

Name: _____

The Great Barrier Reef

Australian Features of Places



The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world – so big it can be seen from space! It stretches over 2,300 kilometres along the east coast of Australia. The reef is home to thousands of different species of fish, sea turtles, and other sea creatures. It provides a home for many marine animals and helps protect coastlines from waves.

People from all over the world visit the Great Barrier Reef to explore its vibrant coral and lively fish up close. When visiting the reef, tourists can go snorkelling, scuba diving, sailing, island hopping, partake in glass-bottom boat tours and conservation education programs.

The greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef is climate change. Rising ocean temperatures lead to coral bleaching, which occurs when corals expel the algae that give them colour and provide them with food. This weakens the coral and can lead to their death if temperatures remain high for extended periods. Other significant threats include water pollution from agricultural runoff, overfishing, and coastal development, which can all negatively impact the health of the reef ecosystem. Conservation efforts are essential to protect the reef from these threats and ensure its survival.

1 The Great Barrier Reef is on which Australian coastline?

- ☐ West
☐ East



2 List three activities tourists can do at the Great Barrier Reef:

3 Describe one threat to the Great Barrier Reef:

4 Describe ways in which we can care for the Great Barrier Reef:

