

The Great Barrier Reef

FACT FILE

The Great Barrier Reef is located to the north-east of the Australian coastline and is the largest reef system in the world.

One of the 7 Wonders of the Natural World!



Size

The Great Barrier Reef spans over 2300kms and is the only living thing on earth visible from space. It is 65km wide at its widest, and 2000 meters at its deepest. It contains around 3,000 individual reefs.

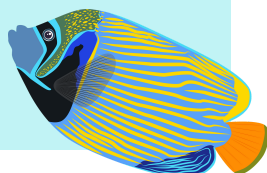
LIFE ON THE REEF

More than 9,000 species call the Great Barrier Reef home.



Threats

- Rising sea temperatures due to climate change
- Pollution
- Overfishing
- Cyclones
- Crown of Thorns Starfish



Formation

Reefs are living things. They are very slow growing. The Great Barrier Reef is thought to be 20 million years old. It started off as a coral larvae, which attached itself to a hard surface, then reproduced from there.

