

INVENTOR OF THE REEF BALL

Environmental Innovation Activity



1. Have your students read about and discuss Todd Barber and his Reef Ball invention. ACTIVITIES

Todd Barber is the inventor of the Reef Ball. Todd, an avid scuba diver, was concerned with the coral reefs he loved to explore. The coral reefs were quickly being destroyed by fisherman, divers, boats, natural disasters like hurricanes, and pollution. Todd set out to invent something that would mimic a natural reef, allowing fish, coral and other marine life to use the new structure as a habitat.

After trial and error, Todd created what is now known as Reef Balls. The balls are made of concrete and fiberglass strands with openings and channels perfect for small marine life. To date, more than 500,000 Reef Balls have been created for more than 3,400 projects worldwide. His invention may very well help save the earth's coral reefs. Todd and The Reef Ball Foundation have been awarded the 2005 Environment Award Laureate for their coral reef conservation effort. He has also established a grant program for schools and communities to save their coral reefs using the reef ball system.

Todd was passionate about scuba diving and did not want to lose the beautiful coral reef habitats.

2. Have students think of things they love to do that involve nature. Is any habitat or animal they love in danger of being damaged by pollution, people, natural disasters, etc.? Create a web of students' ideas.
3. Have students use the web to brainstorm possible solutions to help troubled habitats/animals.

Technology Connection:

There are numerous grants and conservation efforts designed for children who want to help save their local environment. Your local state Department of Natural Resources website should have links to grants and conservation efforts specific to the needs of your area. Explore these websites with your students. Find a project you and your students could carry out to assist in making your hometown environment a healthier and environmentally happier place.