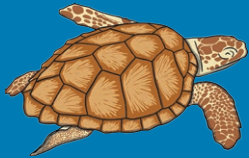


The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef:

- ✱ Is the world's largest reef system. It is composed of over 2,900 individual reefs.
- ✱ Has over 900 islands stretching for over 2,600 kilometres and can be seen from outer space!
- ✱ Has thirty species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises and six species of sea turtles come to the reef to breed.



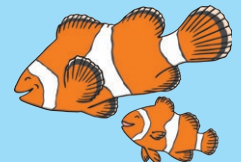
215 species of birds (including 22 species of seabirds and 32 species of shorebirds) visit the reef or nest or roost on the islands.



- ✱ There are seventeen species of sea snake.
- ✱ There are more than 1,500 fish species.
- ✱ There's around 10 percent of the world's total fish species.
- ✱ There are at least 330 species of ascidians.



The Great Barrier Reef is an extremely ancient, enormous host of living things, composed of living coral growing on dead coral dating back perhaps as much as twenty million years.



There are some threats toward the Great Barrier Reef, and climate change is perhaps the biggest threat.

