- **Stony Coral:** the reef architects including staghorn, elkhorn and brain coral
- **Parrotfish:** the reef cleaners; they eat algae and dead coral keeping the reef in balance
- **Butterfly fish:** indicators of a healthy coral reef; they eat coral and help keep the reef in balance as they too are food for larger fish
- **Crabs:** they eat worms, snails, and algae helping to keep the reef in balance
- **Jellyfish:** provide safety for some smaller fish and are food for larger fish
- **Sharks:** the apex predator; they eat sick or injured fish keeping the reef healthy

### **Topics for Reflection**

- Why study life in the ocean? (Human life depends upon the health of the ocean for oxygen, food, and recreation)
- How do great teams work together in music, drama, sports, the environment? (Each has their role and each depend upon others for success).

### **Florida Standards that connect to the performance experience:**

- **SC.2.L.17.In.2:** Recognize that many different kinds of living things are found in different habitats.
- **SC.2.N.1.In.4:** Recognize that scientists work to solve problems.
- **SC.3.L.17.In.2:** Recognize that most plants make their own food.
- **SC.3.N.1.In.4:** Recognize that scientists share their knowledge and results with each other.
- **SC.4.L.17.In.2:** Recognize that animals cannot make their own food and they must eat plants or other animals to survive.

- **SC.4.L.17.In.3:** Recognize that plants (producers) use energy from the Sun to make their food and animals (consumers) eat plants or other animals for their food.
- **SC.4.L.17.In.4:** Recognize things that people do to help or hurt the environment, such as recycling and pollution.
- **SC.5.L.17.In.1:** Identify features of common plants and animals that enable them to survive in different habitats (environments).
- **SC.5.L.15.In.1:** Identify ways that plants and animals can be affected by changes in their habitats, such as lack of food or water, disease, or reduced space.
- **SC.5.L.15.Su.1:** Recognize ways that plants and animals can be affected by changes in their habitats, such as lack of food or water.

## Theater Etiquette

Dear Teachers,

Your excitement is an essential part of excellent preparation for students. Your students can also understand their role in creating a fun, rewarding, and exciting experience. Please review or explain the following:

- There are many chances to answer questions and participate. If hands are raised then everyone will have a chance to share what they know; this feels good and teaches awareness and self-control.
- Sometimes everyone will be invited to answer together, sometimes the artist will ask for raising hands. Be courteous and alert!



**Participation:** The artists ask questions that encourages thinking. Teachers can **practice skills in the classroom of speaking clearly and in a voice that can be heard by others.**

### **Performance Etiquette Reflection Activity**

For reflection: In what ways does the audience have a role in the performance?

- How is a performance different than watching TV?  
Remember that the performers are in the room with you and can hear you and feel your interest and actions.
- How does being involved increase your own enjoyment?

### **Information relating to performance genre and content**

For teachers: The artists use many dynamics, props, and tones in their voices to create interest and meaning. Every student will be honored for his or her answers and participation.



## **After the Show**

### **Language Arts and Science 2-5:**

1. Ask students to form a circle or groups describing their thoughts about the program or a specific STEAM career or species found in the reef using vocabulary from the program. Students can also describe how their actions could make a positive difference for ocean life. Upon cue from the teacher, another student continues their reflections upon the same topic or a change as directed by the teacher. The teacher can determine when to select another character or topic to continue as needed to engage all students. Teachers can ask students to provide examples that support their thoughts. This can also be done as a writing exercise.

- **LAFS.2.SL.1.AP.1a:** Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and text under discussion).
- **LAFS.2.SL.1.AP.1b:** Build on others' talk in conversations by linking their comments to the remarks of others.
- **LAFS.3.SL.1.AP.1c:** Link personal ideas and comments to the ideas shared by others in collaborative discussions.
- **LAFS.3.SL.1.AP.1d:** Express ideas and understanding in light of collaborative discussions.
- **LAFS.4.SL.2.AP.4a:** Report on a topic, story or claim with a logical sequence of ideas, appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details.
- **LAFS.5.SL.1.AP.1d:** Elaborate and build on others' ideas using textual evidence to support their own ideas.

2. Use a similar exercise through small group discussion and sharing of ideas through presentation regarding the role of STEAM careers.

3. Ask students to write a narrative about their favorite STEAM career or species and their actions.

### **LAFS.4.W.1.2**

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

4. Ask students to research various accounts or perspectives of climate change or other human activities and their effects on the coral reefs and ocean health.

### **LAFS.5.RI.2.6**

Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent.

5. Ask students to complete the Inventory of Learning as teams or individually to further solidify knowledge. Ask students to elaborate upon questions 3 and 6.

6. Ask students to share their impressions of the program and what parts they enjoyed and why.



## **Inventory of Learning: Choose the best answer**

1. **Coral are:**     **a. plants    b. animals    c. rocks.**

2. **Coral need:**

a. warm temperatures between

b. clear water

c. a & b

3. **Indicators species:**

a. tell us the coral are doing well when there are many of them

b. let us know the reef is dead when there are plenty of them

4. **Extinct means there are no more of a species.**

True

False

5. **Choose the incorrect meaning**

a. Extinct: a few individuals left in a species

b. Endangered: few numbers of a species; without intervention may become extinct

6. **We are each responsible for:**

a. the writing of our life stories

b. depending upon others to live our lives for us

c. we have no responsibility for our life stories

## About the Artist

**Flutist Donna Wissinger** has been called a '*flutist of rare gifts*' by the New York Times. Her concerts include acclaimed solo recitals on the mainstages of **Carnegie Hall** and on the equally renowned **Glinka Capella** in St. Petersburg, Russia. Featured tours have included Europe, Asia, The Middle East, Australia, and New Zealand.

Donna's great passion is combining fun and real learning for unforgettable educational programs. Her programs, including *The Pied Piper and other Fantastic Tales*, *Peter and the Wolf*, *The World Turned Upside Down: Music of the American Revolution*, *Tales of Legendary Florida*, and *Preserving Our Coral Reefs: Teams of Success* and the accompanying programs with orchestra receive rave reviews.

Donna is the inaugural recipient of the prestigious **Doris Leeper Award for Excellence in Arts Education** and is a premier artist with Creative Leaps International; the Florida Touring Program; and The New York based Learning Arts. Donna enjoys being fit. She is a USPTA tennis professional, a long distance runner, and an internationally ranked USTA long distance triathlete. Her bicycle/flute performance tour of cycling 2000 miles and playing 82 concerts from NYC to Miami was featured on the National Geographic Channel. To learn more visit [www.donnawissinger.com](http://www.donnawissinger.com).

