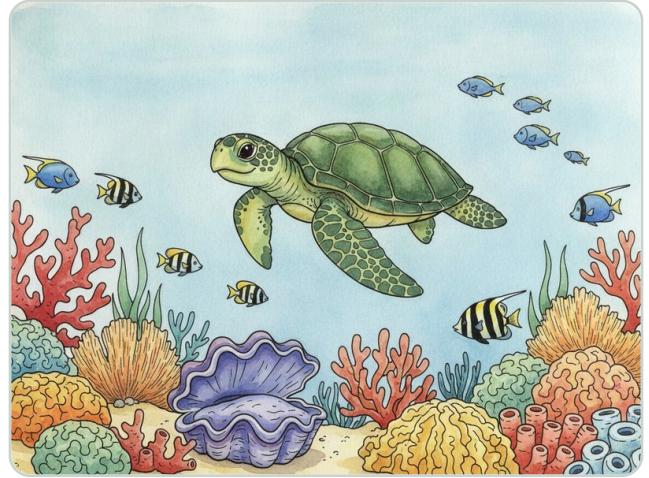


The Great Barrier Reef

Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 Off the northeast coast of Australia, the warm, clear ocean hides a wonder. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world, and it is full of living things.
- 2 The reef is enormous. It stretches for more than 1,400 miles along the coast. It is not one single reef but nearly 3,000 smaller reefs that lie close together. Astronauts can even see it from space.
- 3 Tiny animals built the reef. These animals, called coral polyps, are related to jellyfish, and most are smaller than your fingernail. Each polyp builds a hard, stony cup around its soft body. When polyps die, new ones build on top of the old cups. Over thousands of years, the cups have piled up into huge walls of rock.
- 4 The reef is home to an amazing number of animals. More than 1,500 kinds of fish swim among the coral. Sea turtles, sharks, giant clams, and sea stars live there too. The coral gives them food and safe places to hide.
- 5 The reef is in danger, and people are working to protect it. When ocean water gets too warm, coral turns white and may die. Pollution that washes off the land can hurt it as well. Australia has made the reef a protected park, and scientists are working to keep it healthy.



The Great Barrier Reef: Questions

Go back to the text to find your proof. Underline it in the color shown.

1. What is the topic of this text?

- ☐ astronauts
- ☐ the Great Barrier Reef
- ☐ jellyfish

2. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?

red

- ☐ The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world, and it is full of living things.
- ☐ Giant clams live in the ocean.
- ☐ Australia has a long coast.

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

orange

- ☐ Jellyfish have soft bodies.
- ☐ A fingernail is small.
- ☐ Tiny animals built the reef.

4. Write two details from paragraph 4 that tell more about its main idea.

yellow

5. What is paragraph 5 mostly about?

green

6. Which detail does NOT belong in this text?

- ☐ Camels can go a long time without water.
- ☐ Coral polyps build hard, stony cups.
- ☐ The reef is more than 1,400 miles long.

The Great Barrier Reef: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The proof is where to find each answer in the text.

1. What is the topic of this text?

- ☐ astronauts
- ☒ **the Great Barrier Reef**
- ☐ jellyfish

Proof The topic is named in the title and comes up in every paragraph.

2. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?

red

- ☒ **The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world, and it is full of living things.**
- ☐ Giant clams live in the ocean.
- ☐ Australia has a long coast.

Proof Paragraph 1: “The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world, and it is full of living things.”

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

orange

- ☐ Jellyfish have soft bodies.
- ☐ A fingernail is small.
- ☒ **Tiny animals built the reef.**

Proof Paragraph 3: “Tiny animals built the reef.”

4. Write two details from paragraph 4 that tell more about its main idea.

yellow

More than 1,500 kinds of fish swim among the coral. Sea turtles, sharks, giant clams, and sea stars live there too.

5. What is paragraph 5 mostly about?

green

The dangers to the reef and how people are working to protect it.

6. Which detail does NOT belong in this text?

- ☒ **Camels can go a long time without water.**
- ☐ Coral polyps build hard, stony cups.
- ☐ The reef is more than 1,400 miles long.

Proof It is not about the topic of the text.