

Great Barrier Reef Worksheet – World Book Student

The Great Barrier Reef is considered an area of unique importance in the world. Find information on the Great Barrier Reef on World Book Online and see if you can find the answers to the following questions!

1. Go to www.worldbookonline.com

2. Click on **Student** 

3. Search for **Great Barrier Reef** in the search box and click the **Search** button.

Click on the **Great Barrier Reef** article and answer the following questions:

1. How many individual reefs are in the Great Barrier Reef?
2. How big is the Great Barrier Reef?
3. What ocean animals form the limestone structures of the Great Barrier Reef? How many species of this animal occur on the reef?
4. When did the Great Barrier Reef start forming?
5. What period interrupted the formation of the Great Barrier Reef?
6. How does the United Nations recognise the Great Barrier Reef?
7. What does the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority do?
8. What are some of the threats to the reef?
9. What causes 'bleaching'?
10. What is the Australian government doing to try and save the Great Barrier Reef?

Did You Know?

- Looking for Nemo? Take a look in the Great Barrier Reef. Clownfish or anemonefish live in the reef. To learn more about the clownfish click here:
<https://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar753144>

Learn More!

- Learn more about coral reefs, here:
<https://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar749237>
- Learn more about how global warming is affecting other ecosystems, here:
<https://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar226310>

ANSWER KEY:

1. There are more than 3,000 individual reefs in the Great Barrier Reef.
2. The Great Barrier Reef extends 2,300km along the northeast coast of Australia.
3. Corals form the limestone structures of the Great Barrier Reef. There are over 400 coral species on the reef.
4. The Great Barrier Reef began forming millions of years ago.
5. The Ice Age interrupted the formation of the Great Barrier Reef. The ocean level was lower than it is today, and the reef was above water.
6. The United Nations recognises the Great Barrier Reef as a World Heritage Site, an area of unique or cultural importance.
7. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority work to protect the reef.
8. There are several threats to the reef, these are: coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish that invade the reef; pollution from land and rivers; bleaching caused by global warming.
9. Unusually high water temperatures caused by global warming have caused many coral species to lose their zooxanthellae, turn white, and die prematurely.
10. In 2004, the Australian Parliament passed a law that prohibits all commercial activities, except tourism, in one-third of the reef's area.