

The Natural Processes Behind White Sand and Coral Reefs

With the passage of time, the movement of the waves grinds down the skeletons and shells of various living things—corals, fish, shellfish, sea urchins, and seaweed (coralline algae)— and transforms them into white sand. As the carcasses accumulate, they also turn into limestone, resulting in the formation of a topographic feature known as a **coral reef**.