# Year 5 reading comprehension: The Great Barrier Reef

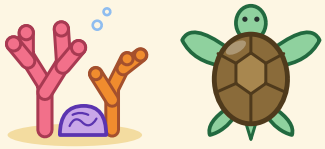
English · Reading comprehension
Level: Medium

Student: _____ Date: _____

**Instructions**
- Read the text first. There are 2 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

## Questions

Read this, then answer questions 1–2.



### The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef stretches for about 2300 kilometres along the coast of Queensland. It is the largest coral reef system in the world, and it is made up of almost 3000 separate reefs. Corals look like rocks or plants, but they are really made by tiny animals called polyps. Each polyp builds a hard skeleton around its soft body. When the polyps die, their skeletons stay behind, and new polyps grow on top. Tiny algae live inside the polyps and give corals their bright colours. If the sea becomes too warm, the polyps push the algae out, and the coral turns white. This is called bleaching, and it can kill the coral if the water stays warm for too long. More than a thousand kinds of fish, as well as turtles and dolphins, live on the reef. The reef is so big that parts of it can be seen from space.

**1.** What makes coral turn white?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Hard skeletons build up on top.

○ **B** Too many fish live on the reef.

○ **C** The sea becomes too warm.

**2.** True or false: Bleaching happens when the water is too cold.

Circle one answer.

○ **A** False ○ **B** True

**BrightHop** brighthop.au

# Answer key

Year 5 reading comprehension: The Great Barrier Reef · Sheet 500002

**1.** C — The sea becomes too warm.

The text says: “If the sea becomes too warm, the polyps push the algae out, and the coral turns white.” The words because and so point to the reason.

**2.** A — False

The text says: “If the sea becomes too warm, the polyps push the algae out, and the coral turns white.” A statement is true only if the text says so.