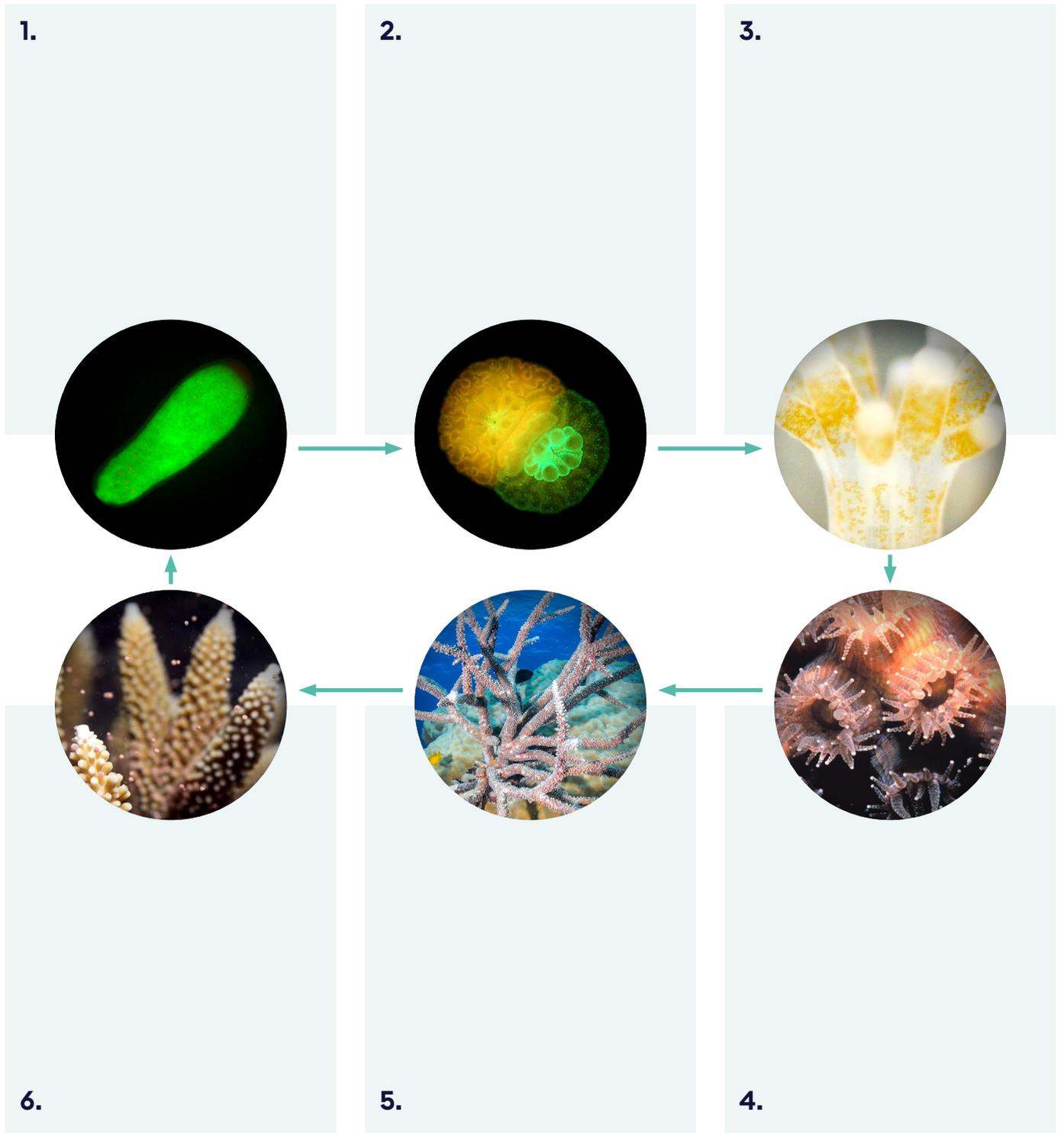


Coral life cycle



STUDENT SHEET

Cut and stick the answers, matching them to the correct section of the coral life cycle

As the polyp grows, it divides into two smaller identical polyps. These polyps grow and divide as well. This process is called 'budding'.

The fertilised egg develops into a coral larva that lives in the open water. A coral larva is known as a planula.

The planula develops into a small polyp and settles on the seafloor. It follows chemical signals to find the best spot.

Once it is attached to the sea-floor, the polyp develops into a full adult and begins to build a hard structure.

As the coral polyps bud and make their structures, each species forms a different shape. This staghorn coral grows like the horns of a deer.

Most corals spawn once a year, releasing eggs and sperm into the open water to fertilise.

