



Reef Guardian Schools 2025 Eco Challenge Participant Guide





First Nations Acknowledgement

The Reef Authority acknowledges the expertise, wisdom, and enduring connections that have informed the guardianship of the Reef for millennia. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners as the first managers of this land and Sea Country, and value their traditional knowledge which continues to inform the current management and stewardship of the Reef for future generations.

Contents

Eco Challenge Overview	pg. 4
Participation Details	pg 4
Registration	pg 4
Key Dates	pg 4
Submitting Entries	pg 5
Judging & Winning Entries	pg 5
Table of Challenges	pg 6
Challenge 1. Protected Species Shirt, Cap or Hat Design	pg 7
Challenge 1. Sample Outlines for Protected Species Design	pg 8
Challenge 1. Protect Species Artist Statement Template	pg 12
Challenge 2. Turtle Compass (aligns to National Science Week)	pg 13
Challenge 2. Turtle Compass Links	pg 14
Challenge 3. Coastal Ecosystems Micro Museum	pg 15
Challenge 4. “Great 8” Tourism Brochure	pg 16
Challenge 5. Water Quality News Reel	pg 17
Challenge 6. Drain Art	pg 18
Challenge 6. Drain Art Examples	pg 19
Challenge 6. Drain Art Silhouette Examples	pg 20
Challenge 6. Drain Art Statement from Artist Template	pg 21
Challenge 7. Fishing and Zoning Class Activity	pg 22
Challenge 8. Protect the Reef Skit	pg 23
Appendix 1.0 UN Sustainability Goals	pg 24
Appendix 2.0 Privacy Collection Notice	pg 25
Appendix 2.1 Declaration	pg 26
Appendix 3.0 Judging Criteria	pg 27
Appendix 4.0 About the Reef Guardian Schools Program	pg 28

Overview: Reef Guardian Schools 2025 Eco Challenge

The Reef Guardian Schools 2025 Eco Challenge is open to schools worldwide, offering eight unique challenges for primary and high school students. These challenges align with the **UN Sustainability Goals** (Appendix 1.0) and the **Australian Curriculum** (P-10 links to English, Science, HASS, Geography, Visual Arts). Challenge Two specifically connects to the **2025 Australian National Science Week theme**. Each challenge is thoughtfully designed to include diverse learners, guided by [Gardner's Multiple Intelligence Framework](#).

These engaging marine-themed challenges inspire students to Care, Learn, Act and Share to foster Stewardship (C.L.A.S=S) for the Great Barrier Reef, and coral reefs worldwide.

Participation Details:

- **Eligibility:** Designed for students in Years 4–12 (ages 9–18) but can be adapted for other ages.
- **Challenge Options:** Choose to complete from one to eight challenges.
- **Participation:** Students can work individually or in teams of up to six, except for Challenge 7, which is designed as a class activity.
- **Cost:** FREE for everyone to enter.

Registration:

- Teachers or parent supervisors must register their class, group, or individual students.
- Each registered participant may submit only one entry per challenge.
- Participants must be registered by **1 September 2025** via the online [Registration and Declaration form](#) and must read and accept the Privacy Collection Notice (copy in Appendix 2.0) and Declaration (copy in Appendix 2.1).

Key Dates:

- **Registration Opens and Start Date:** Friday, 31 January 2025.
- **Closing Date for Registrations:** Monday, 1 September 2025
- **Submission Deadline:** Midnight, Tuesday, 23 September 2025.
- **Winners Announced:** First week of October 2025.

Submitting your entries:

Entries can be submitted at **any time** before Tuesday, 23 September 2025, via:

Option 1: Social Media

- Post on Facebook or Instagram using **#rgs2025ecochallenge** with a related title and/or context.
- Email the social post link to reefguardians@gbrmpa.gov.au

OR

Option 2: ShareFile drive

- Upload files via the provided [ShareFile Link](#), renaming files with the participant's full name, school and challenge number (e.g., Jessica Jones – Townsville Public School - Challenge one)
- 'Uploaded' will appear in green once your file has been uploaded successfully.

Please contact the team reefguardians@gbrmpa.gov.au if you are having any issues with the submission process.

Judging

The judging panel will judge challenge submissions, using the criteria outlined in Appendix 3, in three different age categories:

- Primary school (years 4-6),
- Middle school (years 7-9), and
- Senior school (years 10-12).

Winning Entries

- The Reef Authority will notify winners by phone and/or email during the first week of October 2025.
- Winning entries will be posted on the [Reef Guardian School Portal](#), the Facebook Group: [Reef Guardian School Educator Network](#), and in the Reef Guardian School Newsletter.
- Winning entries will receive a certificate, a Reef Guardian School hat and a [Virtual Learning Experience | Reef Authority](#) for their class.
- All registered students who complete and submit all 8 Eco Challenge activities will receive a *2025 Eco Challenge Champion Certificate*.
- All registered students who submit an entry will receive a *2025 Eco Challenge Certificate of Participation*.
- Plus, every entry will go into an overall draw to win a GoPro Hero action camera. So, the more challenges you enter, the more chances you have to win.



Table of Challenges

	Name	Challenge	Gardener Multiple Intelligence	Links to ACARA V9.0
1	Protected Species Shirt, Cap or Hat Design	Create a protected species themed artwork for a polo shirt, cap or hat design. Include an artist's statement about your design.	Visual / Spatial Art and design	AC9AVA4E02 AC9AVA4C01 AC9AVA6C01 AC9AVA8C01 AC9AVA8C02 AC9AVA10C02
2	Turtle Compass (National Science Week)	Create a water compass to demonstrate how sea turtles use the Earth's magnetic fields to navigate between their feeding and nesting grounds.	Logical-mathematical	AC9HS5S07 AC9HS5S03 AC9E8LY05
3	Coastal Ecosystems - Micro Museum	Make a <u>MICRO museum</u> of three connected ecosystems in the Great Barrier Reef catchment showing how they are interconnected.	Naturalistic Micro-museum	AC9AVA6C01 AC9HS5S07 AC9E10LE03 AC9HG10K01 AC9HG7K02 AC9S7U01
4	"Great 8" Tourism Brochure	Create an engaging brochure to encourage tourists to see one of the 'Great Eight' animals of the Great Barrier Reef.	Intra-personal Brochure	AC9E4LY06 AC9E5LY06 AC9S8U02 AC9E10LE03 AC9S7U01
5	Water Quality News Reel	Film a short news segment about how water gets contaminated as it flows from land to sea, and how this water can affect the marine environment.	Linguistic Film production	AC9E4LE05 AC9E4LA02 AC9E8LA08 AC9HG7K01
6	Drain Art	Design artwork for your drain(s) that brings attention to their connection to your local creek, river, waterway, or ocean, and the issue of litter in the environment. Include an artist's statement about your design.	Bodily-kinesthetics Art and design	AC9AVA6C01 AC9E8LY01 AC9AVA8C02 AC9AVA10C02
7	Fishing and Zoning Class Activity	Using things found in your classroom (e.g. tables, chairs, bags) create different fishing zones (i.e. blue, green, yellow, orange, and pink). Take a picture/video of students following fishing rules in different zones.	Inter-personal Class activity	AC9HS5S07 AC9S8H04 AC9HG10K02 AC9HG10K04
8	Protect the Reef-Skit	Film yourself or your class performing a skit on the topic "Protect the Reef" or use our 'Captain Popper Stopper' skit about the pros and cons of poppers and reusable bottles.	Musical Drama	AC9E4LE05 AC9E4LA12 AC9AVA8P01



Challenge 1. Protected Species Shirt, Cap or Hat Design

Are you skilled in art, painting, illustration, or computer graphics? Here is your chance to get creative and inspire others to care for the Great Barrier Reef through wearable designs.

Your challenge:

1. Research a Protected Species

Explore a [protected species found on the Great Barrier Reef](#).

2. Create your Artwork for a shirt, cap or hat.

Using your chosen protected species as the focal point, create an artwork for a shirt, cap or hat. Use the sample outlines provided to help you design your artwork.

3. Include the Reef Guardian Schools logo

Include the Reef Guardian Schools logo in your design. An electronic copy can be found in the [Reef Guardian School Brand Style Guide](#) or use the QR code below.

4. Write an Artist's Statement

Complete an accompanying Artist's Statement. See template provided.

5. Submit a photo of your entry and Artist's Statement via social media and use **#rgs2025ecochallenge** or drop into the Reef Guardian School [ShareFile](#) folder before 23/09/2025. Please refer to page 5 for submission instructions.



Above: Polo shirt example - Reef Guardian 20-year anniversary shirt.



Link to [Reef Guardian School Brand Style Guide](#) or QR code to access Reef Guardian School logo.



Challenge 1. Sample shirt (front) for Protected Species Design.

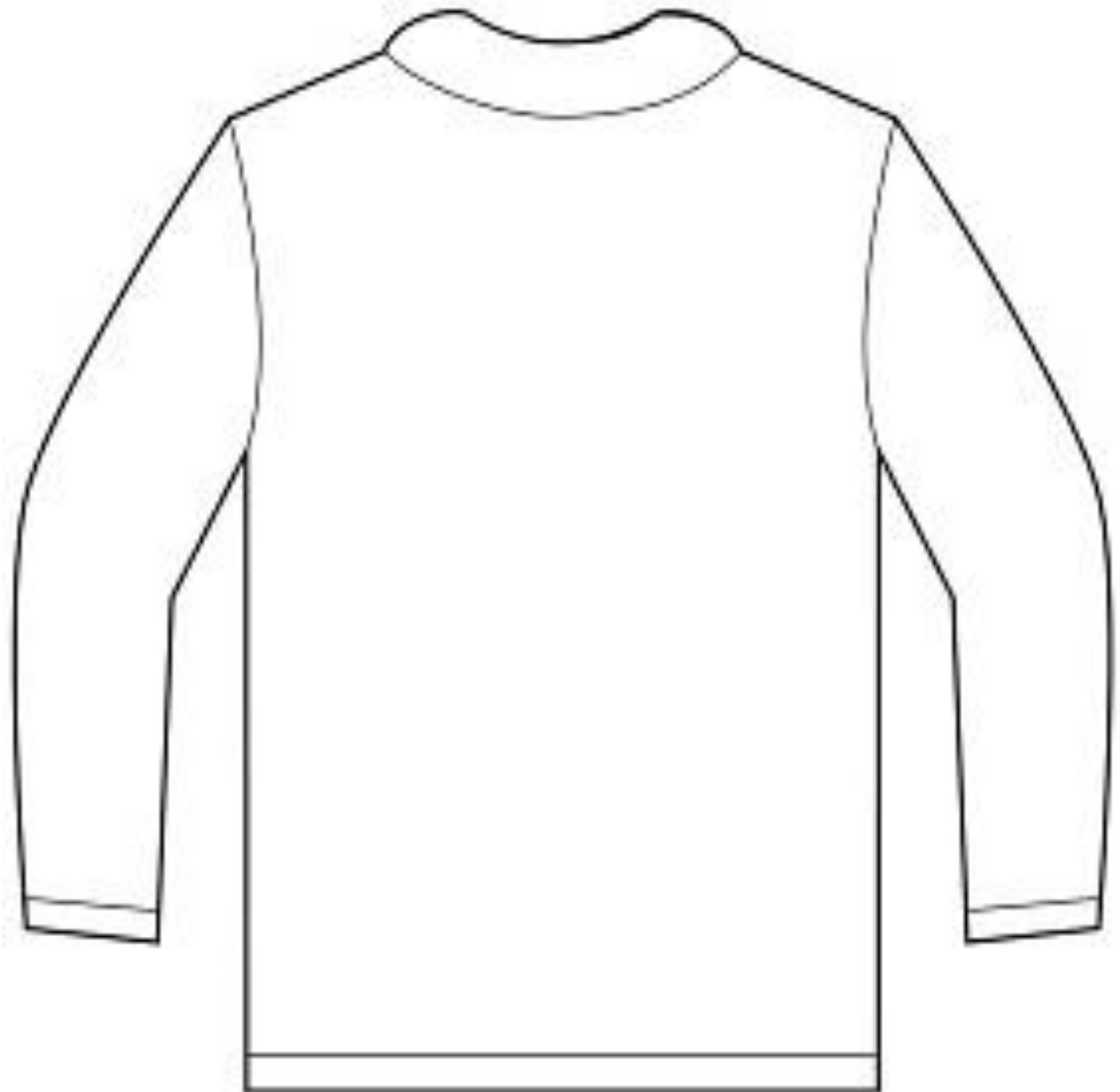
Use this outline to help design your artwork. Enlarge to desired size.





Challenge 1. Sample shirt (back) for Protected Species Design.

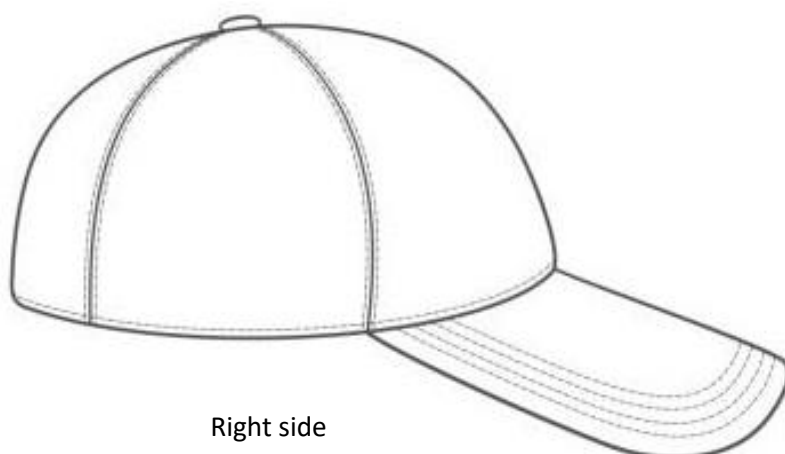
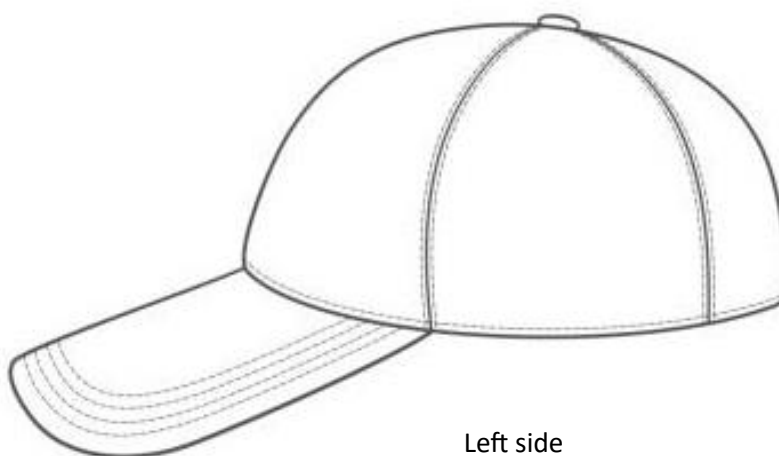
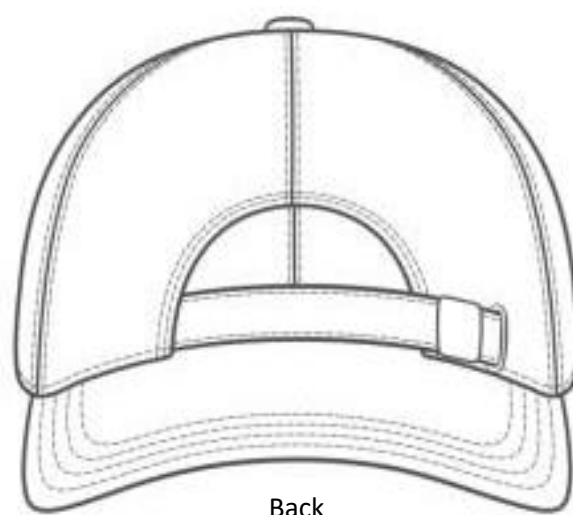
Use this outline to help design your artwork. Enlarge to desired size.





Challenge 1. Sample cap outline for Protected Species Design.

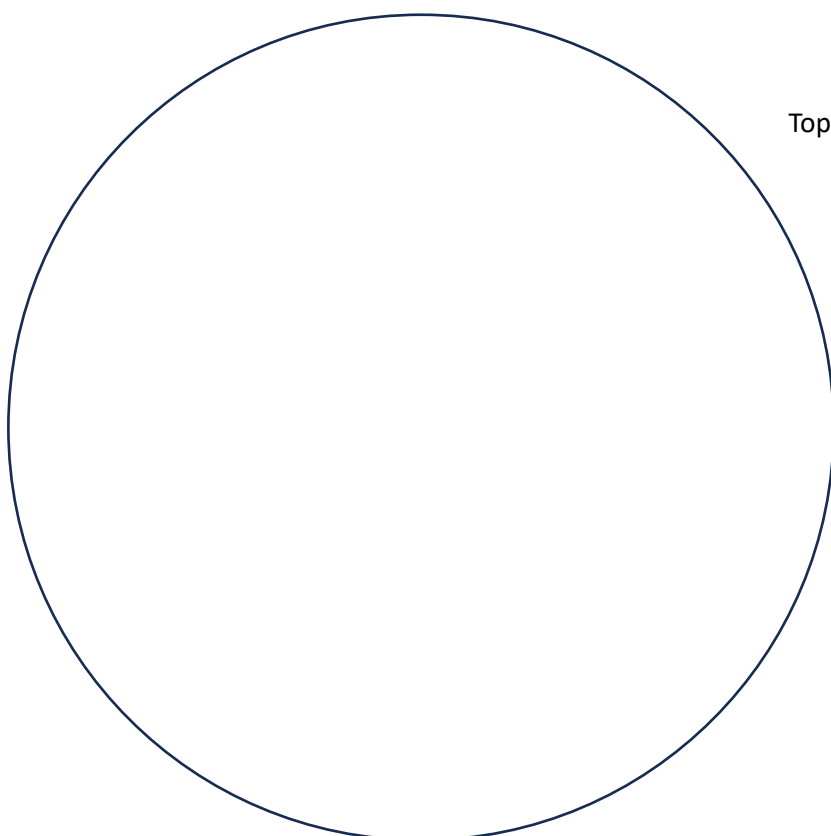
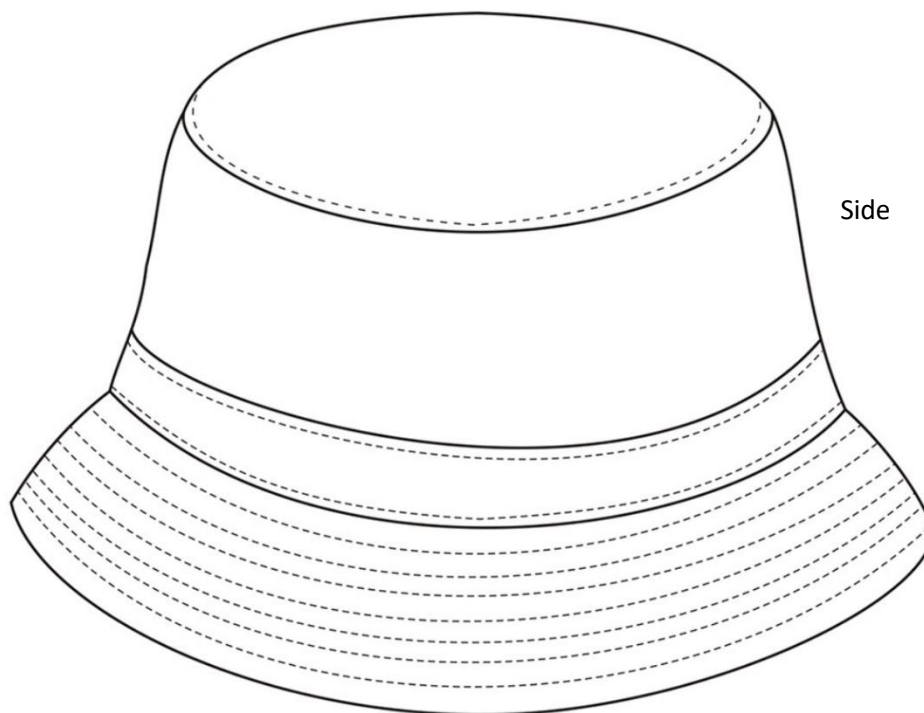
Use these outlines to help design your cap artwork. Enlarge to desired size.





Challenge 1. Sample hat outline for Protected Species Design.

Use these outlines to help design your hat artwork. Enlarge to desired size.





Challenge 1. Protected Species Artist Statement Template

Student Name: _____ School: _____

Describe your artwork. _____

How did you create your art? _____

What were your goals for this artwork? _____

Why is it important? _____

Insert a sketch or photo of your artwork here.



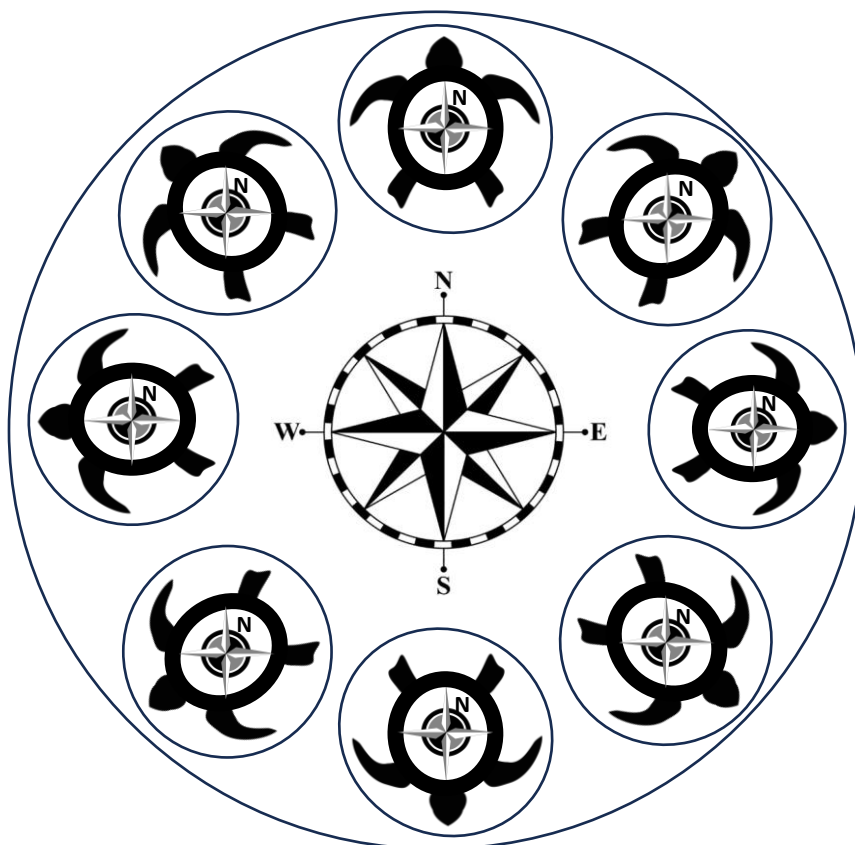
9-17 Aug 2025

Challenge 2. Turtle Compass

This challenge aligns with the Australian National Science Week theme for 2025 “*Decoding the Universe – Exploring the unknown with nature’s hidden language*”. Birds, bees, butterflies, lobsters, and marine turtles are just some of the incredible animals that use an internal compass to detect the Earth's magnetic field to navigate.

Your challenge is:

- 1) **Research** how sea turtles navigate between their feeding and breeding areas.
- 2) **Create** a sea turtle water compass (see next page for useful links on water compasses) and make a short video of yourself (no longer than 3 minutes) explaining how sea turtles use the earth’s magnetic field and other strategies to navigate between their feeding grounds and nesting grounds.
- 3) **Submit** a video of your entry via social media and use **#rgs2025ecochallenge** or drop into the RGS [ShareFile](#) folder before 23/09/2025. Please refer to page 5 for submission instructions.





Challenge 2. Turtle Compass Links

[2020ASTA-DeepBlue_ResourceBook_FINAL.pdf](#) (Activity 4, Page 43)

[How Birds \(Might\) Navigate with Quantum Mechanics](#)

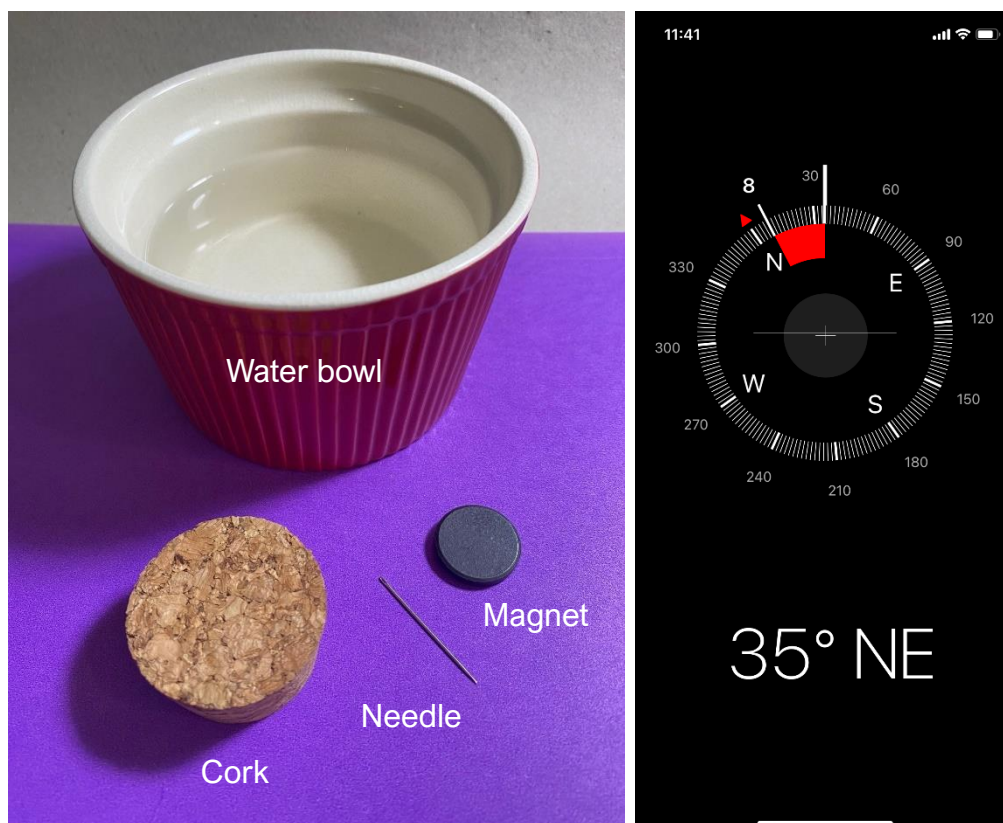
[How to Make a Compass: 8 Steps \(with Pictures\) – wikiHow](#)

[How to Make a Compass | Science with Kids.com](#)

[How to Make a Compass | The Powerpuff Kids Z](#)

[How to Make a Simple Compass at Home](#)

[How to Make a DIY Compass](#)



Challenge 3. Coastal Ecosystems – Micro Museum

Many animals use different habitats at various stages of their life. Connectivity between ecosystems in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef catchment allows animals to move between different habitats easily.

Your challenge is:

- 1) **Research** how coastal ecosystems are connected from the rainforest to the reef and choose a coastal ecosystem along the water cycle journey. Use this link to get you started [Coastal ecosystems | Reef Authority](#).
- 2) **Make** a [MICRO museum](#) of your ecosystem and two other adjacent ecosystems and show how they are connected.
- 3) **Film** a short video of yourself (no longer than 3 minutes) explaining your ecosystem, its importance and how it is connected to other ecosystems.
- 4) **Submit** a video of your entry via social media and use **#rgs2025ecochallenge** or drop into the RGS [ShareFile](#) folder before 23/09/2025. Please refer to page 5 for instructions.





Challenge 4. “Great 8” Tourism Brochure

People from all over the world travel to see the “Great 8” iconic species that live on the Great Barrier Reef. These animals are whales, manta rays, clownfish, turtles, potato cod, giant clams, Māori wrasse, and sharks.

Your challenge is:

- 1) **Research** one of the “Great 8” animals. You can use this link to get you started [Great 8 | Reef Authority](#)
- 2) **Create** an engaging A4 colour brochure about this animal to encourage tourists to visit the Great Barrier Reef.
- 3) **Submit** a photo (or file) of your entry via social media and use **#rgs2025ecochallenge** or drop into the RGS [ShareFile](#) folder before 23/09/2025. Please refer to page 5 for instructions.



Challenge 5. Water Quality News Reel

Good water quality is vital for supporting the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystems and social values including recreation, tourism, and food production. It keeps habitats like coral reefs and seagrass beds healthy, and protects the many animals that live there, including endangered species like turtles and dugongs.

Your challenge is:

- 1) **Research** how water quality is declining on the Great Barrier Reef. Use this link to get you started [Declining water quality | Reef Authority](#) .
- 2) **Write** a short news segment (no longer than 3 minutes) and **record** yourself presenting the news segment about how water gets contaminated as it flows from land to sea, and how this water can affect the marine life and the environment.
- 3) **Submit** your video entry via social media and use **#rgs2025ecochallenge** or drop into the RGS [ShareFile](#) folder before 23/09/2025. Please refer to page 5 for instructions.



Challenge 6. Drain Art

Marine debris is rubbish that finds its way into the marine environment, especially during rainfall and severe weather events like floods and cyclones. It is an ever-increasing threat to marine wildlife. You can find out more at this link [Marine debris | Reef Authority](#).

Your challenge is:

- 1) **Identify** the drains in your school suitable for creating drain art.
- 2) Working individually, or in small groups, to **design artwork for your drain(s)** that brings attention to their connection to your local creek, river, waterway, or ocean, and the issue of litter in the environment. Create a slogan to include in your drain art to promote positive environmental actions.
- 3) **Research** environmentally safe paint to use on your drain art and paint your designated drain with your design and slogan.
- 4) **Take a photo** of your finished drain art and **complete an Artist's Statement** about your artwork.
- 5) **Submit** a photo of your entry and your Artists Statement via social media and use **#rgs2025ecochallenge** or drop into the RGS [ShareFile](#) folder before 23/09/2025. Please refer to page 5 for instructions.



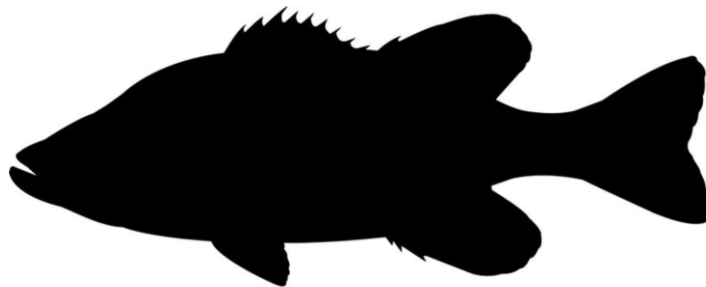
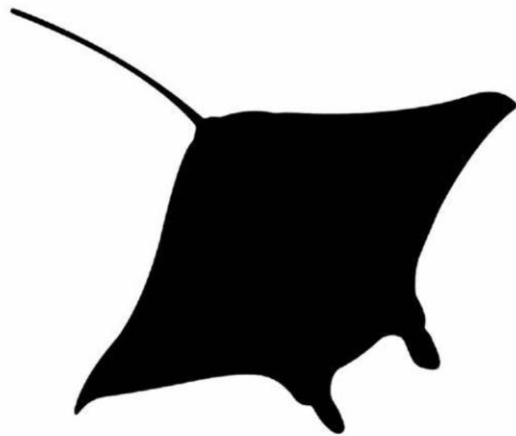
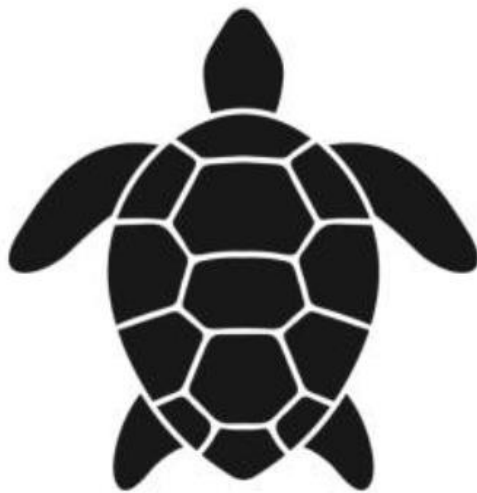
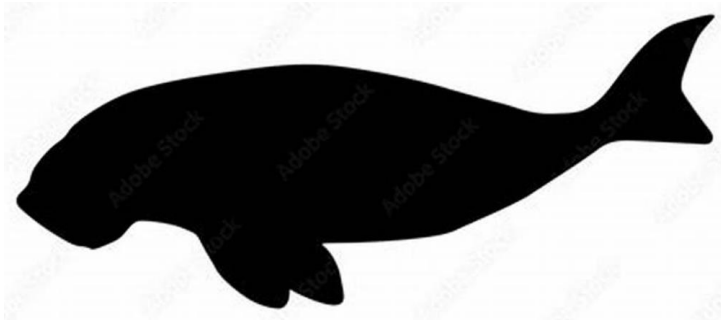


Challenge 6. Drain Art Examples





Challenge 6. Drain Art Silhouette Examples





Challenge 6. Drain Art Statement from Artist Template

Name: _____ School: _____

Describe your artwork. _____

How did you create your art? _____

What were your goals for this artwork? _____

Why is it important? _____

Insert a sketch or photo of your artwork here.

Challenge 7. Fishing and Zoning Class Activity

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park supports commercial, recreational, and Traditional fishing. It is important that fishing pressure is kept at a sustainable level to protect the amazing biodiversity of the Reef. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority uses ocean zoning to identify where and how you can fish in different areas of the Reef. This challenge is a class activity.

Your challenge is:

- 1) **Research** the different zones in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the types of fishing activities allowed in each. You can find all the information you need here [Zoning maps | Reef Authority](#).
- 2) **Using** things found in your classroom (e.g. tables, chairs, bags) **create** different fishing zones (i.e. blue, green, yellow, orange, and pink). **Make** a short video of your students (no longer than 3 minutes) explaining the fishing rules for each zone.
- 3) **Submit** a video of your class entry via social media and use **#rgs2025ecochallenge** or drop into the RGS [ShareFile](#) folder before 23/09/2025. Please refer to page 5 for instructions.



Challenge 8. Protect the Reef Skit

It is time for you to showcase your flair for theatre! Working in small groups, create a skit of a superhero adopting simple everyday actions to protect reefs. You may find some inspiration here [Other ways to help | Reef Authority](#). You can write your own skit or use our “Captain Popper Stopper” skit about the pros and cons of poppers and reusable bottles.

Your challenge is:

- 1) **Create** your own script (should be no longer than 3 minutes), or use the [Captain Popper Stopper Script](#)
- 2) **Make or collect** any props to help tell your story.
- 3) **Practice** the skit until you can remember your lines.
- 4) **Record** your performance on video.
- 5) **Submit** a video of your entry via social media and use **#rgs2025ecochallenge** or drop into the RGS [ShareFile](#) folder before 23/09/2025. Please refer to page 5 for instructions.





Appendix 1.0 – United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The nine goals below align to the outcomes of the Reef Guardian School 2025 Eco Challenge.

Students could investigate how their country is tracking towards these goals.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



Appendix 2.0 - Privacy Collection Notice

Below is a copy of the Privacy Collection Notice as shown in the [Registration and Declaration form](#).

Privacy Collection Notice

The Great Barrier Marine Reef Authority (the Reef Authority) collects, holds, uses and discloses personal information to carry out its functions or activities under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019* and other associated environmental legislation. Further information, including how to access and control your information, is contained in the Reef Authority's Privacy Policy on our website.

The Reef Authority through the 2025 Eco Challenge is collecting your personal information to confirm receipt of your registration and submission, to contact you about your challenge submission, to notify you about challenge outcomes as well as to provide you with updates regarding the Reef Guardian Schools Program more generally.

Any images/videos you provide to the Reef Authority throughout this challenge, where Reef Guardian participants (i.e. teachers and students) are identifiable, is considered to be 'personal information' under the *Privacy Act 1988*. By providing the images to the Reef Authority you confirm that you have obtained the relevant consents to do so. The Reef Authority will only use these images for official purposes including to judge participants' submissions and to promote the Reef Guardian Schools Program. The Reef Authority will not disclose or use these images for any other purpose without consent except where disclosure is required by the Reef Authority under an Australian law, a court/tribunal order or in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

If we are unable to collect your personal information, we will not be able to accept a submission from you for the Eco Challenge and/or we will be unable to share any images/videos you provide on the Reef Authority's social media and website and the Reef Guardian School portal.

For more information, please refer to the [Reef Authority's Privacy Policy](#).

Appendix 2.1 - Declaration

Below is a copy of the Declaration as shown in the [Registration and Declaration form](#).

Declaration

I declare that the images I am sharing with the Reef Authority for the Reef Guardian Schools 2025 Eco Challenge do not infringe on the right of any person including privacy and intellectual property rights.

I further declare that valid consent has been obtained from all relevant individuals (including parental or guardian consent, where appropriate) to share or provide these images to the Reef Authority for the purposes of the 2025 Eco Challenge and for the Reef Authority to use the name, image, and/or voice (personal information) for official purposes, including for reviewing and judging challenge submissions and for use and sharing on social media, the Reef Authority website and the Reef Guardian School portal and I confirm that I will provide the relevant consent/s to the Reef Authority, if requested.

I understand any social media post that is shared with the Reef Authority and forms part of the 2025 Eco Challenge submission may be shared by the Reef Authority on its social media platforms.

I understand and acknowledge that the personal information of teachers and students may be utilized for any of the above-mentioned official purposes which may result in identification of individual Reef Guardian participants. I also understand that once personal details are utilized for an official purpose, the Reef Authority has no control over its subsequent use and/or disclosure.

I hereby release and discharge the Reef Authority from any claims or demands that could be made in connection with the use of the personal information collected and used for an official purpose referred to above.



Appendix 3.0 - Judging Criteria

The Reef Authority will judge each entry using the below criteria.

	C.L.A.S =S	Presentation and Audience	Education and Awareness	Originality and Creativity
High Distinction	Strong evidence of student connection to the topic (care), learning, actions, and sharing.	<u>Concise and coherent</u> use of language conventions and features to communicate the nature /purpose /importance that engages the audience.	Highly educational with messaging that creates a high level of coral reef awareness that includes species, threats and actions.	High level of creativity and originality.
Distinction	Good evidence of student connection to the topic (care), learning, actions, and sharing.	<u>Coherent</u> use of language conventions and features to communicate the nature /purpose /importance that engages the audience.	Educational with messaging that creates a good level of coral reef awareness that includes species, threats and actions.	Good level of creativity and originality.
Credit	Reasonable evidence of student connection to the topic (care), learning, actions, and sharing.	<u>Use</u> of language conventions and features to communicate the nature /purpose /importance that engages audiences.	Educational with sound evidence of coral reef awareness that includes species, threats, and actions.	Reasonable level of creativity and originality.
Merit	Some evidence of student connection (care) to the topic, learning, actions, and sharing.	<u>Use</u> of basic language conventions and features to communicate ideas and information.	Educational with some evidence of coral reef awareness that includes species, threats, and actions.	Some level of creativity and originality.
Participation	Limited evidence of student connection (care) to the topic, learning, actions, and sharing.	<u>Disjointed use</u> of basic language conventions and features to communicate ideas and information.	Educational with limited evidence of coral reef awareness that includes species, threats, and actions.	Limited level of creativity or originality.

Appendix 4.0. About the Reef Guardian School program

The [Reef Guardian Schools program](#), an initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Reef Authority), was founded in 2003. The aim of the program is to form a global network of educational organisations that follow a five-pillar framework **C.L.A.S=S**

CARE and connect to foster a sense of shared reef responsibility.

LEARN about the reef with curriculum aligned educational resources and information.

ACT for environmental sustainability and appreciate that all actions collectively matter.

SHARE learnings with others to encourage wider positive influence.

STEWARDS, building reef resilience for future generations.

“ Our world is more connected now than ever before and we all rely on healthy oceans and seas. The Reef Authority recognises the need for a global network of Reef Guardians to help protect the Great Barrier Reef and reefs all around the world. Josh Thomas CEO The Reef Authority.

For more information see our [Reef Guardian School program overview](#).

If you haven't already, we encourage you to [join the Reef Guardian Schools program](#) and undertake positive actions that contribute towards reef resilience in your local school and community. Use our online portal to show how your school cares for reefs and to connect with Reef Guardian Schools around the world, [register today](#).

You are also invited to request access to the closed Facebook Group: [Reef Guardian School Educator Network | Facebook](#).

Thank you

Thank you for your interest in the Reef Guardian School 2025 Eco Challenge.

For more free reef education resources visit [Reef Education Resources | Reef Guardian School](#) or go to www.reefed.edu.au