Artificial Reefs

Man-made underwater structure with the purpose of creating habitat similar to natural reefs. The Texas Clipper became an artificial reef on November 17, 2007, located approximately 17 nautical miles (31 km) NE of South Padre Island, TX.

Mesophotic Reefs

Ecosystems found at depths between 100-490ft below the ocean surface. Examples of communities include corals, sponges, and algae.

Reef Exploration

Scuba
Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)
Human Occupied Vehicles (HOVs)
Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs)

Activity:

Identify these organisms in the 360 image from the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.
https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/vr/flower-garden-banks/barrel-sponge.html

- *Pseudodiploria strigosa*  
  Symmetrical Brain Coral  

- *Orricella franksi*  
  Boulder Star Coral  

- *Orricella annularis*  
  Lobed Star Coral  

- *Xestospongia muta*  
  Giant Barrel Sponge  

- *Thalassoma bifasciatum*  
  Bluehead Wrasse  

- *Madracis auretenra*  
  Yellow Pencil Coral