

Lesson 8 – Worksheet 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Great Barrier Reef



The Great Barrier Reef is made up of more than 2,800 coral reefs which spread over 350, 000 square kilometres. It is the richest marine resource in the world. There are hundreds of islands and about 350 different kinds of corals with 1,500 different kinds of fish and 4, 000 different kinds of shellfish living among the coral polyps. Many other marine animals such as flat worms, sea cucumbers and turtles depend on the Reef. Birds feed on the fish and other creatures.

It takes millions of years for a coral reef to grow. Once damaged or destroyed, the finely balanced systems that support the wealth of animals and plants living there cannot be recreated. Damage to the coral also means loss of habitat for the other living creatures.

The United Nations has listed the Great Barrier Reef for World Heritage listing and is concerned about its health. The Reefs is the world’s biggest World Heritage area. The United Nations recommends that there be more high protection areas in the Reef, more management resources for the Marine Park Authority and better control over inappropriate activities and development of land.

1. Do you think the Great Barrier Reef Should be protected? Yes/No
2. Why?

3. Which groups are trying to protect the Reef?
