



WATCH & LEARN: ARTS & LIFESTYLE:
TRAVEL: PLACES TO SEE BEFORE YOU DIE
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (4:07 min)
VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 2/v807)

PRE-INTERMEDIATE (A2 - B1) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting Off

The largest living structure, the Great Barrier Reef spans more than 1,200 miles (2,000 km) of islands and submerged reefs.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Discussion Questions:

- ◊ Have you ever been to the Great Barrier Reef?
- ◊ Why are coral reefs so important for the long-term health of the oceans?
- ◊ What are some of the critical threats to the survival of the Great Barrier Reef and what can be done to try and save it?

Video Script:

Narrator: From space, the east coast of Australia appears to be in the embrace of a giant **opal**.

The largest living structure on earth, the Great Barrier Reef is a **lacy**, living wall **spanning** more than 2,000 kilometers of islands and submerged reefs between the Queensland coast and the western edge of the Pacific Ocean.

Diving in, the opal seems to splinter into millions of pieces. **Whirlpools** of small metallic blue fish, Barracuda **gliding** like silver submarines, occasionally, a lone predatory shark.

The Great Barrier Reef is like an underwater city whose buildings are alive with millions of small creatures whose lives are **intimately** and **intricately** connected. It is as diverse as a rainforest. A mosaic of more than 70 types of habitats **hosting** thousands of species of marine life.

As many as a hundred different kinds of coral may occupy a single acre of ocean. Molecule by molecule, coral animals gradually **extract** calcium carbonate from the surrounding water to form **minute** stony cups around each animal's soft crown of tentacles.

Some corals live in solitary **splendor**, but most are built with hundreds, sometimes thousands, of individual animals linked together to form a single coral **mound**, plate or cluster of branches. Some are like little trees and **shrubs**; they provide food and shelter for thousands of other forms of life.

Corals get the **credit** for most of the reef structure, but much of the construction is done by fast-growing **encrusting** red algae. They act like pink glue, cementing fragments of **shell**, sand and coral with sheets of calcium carbonate.

The reef is home to more than 4,000 kinds of mollusks from tiny sea slugs, **nudibranchs**, to giant clams.



Vocabulary:

- **opal** - a gemstone consisting of a quartz-like form of hydrated silica, typically semi-transparent and showing many small points of shifting colour against a pale or dark ground
- **lace** - fine open fabric of cotton or silk
- **spanning** - extend across a large area
- **whirlpool** - quickly rotating mass of water in a river or sea into which objects may be drawn
- **glide** - move with a smooth, quiet, continuous motion
- **intimate** - close link or relationship
- **intricate** - very complicated or detailed
- **host** - an area in which particular plants or animals are found
- **extract** - remove or take out, especially by effort or force
- **minute** - very small
- **splendor** - magnificent and splendid appearance; grandeur
- **mound** - rounded mass projecting above a surface
- **shrub** - woody plant which is smaller than a tree
- **credit** - public acknowledgement or praise
- **encrust** - cover or decorate (something) with a hard surface layer
- **shell** - hard protective outer case of a mollusc or crustacean
- **nudibranchs** - group of soft-bodied, marine gastropod molluscs which shed their shells after their larval stage (often casually called *sea slugs*)

Vocabulary continued on next page...





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Video Script continued...

These sea turtles travel thousands of miles in the open sea to reach the sandy beaches of some of the Barrier Reef's Islands and there, to lay their eggs. **Hatchlings head** straight for the sea. They will travel thousands of miles over the years and eventually return to lay their own eggs.

Established as a national park in 1975, the Great Barrier Reef was designated as a **World Heritage Site** six years later.

Today about 33% of it is fully protected from fishing and other extractive activities and efforts are underway to **deal with** pollution, **overfishing** and the consequences of climate change.

The Great Barrier Reef appears to be about 20,000-years-old, but geologists using deep **coring techniques** have found evidence of ancient corals there that are half-a-million-years-old. With care, the future of Australia's living treasure, the Great Barrier Reef, will be at least as **enduring** as its magnificent past.

Vocabulary continued...

- **hatchling** - a young animal that has recently emerged from its egg
- **head** - move in the direction of
- **World Heritage Site** - place that is listed by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (*UNESCO*) as having special cultural or physical significance
- **deal with** - manage, take care of
- **overfishing** - deplete the stock of fish in (a body of water) by excessive fishing
- **coring techniques** - method of analyzing and dating corals by extracting samples from deep within the coral's center or "core"
- **endure** - remain in existence; last.

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in the box below.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.
- 3 Please ask for feedback on your sentences in the next lesson.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

