



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Life cycles and growing up on the Reef

Virtual Learning Experiences

Program overview:

Discover the life cycles of a variety of Reef animals including marine reptiles, mammals, and fish. Some Reef animals lay eggs, whilst others give birth to live young. There are different levels of parental care, and this influences how many eggs are laid, or how many babies are born.

We discuss how some offspring look very similar to their adult form, whilst others, which start their life as planktonic larvae, look surprisingly different. These planktonic larvae may undergo several changes in shape and form as they grow up to adulthood.

We will also discuss some of the environmental factors that can affect different stages the life cycles of Reef animals.

Please note: this program can be tailored to suit students' learning needs and curriculum requirements.

Program duration: 60 minutes

Program cost: AUD \$155.00 (Inc. GST)

Australian Curriculum Links:

Year	Subject	Code
2	Science	ACSSU030
4	Science	ACSSU072

Cross-curricular priorities:



Sustainability

How do I book?

Complete the [Booking Request Form](#) and email it to education@gbmpa.gov.au.

Note: your booking is not confirmed until you receive a booking confirmation email from the Reef Education team.

Questions?

Please refer to our [Virtual Learning Experiences](#) page, or email education@gbmpa.gov.au.





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Living things on the Reef program outline:

Runtime: 60 minutes *Timings are indicative only.

Pre-presentation set-up	5 minutes prior to session start time	Audio-visual check	<p>Camera – teacher to set up the camera so presenters can see students.</p> <p>Microphone – check that microphone is connected and working.</p> <p>If one class is connecting, please leave your microphone unmuted so that presenter can ask questions throughout the session.</p> <p>If multiple classes are connecting, please mute your microphones and host will advise teacher to unmute during question time.</p>
Welcome and Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef	0-5min (5 min)	<p>Meet the Reef Education host.</p> <p>Acknowledgement of Country.</p> <p>Explain format of the session.</p> <p>Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef, home to a diversity of animals and ecosystems.</p>	Acknowledgement of Country – if known teacher/student could acknowledge the First Nation people’s country where they are situated.
Living things have offspring and have life cycles	5-50 min (45 min)	<p>Discover the life cycles of a variety of Reef animals.</p> <p>Compare animals that lay eggs with those that give birth to live young and explore the level of parental care in each.</p> <p>We explain that Reef animals may use different habitats at different stages in their life cycle. We discuss how changes in the environment can affect an animal’s life cycle.</p> <p>Through an interactive activity, we show how some offspring look very similar to their adult form, whilst others, which start their life as planktonic larvae, look surprisingly different.</p> <p>Using a crab life cycle, we show how some planktonic larvae undergo</p>	<p>Teacher to help facilitate questions throughout the session by selecting students to ask/answer questions and by unmuting and muting microphone, as necessary.</p> <p>Note: for younger students we will have a short stretch break during the session if needed.</p>





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SEE THE
LOVE THE
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		many changes in shape before taking on their adult form.	
Question time with presenter	50-55 min (5 min)	Dedicated question time for students to ask direct questions of the presenter.	
Final messages	55-60 min (5 min)	The presenter will close with a summary.	

To explore other Reef related teaching and learning resources check out our [Reefed resources page](#).

