1. The competition theme is “why are coral reefs and oceans important?": children are asked to design an image that best describes what the Year of the Reef means to them.

2. The competition is open to any child aged 4 – 17 years old. Only one entry per child.

3. Children must use the official entry form to submit designs (there is only one version of the official entry form available to download on the British Indian Ocean Territory Administration’s website).

4. Each entry must be hand drawn by the child, must be completely the child’s own original work and must not copy any other work. Drawings which copy other artwork will be disqualified. Drawings must be flat, so no collages, materials or textures. Please also avoid the use of fluorescent inks or highlighter pens.

5. Children may use drawing packages on a computer or tablet as long as no part of the design is computer enhanced or generated. For example, the use of clip-art is not allowed. Entries in a digital format will not be accepted, so please ask children to design directly onto the competition entry form, or alternatively, to print out designs and affix to the official entry form in the blank space.

6. Please encourage children to use lots of colour (no black and white images please) and to use up as much of the white space in their design as possible. The actual stamps will have a white border around the winning designs, as is usual on most stamps and the final stamp size will be around 4x3cm.

7. Please ask children NOT to draw The Queen’s head, or the 1st or 2nd class symbols, or any value within the design area. These will be inserted by the printer: The Queen’s head will be located in the top right-hand corner, the value will be in the top left-hand corner and the name of the Territory (British Indian Ocean Territory) will be at the base of the design.

8. All designs should be drawn within the template on the official A4 entry form.

9. After the designs have been completed, please ensure that the name of the child, address, age and parent/ guardian’s signature have been added on each entry form.

10. Entries together with the consent forms should be sent to the British Indian Ocean Territory Administration, Overseas Territories Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.

11. All competition entries must be received by 5pm Friday 11 May 2018. Unfortunately the British Indian Ocean Territory Administration cannot return any entries to you.

12. Please do not email entries, they must be posted to the address above.

13. The British Indian Ocean Territory Administration accepts no responsibility for entries that are not received for any reason.

14. The competition prize will be having their design featured in the “Year of the Reef” issue of stamps for the British Indian Ocean Territory. There will be four winning designs, one from each of the following age categories: 4-6 years; 7-9 years; 10-13 years; and 14-17 years. Each winner will
receive a framed copy of the first issue First Day Cover (which will feature all of the winning stamps) together with two unframed First Day Covers and a certificate from the Commissioner of the British Indian Ocean Territory. The British Indian Ocean Territory Administration retains the right to decide which design goes on which type of stamp and value. Please note that designs may be cropped and altered for the final stamps.

15. The winners will be notified by the British Indian Ocean Territory Administration by post, by 1 July 2018.

16. Entries, including the child's name, age, village/town/city/county/region may be used to publicise the competition across various media platforms. The winning entries will be used on the “Year of the Reef” issue of stamps for the British Indian Ocean Territory.

17. The British Indian Ocean Territory Administration reserves the right to hold, void, cancel, suspend or amend the competition or terms and conditions where it becomes necessary to do so.

18. The prizes are not transferable and there is no cash alternative.

19. The British Indian Ocean Territory Administration’s decision on any aspect of the competition is final and binding.