



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Creatures and their features

Virtual Learning Experiences

Program overview:

Discover a range of iconic, peculiar, and commonly found marine animals on the Great Barrier Reef. Learn how to group these animals using the similarities and differences in their external features and gain an understanding of how features such as scales, shells and gills help animals to survive in the marine environment.

Find out how different animals in the same group have specialised adaptations for communication, feeding and defence. For example, in some species of crustaceans, the first pairs of walking legs have evolved to become nippers, while in other species the legs have become clubs or spears!

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
1	Science	ACSSU017
3	Science	ACSSU044
5	Science	ACSSU043

Cross-curricular priorities:



Sustainability





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Creatures and their features 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	<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, leave the 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	0-8min (8 min)	<p>Meet the Reef Education host.</p> <p>Acknowledgement of Country and First Nations people.</p> <p>Explain format of the session.</p> <p>Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef, home to a diversity of animals.</p>	Acknowledgement of Country – if known teacher/student could acknowledge the First Nation people’s country where they are situated.
Features of marine creatures	8-33min (25 min)	We examine the external features of a variety of marine animals, and how these are used to help the animals to survive in their environment.	<p>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.</p> <p>Note: for younger students we will have a short stretch break during the session if needed.</p>
Adaptations	33-53min (20 min)	We take a closer look at how different animals have evolved special adaptations for communication, feeding and defense.	
How can we all help the Reef?	53-58min (5min)	Discussion about the actions we can all take to help protect the Reef and the animals that call it home.	Teacher to help facilitate questions picking a student with their hand raised to answer and by unmuting and muting microphone if required.
Final messages	58-60min (2min)	The presenter will close with a summary	





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Links to further information and extension activities:

Student activities and worksheets

- [Is it living?](#)
- [What doesn't belong?](#)
- [Animal unravelling](#)
- [Animal scrabble](#)
- [Food glorious food](#)
- [Reef mates](#)
- [Crustaceans](#)

Teaching resources

- [Science Teaching Unit: Habitat investigations - Year 1](#)
- [Science Teaching Unit: Exploring the reef - Year 3](#)
- [Science Teaching Unit: Animal adaptations - Year 5](#)
- [Reef Beat 2013: the amazing Great Barrier Reef, let's keep it great](#)

Videos

- [Classifying Reef Creatures - Introduction to Classification](#)
- [Classifying Reef Creatures- Phylum Mollusca](#)
- [Classifying Reef Creatures - Phylum Porifera](#)
- [Classifying Reef Creatures - Phylum Platyhelminthes](#)
- [Classifying Reef Creatures - Phylum Annelida](#)
- [Classifying Reef Creatures - Phylum Arthropoda](#)
- [Classifying Reef Creatures - Phylum Echinodermata](#)
- [Classifying Reef Creatures - Phylum Chordata](#)
- [Classifying Reef Creatures - Phylum Cnidaria](#)

Useful additional information (website links)

- [Animals of the Great Barrier Reef](#)
- [Corals on the Great Barrier Reef](#)

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

