

1. Read the statements below and say if they are true or false. Then read the text about Great Barrier Reef and verify your answers.

The reef is located in the Coral Sea. **True**

It is built by tiny organisms called coral polyps. **True**

The structure is 10 000 years old. **False**

There live over forty species of dolphins and whales and 7 kinds of turtles. **False**

Climate changes, fishing and extensive tourism are destroying the locality. **True**

Great Barrier Reef

The **Great Barrier Reef** is the world's largest coral reef system composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching for over 2,600 kilometres over an area of approximately 344,400 square kilometres (133,000 sq mi). The reef is located in the Coral Sea, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.

This reef structure is composed of and built by billions of tiny organisms, known as coral polyps. It supports a wide diversity of life and was selected as a World Heritage Site in 1981. CNN labeled it one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) considers the earliest evidence of complete reef structures to have been 600,000 years ago. According to the GBRMPA, the current, living reef structure is believed to have begun growing on the older platform about 20,000 years ago.

Thirty species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises have been recorded in the Great Barrier Reef, including the dwarf minke whale, Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin, and the humpback whale. Six species of sea turtles come to the reef to breed – the green sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, hawksbill turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, flatback turtle, and the olive ridley. The green sea turtles on the Great Barrier Reef have two genetically distinct populations, one in the northern part of the reef and the other in the southern part.

2. Look at the pictures and describe them in detail, use the Internet, maps, other sources to find out the information.



Zprava: Green Sea turtle/ Scuba diving on the Reef/ View of the Reef from a plane/Corals near Cairnes

Zdroj informací: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Barrier_Reef