

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Amazing World of the Great Barrier Reef

Have you ever heard of the Great Barrier Reef? It's not just a reef; it's a world of wonder beneath the ocean's surface. Let's dive in and explore this incredible natural wonder!

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef system on Earth. It's so massive that it can even be seen from space! Located off the coast of Australia, this natural wonder stretches over 1,400 miles. That's longer than the entire west coast of the United States!

Now, you might be wondering what makes the Great Barrier Reef so special. Well, it's not just one giant coral structure; it's made up of thousands of individual reefs and islands. These reefs are built by tiny creatures called coral polyps. These polyps create hard, calcium carbonate skeletons that form the base structure of the reef.

The Great Barrier Reef is a haven for marine life. It's home to over 1,500 species of fish, including clownfish, which you might recognize from the movie "Finding Nemo." You can also find sea turtles, dolphins, and even sharks swimming in these waters.

One of the most remarkable things about the Great Barrier Reef is its vibrant and colorful coral formations. Corals come in various shapes, sizes, and colors. They create a beautiful underwater landscape, resembling a bustling city with corals of all shapes and sizes.

Not only is the Great Barrier Reef a stunning place to look at, but it's also essential to the health of our planet. It acts as a natural barrier, protecting the coastline of Australia from powerful ocean waves and storms. Additionally, it supports the livelihoods of many people who rely on the reef for fishing and tourism.



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### Questions

1. Where is the Great Barrier Reef located?
  - A. Off the coast of Australia
  - B. Off the coast of Africa
  - C. Off the coast of South America
2. What are coral reefs made of?
  - A. Sand
  - B. Calcium carbonate
  - C. Seashells
3. How long is the Great Barrier Reef?
  - A. 1,400 miles
  - B. 100 miles
  - C. 10 miles
4. What is one species of fish you can find in the Great Barrier Reef?
  - A. Goldfish
  - B. Piranha
  - C. Clownfish
5. Why is the Great Barrier Reef important?
  - A. It's a place for surfing competitions.
  - B. It's a famous location for treasure hunting.
  - C. It protects the coastline from waves and storms.