

5 Underwater world

Before you read

1. Would you like to try snorkelling or scuba-diving? Why or why not?
2. Which countries are popular places to scuba-dive and snorkel?
3. Do you know where the Great Barrier Reef is?

Reading

- 1 The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world. It is off the coast of Queensland, in north-eastern Australia, and it is 2,000 kilometres long. The Great Barrier Reef is not just one reef. It is almost 3,000 reefs and islands!
- 2 The reef is a beautiful place. Some people describe it as an underwater garden. The corals that form the reef are very colourful. Some of them look like plants, but they are not plants. They are made of thousands of tiny animals that are joined together. Corals can only live in warm, clean, sea water with lots of light. They feed at night, taking food from the water as it goes past.
- 3 Even more colourful than the corals are the fish that live in the reef. Some are one or two bright colours, like blue or yellow. Others have three or more colours, such as blue, green and pink. Some have stripes and some have spots. One fish is white, black and yellow with red spots. The colours and patterns on some fish change as they grow.
- 4 The Great Barrier Reef is one of Australia's most popular holiday places. More than 2 million people visit the reef each year, so it has to be looked after very carefully. In many places people are not allowed to fish. Luckily the fish and the other animals on the reef are so interesting that most people are happy just to look at them!

Vocabulary

A. Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase.

coral reef coast bright underwater patterns

1. My dream holiday is to rent a beach house on the south _____.
The weather down there is perfect.
2. Last year I took some diving lessons. We swam around a beautiful _____. It was amazing!
3. Frogs are amazing animals. They can breathe on land and _____.
4. Butterflies are beautiful animals. I love the coloured _____ on their wings.
5. The sun is so _____ today. I'd better put on my sunglasses.

In other words

A. What is the main purpose of the passage? Circle 1, 2 or 3.

1. To describe the Great Barrier Reef.
2. To explain why the Great Barrier Reef is popular with tourists.
3. To explain why the Great Barrier Reef needs to be looked after carefully.

B. Match each heading to the correct paragraph in the passage.

1. Paragraph _____ What is the Great Barrier Reef?
2. Paragraph _____ An underwater rainbow.
3. Paragraph _____ Animal or vegetable?

General understanding

Circle T for true or F for false for each of the following statements.

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| 1. The largest coral reef in the world is off the coast of South Africa. | T / F |
| 2. Almost 3,000 reefs and islands make up the Great Barrier Reef. | T / F |
| 3. Corals are a type of plant. | T / F |
| 4. Corals live in deep, dark water. | T / F |