



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Living things on the Reef

Virtual Learning Experiences

Program overview:

Discover some of the iconic habitats in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and identify which living things in each habitat are producers, consumers or decomposers. Learn how habitat complexity provides more places for animals to live, and examine what happens to organisms when habitats change. Make predictions about how various human activities may impact food chains and predator-prey relationships. Explore interactions between different living things and determine which interactions are competitive, and which are mutually beneficial.

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	ACSSU073
5	Science	ACSSU043

Cross-curricular priorities:



Sustainability





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Living things on the Reef program outline:

Runtime: 60 minutes *Timings are indicative only.

*Please let us know if you would like to include a 1-minute stretch break for younger students.

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. If one class is connecting , leave the microphone unmuted so that presenter can ask questions throughout the session. If multiple classes are connecting , please mute your microphones and host will advise teacher to unmute during question time.
Welcome and Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef	0-5 min (5 min)	Meet the Reef Education host Acknowledgement of Country Explain format of the session Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef, its biological diversity and the habitats that are found there.	Acknowledgement of Country – if known teacher/student could acknowledge the First Nation people’s country where they are situated.
Roles of living things on the Reef	5-10 min (5 min)	Overview of the roles of different living things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producers • Consumers • Decomposers 	Teacher to help facilitate questions throughout the session by selecting students to ask/answer questions and by unmuting and muting microphone, as necessary.
Habitats in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	10-15 min (5 min)	Overview of some of the iconic habitats in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral reefs • Seagrass beds • Sandy sea floors • Mangrove forests 	Note: for younger students we will have a short stretch break during the session if needed.
Who fills the different roles in each habitat?	15-25 min (10 min)	Identify the roles of living things in the different habitats. Explore how habitat complexity provides more places for animals to live.	
What happens when habitats change?	25-35 min (10 min)	Discussion of how human activities can change habitats, and the effect this has on the organisms that live there.	





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How can human activities change food chains?	35-45 min (10 min)	Using a simple food chain, predict what happens to predator-prey relationships when an animal is affected by human activities.	This activity will be led by the education host.
Reef relationships	45-55 min (10 min)	We look at various symbiotic relationships in the marine environment and discuss how they are either mutualistic, commensal or parasitic.	
Final messages	55-60 min (5 min)	The presenter will close with an interactive review of the main concepts presented and a summary.	

Links to further information and extension activities:

Student activities and worksheets

- [Habitat Matchups](#)
- [Mangroves](#)
- [Where do they live page1](#)
- [Where do they live page 2](#)

Teaching resources

- [Science Teaching Unit - Year 1 Science - Habitat Investigations](#)

Useful additional information (website links)

- [Coastal Ecosystems](#)
- [Reef Beat 2020 - junior outlook](#)
- [Reef Beat 2016 - threats to the Great Barrier Reef](#)
- [Reef Beat 2012 - the inshore Great Barrier Reef, bursting with biodiversity](#)
- [Reef Beat 2009 - climate change and the Reef](#)
- [Reef Beat 2006 - wetlands](#)
- [Reef Beat 2005 - river to reef](#)
- [Reef Beat 2004 - catchments to coast](#)
- [Threats to the Reef](#)
- [Land-based run-off](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Reef Health](#)

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

