

FORM 3 GEOGRAPHY NOTE 7

RELIEF

Relief is the physical shape of the Earth's surface.

Relief describes the shape of the land including the height and steepness.

It is also known as **landforms**.

i. CORAL ISLANDS

- Islands that are formed from coral (feo)
- Coral is formed by small organisms called **polyps**.
- These small organisms form these islands for over millions of years.
- These creatures live in water that is shallow, warm, clear and salty.
- These organisms grow and extract salt from the sea and build it into hard outer skeletons of limestone.

2 types of coral islands found in Tonga.

1. Low coral islands
2. Raised coral islands

Features of a low coral island

- Low lying and flat surface
 - Coastal areas are flat with lagoons
 - Suitable for landing areas
 - Easy to build wharves
 - Low hills
 - May have swampy areas
 - Along the coast there are white sandy beaches.
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- An **example** of a low coral island is **Haápai Island group**.

Features of a raised coral island

- High coastal cliffs
 - Flat topped
 - May have hills, caves and blowholes
 - Rugged land surface
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- An **example** of a raised coral island is **'Eua Island**.

TYPES OF CORAL REEFS

There are 3 major types of reefs.

1. Fringing Reefs
2. Barrier Reefs
3. Atolls



Barrier Reefs

A barrier reef is a coral reef parallel to the shore but is separated by a channel of water.



Atolls

An atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef, consisting of a coral rim that encircles a lagoon.



Fringing Reefs

A fringing reef is a reef that forms around a land mass.

ACTIVITY 1: Use your notes to answer the questions below.

1. Name the 2 types of coral islands found in Tonga.
2. Explain how coral islands are formed.
3. Describe a feature of a coral island.
4. Name an example of a coral island in Tonga.
5. Name the 3 major types of reefs.
6. Define each reef type.
 - i. Barrier
 - ii. Atoll
 - iii. Fringing