



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority



# Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef

Virtual Learning Experience

## Program overview:

Interact with marine experts from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as they discuss, with the aid of recorded video and images, the Great Barrier Reef and coral reef ecosystems.

Learn about corals as the building blocks of the Reef and the role that various organisms play within the Reef community from detrital feeders and herbivorous grazers through to predators. Gain an understanding of the importance of various symbiotic relationships between organisms such as corals and their symbiotic algae, and anemones and anemonefish. Learn about the main threats facing the Great Barrier Reef and explore the simple actions and behaviours that can be adopted by everyone, regardless of where they live in the world, to help protect the Great Barrier Reef and the animals that call it home.

*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
Year 1	Science	ACSSU017
Year 1	Science	ACSSU211
Year 3	Science	ACSHE051
Year 4	Science	ACSHE062
Year 4	Science	ACSSU073
Year 6	Science	ACSSU094
Year 7	Science	ACSSU112
Year 8	Geography	ACHGK048
Year 9	Geography	ACHGK060
Year 9	Science	ACSSU176
Year 10	Science	ACSSU189
Year 10	Geography	ACHGK070

## Cross-curricular priorities:



Sustainability



Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander  
Histories and Cultures.





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### How do I book?

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

## Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef program outline:

Runtime: 60 minutes *\*Timings are indicative only.*

	Time Allocation (minutes)	Outline	Teacher Notes
Pre-presentation Set Up	5 minutes prior to session start time	Audio Visual Check	Camera – teacher to set up the camera so presenters can see students. Microphone – check that microphone is connected and working. <b>If one class is connecting</b> , leave the microphone unmuted so that presenter can ask questions throughout the session. <b>If multiple classes are connecting</b> , please mute your microphones and host will advise teacher to unmute during question time.
Welcome and Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef	0-10 min (10 min)	Meet the Reef Education host Acknowledgement of Country Explain format of the session.  Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography: location, size.</li> <li>• Biological and ecosystem diversity.</li> </ul> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural connections.	Acknowledgement of Country – if known teacher/student could acknowledge the First Nation people’s country where they are situated.  Teacher to help facilitate questions throughout the session by picking a student with their hand raised to answer and by unmuting and muting microphone if required.  Note: for younger students we will have a short stretch break during the session if needed.
Corals – the building blocks of the Reef	10-25 min (15 min)	Introduction to corals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are corals?</li> <li>• How do they grow and reproduce?</li> </ul>	





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SEE THE  
LOVE THE  
PROTECT THE **REEF**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coral diversity - growth forms, builders of habitat complexity.</li> <li>• Symbiotic relationship between corals and zooxanthellae.</li> <li>• Requirements for growth and survival.</li> </ul>	
Coral Reef Ecosystems	25-45 min (20 min)	<p>Introduction to a variety of Reef organisms, their roles, relationships and threats to their survival.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detrital feeders, herbivores, predators.</li> <li>• Symbiotic relationships.</li> </ul>	
Protecting the Reef	45-55 min (10 min)	<p><b>Threats to the Reef</b> Discussion of the simple everyday actions that everyone can adopt to reduce your contribution to climate change and marine debris, and help protect the Reef.</p>	
Final messages	55-60min (5 min)	The presenter will close with a summary.	

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

