

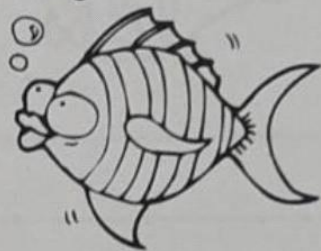
Reading Comprehension

Name: _____

Due Date: _____

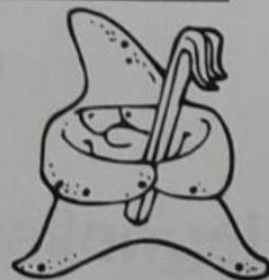
One of the world's greatest natural wonders is the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Queensland in Australia. It is a lengthy mass of coral extending for about 2 000 km along the Pacific coast of this huge state. The reef includes hundreds of small coral islands, particularly in its southern section. The coral is formed from the skeletons of millions of tiny sea creatures called polyps which only survive at certain depths and in warm tropical or sub-tropical waters. Tourists who visit the island resorts are amazed at the thousands of colourful fish found on the reef which is a scuba-diver's paradise and a haven for endangered animals like the dugong.

Unfortunately, the sheer number of tourists is causing harm to the reef. Protection from the 'crown of thorns' starfish is also needed to reduce the damage done in recent years. Scientific research also shows that chemicals such as farm fertilisers which flow to the ocean through Queensland's river systems can eventually have a serious effect on the reef.



1. All the clues to your answers are in the passage above.

- (a) Give an antonym from the passage for 'short'. _____
- (b) Paragraph two is all about **chemicals** ☐, **problems** ☐, **tourists** ☐.
- (c) Which creatures help to form the coral? _____
- (d) Which word in the passage means places for holidays? _____
- (e) There are fewer islands in the **northern** ☐, **southern** ☐ part of the reef.
- (f) Give a synonym from the passage for 'astonished'. _____
- (g) A type of **fish** ☐, **starfish** ☐, **dugong** ☐ attacks the reef.
- (h) Which creature of the reef could become extinct? _____
- (i) There are too many **polyps** ☐, **fish** ☐, **tourists** ☐ on the reef.
- (j) The Great Barrier Reef is the world's most important area.
Fact ☐ or **opinion** ☐.



Challenge!

- 1. (a) Which word tells us the reef is not made by humans? _____
- (b) Which ocean laps the Queensland coast? _____
- (c) Coral reefs are found off the coast of Antarctica. **True** ☐ or **false** ☐.