An underwater photograph of a large, light-colored fish, possibly a snapper, swimming through a dense coral reef. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through the coral, creating a dappled light effect. The fish is the central focus, moving from the left towards the right of the frame.

**STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR
THE HEALTH OF THE CORAL REEFS IN
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**A presentation by the
Environmental Rangers
for the
U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting**

THE ENVIRONMENTAL RANGERS



- ARE YOUTH LEARNING HOW TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

A photograph of a lush green hillside with several houses scattered across it. In the foreground, there are dense green trees and a river. The sky is overcast.

You may ask why would the youth be concerned about the environment?

We would ask you, why is your home important?

Many would say:

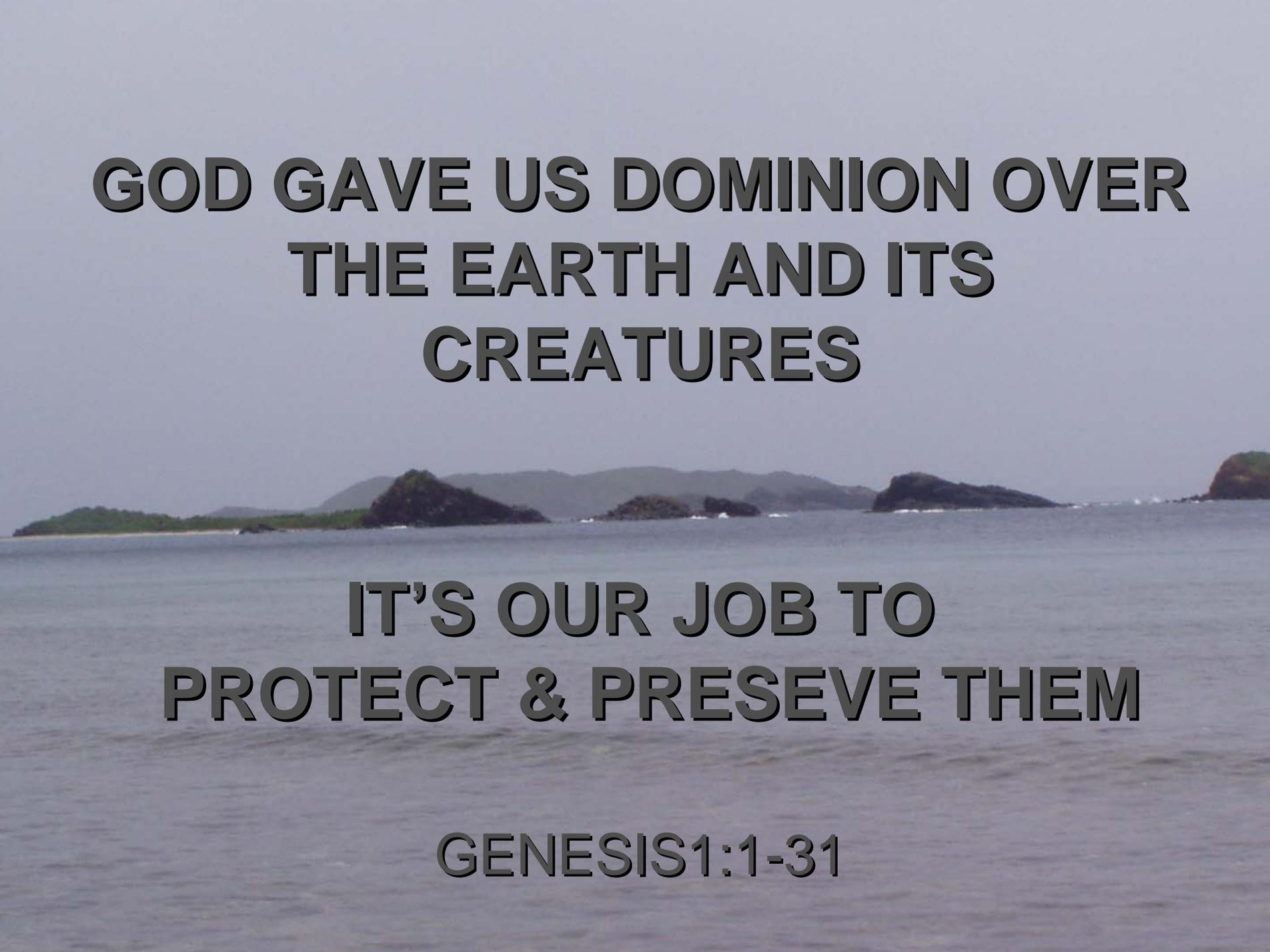
- Our home is important because:
- it provides us with shelter, security, and a place to store our food and our daily necessities needed to survive.
- it becomes our sanctuary, because it protects us from the elements.

An underwater scene with a teal-green tint. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, textured rock covered in coral. To the right, there is a dense patch of green seagrass. Numerous fish of various species are swimming throughout the water. The text "Most importantly" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

Most importantly

The Environment is our Heritage

- Our generation is keenly aware of and has been affected by current environmental problems.
- and



**GOD GAVE US DOMINION OVER
THE EARTH AND ITS
CREATURES**

**IT'S OUR JOB TO
PROTECT & PRESEVE THEM**

GENESIS1:1-31

Therefore

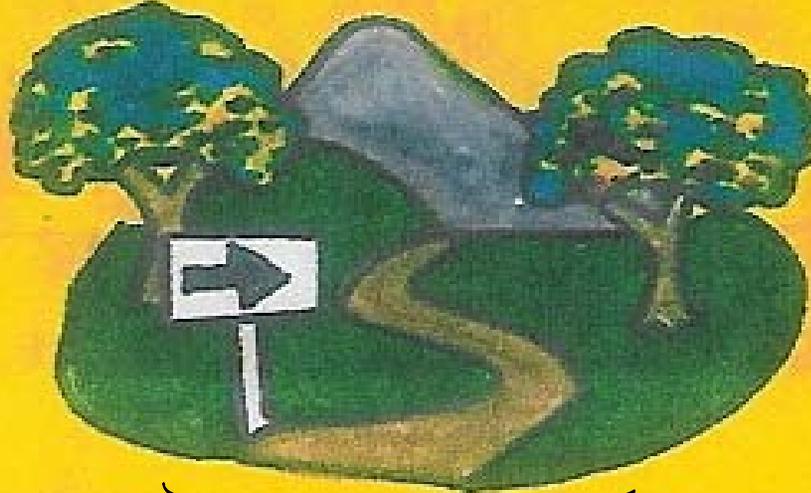
We have taken the stand to get involved
in the protection of our sensitive
ecosystems.

- We are

Environmental Rangers

UMOJA - UNITY

**WITH NATURE PROMOTES
UNITY AMONG MEN**



YOUTH
Choosing the Path to
Protect and Preserve

Coral Reefs are one of our most important and sensitive ecosystems in the Virgin Islands.





**We are taking several actions to protect
and make a difference in the health of
coral reefs.**

First we educate our selves about the coral reef, and what effects it.



- Environmentalist & Conversationalists from the EPA , CZM, Energy, Fish & Wildlife and UVI have given lectures and demonstrations in class.

We explore St. Thomas learning how others are protecting our environment



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Energy & Water conservation

We take trips off Island to learn from Scientists



2003 V.I. Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference in St. John



Earth Day 2004 at the Botanical Gardens in St. Croix



Each year students learn how recycling of glass, & paper will reduce NPS pollution which affects the reef

Maho Bay workshop in St. John

A visit to the NOAA Research Ship the Nancy Foster in St. Croix taught Rangers about sea floor mapping, and identification of the types of organisms on the coral reef.



Information is gathered on the benefits of Alternative energy & waste water recycling, and how it can benefit the health of our ecosystems.



Alternative sources of energy



Constructed wet land to recycle waste water



Our studies also include observations of how development affects the coast.



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As we learn, we also teach



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- An aerial photograph showing a lush green forested coastline. In the foreground, a dense thicket of green trees covers a hillside. A small, brown, irregularly shaped lagoon or mangrove area is situated within the forest. The coastline curves along the edge of the forest, meeting a clear, turquoise ocean. In the background, a larger body of water is visible, with some buildings and a road on a distant shore. The overall scene illustrates the connection between land ecosystems and the ocean.
- We have learned that ecosystems work together.
 - What we do on land greatly affects the ocean.

Thus, we promote agriculture as a solution to



Global warming, air pollution, erosion and sediment run off



To insure that V.I. coral reefs continue to provide a habitat and shelter for a variety of marine animals.



- We monitor causes of Non-Point Source Pollution, to ensure our reefs don't end up like this reef.



We are monitoring Coral Reefs such as this one on Tutu Bay



- To help them recover from sediment run off, we have planted ground cover.



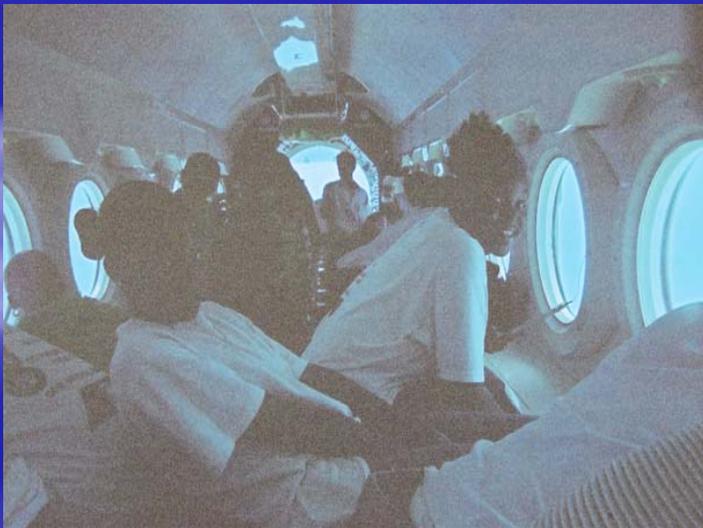
By cleaning up the beaches we protect the coral reef from NPS



- Thus, they can provide a place for us to have fun in a natural ecosystem.



We monitor NPS on the shore and under the sea



Mandahl Bay “Salt Pond” and Beach

- This Mangrove lagoon is one of our special areas of interest and study.
- It is one of the last pristine spots in St. Thomas.



Our study in this area has shown how well ecosystems work together.

- Coral reefs help protect Mangroves from rough waves, and Mangroves protect the reef from sediment runoff.



Rangers have made observations for several years to monitor changes in the ecosystem which will affect the health of the coral reef



Tides change & mangrove growth



Effects of NPS on the coral reef



WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO PROTECT THIS AREA OF PARTICULAR CONCERN



Study, Monitoring, clean up, education, & fun



As an activist group we also protest and encourage Government Officials to protect the environment for future generations.



We congratulate others when they work to protect our environment

- Our 2005 Earth Day Awards went to Andrea King & Senator P. Hill
- Our 2006 Earth Day Award went to Helen Gjessing for over 30 years of teaching about and fighting for the environment.



Thank you for all helping to protect and preserve our environment!





In order to put into practice what we have learned, the Environmental Rangers are helping to establishing an Eco-campground.

Camp Umoja

Is providing a place for youth to have fun and learn about protecting the environment at the same time.



These were just a few ways in which the Environmental Rangers show their concern for the health of the coral



Now won't you join the

ENVIRONMENTAL RANGERS

In

Protecting and Preserving

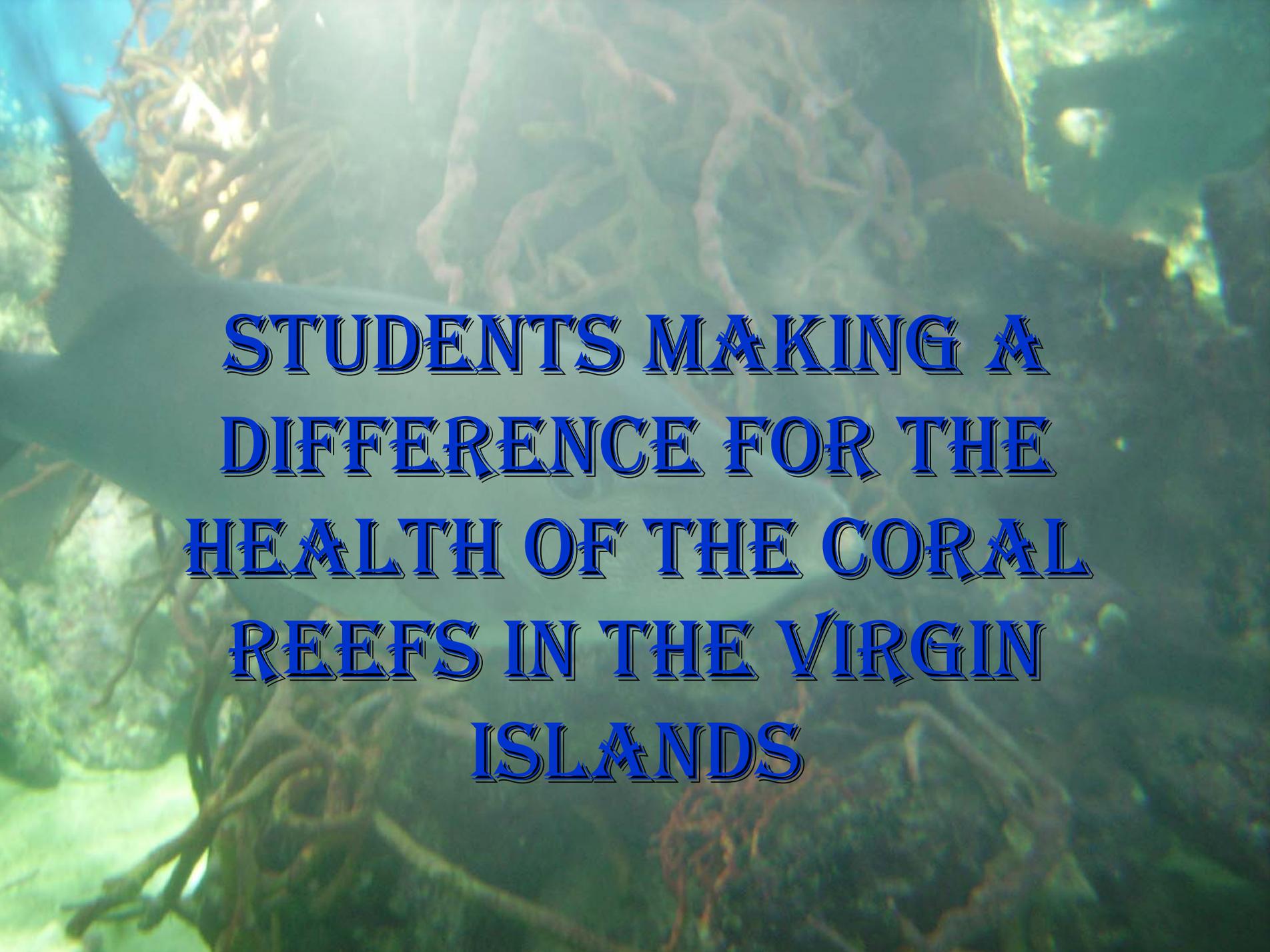
our

Historical, Cultural

&

Environmental Heritage



An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from above, creating a dappled light effect on the coral. The coral structures are diverse, including branching and table corals. The overall scene is vibrant and healthy.

**STUDENTS MAKING A
DIFFERENCE FOR THE
HEALTH OF THE CORAL
REEFS IN THE VIRGIN
ISLANDS**

Thank you for your time and support
Please stop by our display and sign our
petitions to help protect our sensitive
ecosystems.





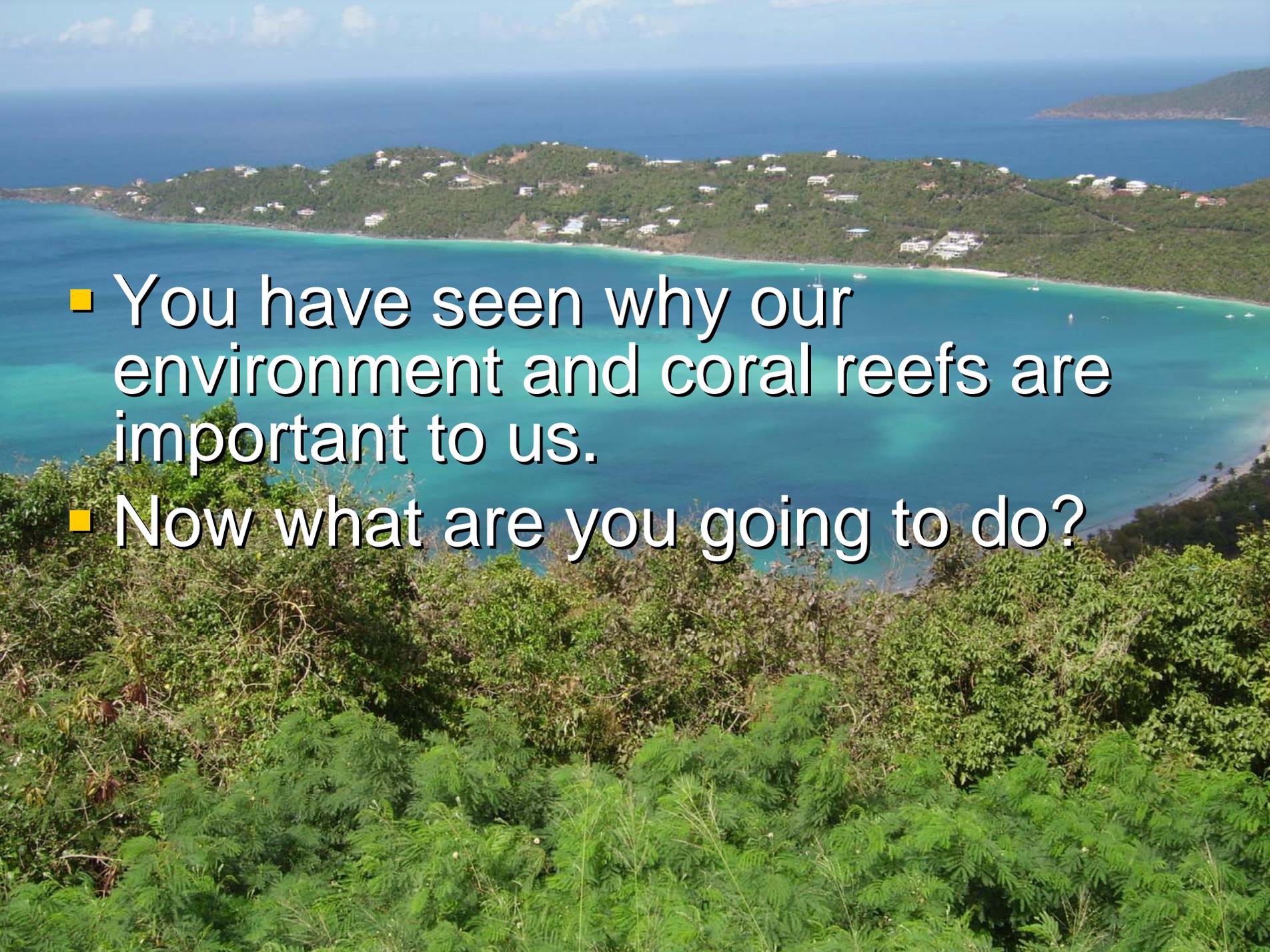
Environmental Ranger Activities Include

- Educating ourselves and others about the coral reefs & other sensitive ecosystems
- School, Community, & Beach, clean-ups, study, and monitoring
- Participating in Environmental & Cultural Fairs
- Conducting workshops and Award programs for adults who are helping to preserve a heritage for us.

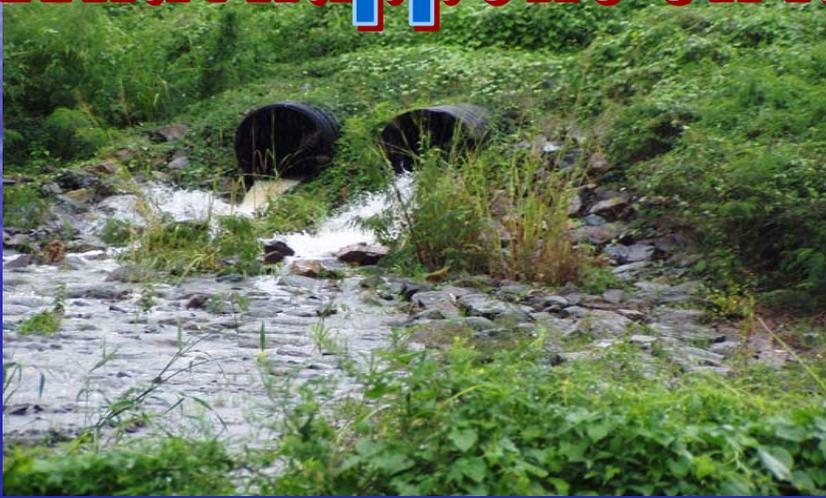
- We take part in community discussions and protest to ensure the protection of our ecosystems
- We practice environmental safety techniques
- We are establishing an eco-camp to demonstrate healthy environmental practices, and Eco-tourism.





- 
- You have seen why our environment and coral reefs are important to us.
 - Now what are you going to do?

What happens on land affects the ocean



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