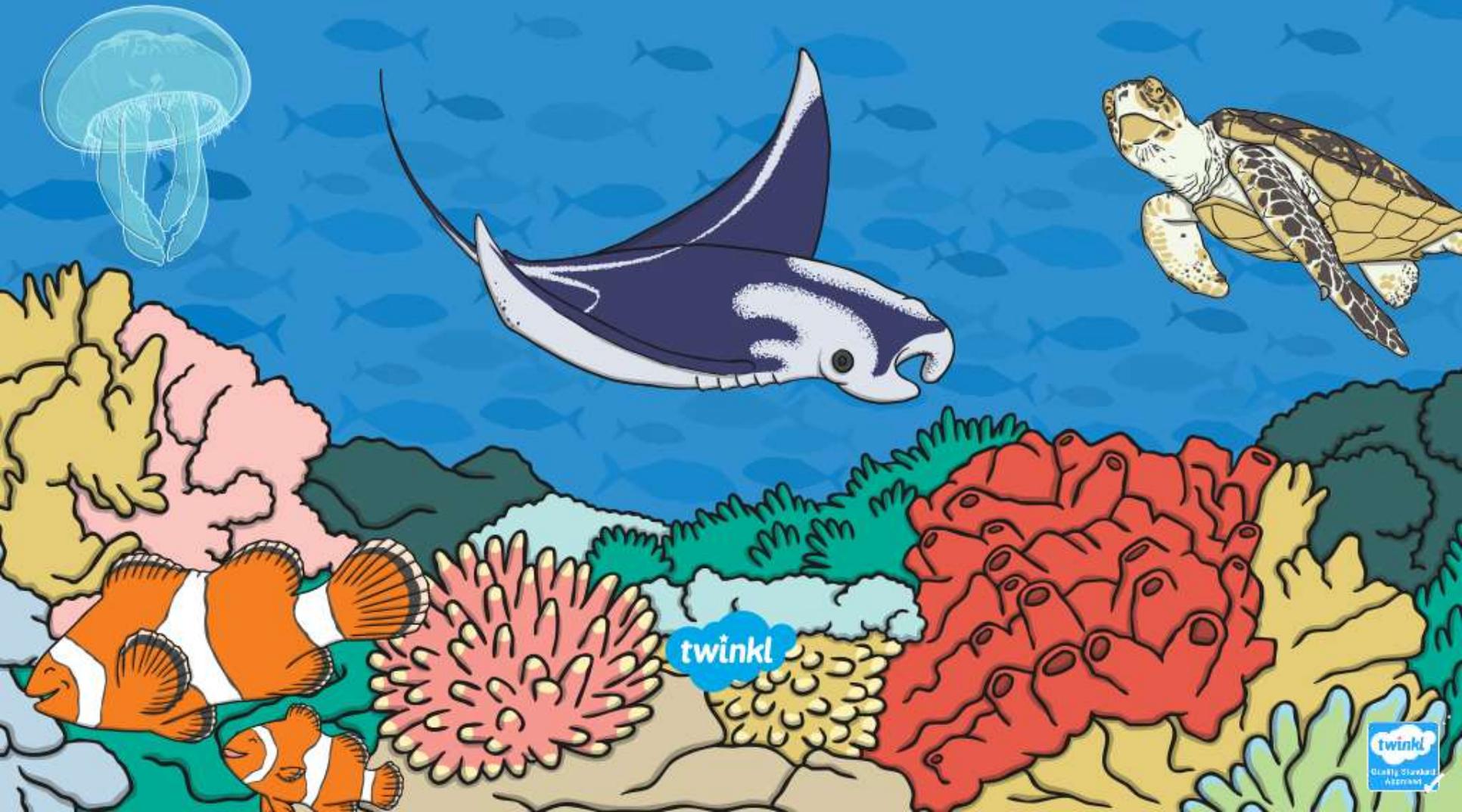


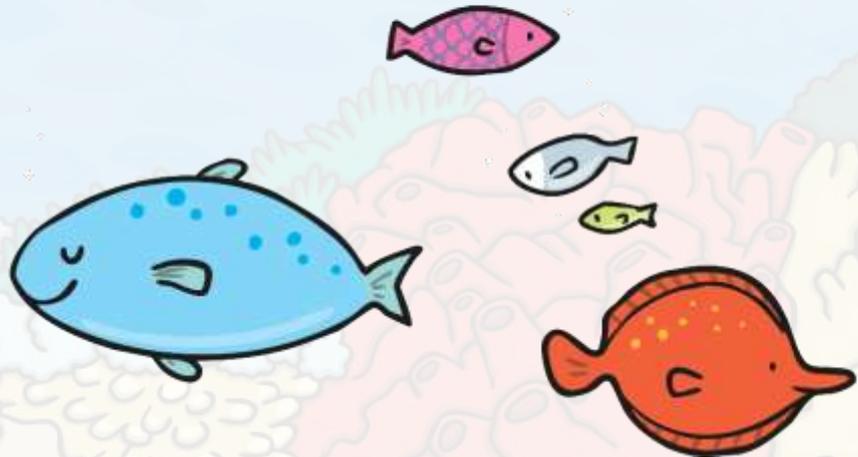
Life in a Coral Reef



What Is a Coral Reef?

Corals are made up of tiny animals called **polyps**. These can be living or dead. They are very fragile.

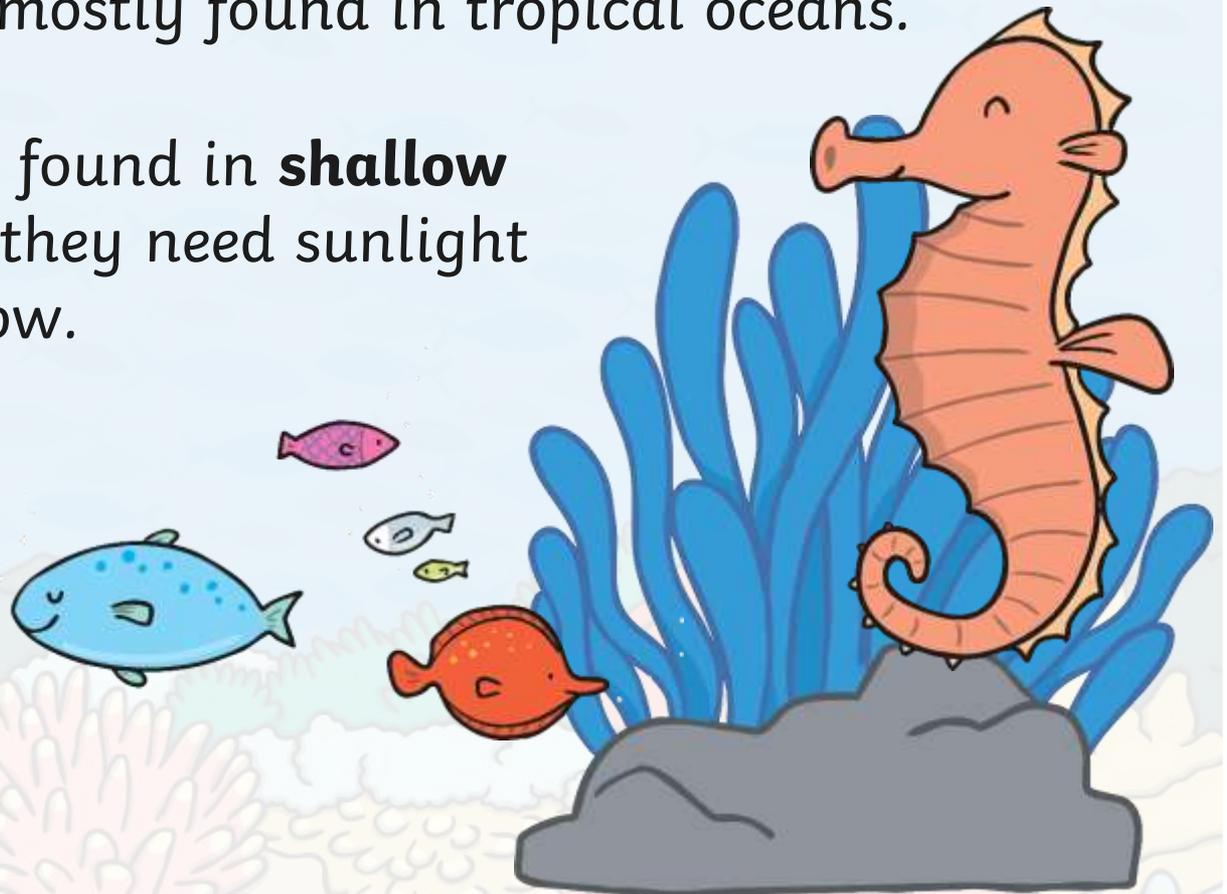
The very first coral reefs formed about **500 million years** ago!



What Is a Coral Reef?

Coral reefs are mostly found in tropical oceans.

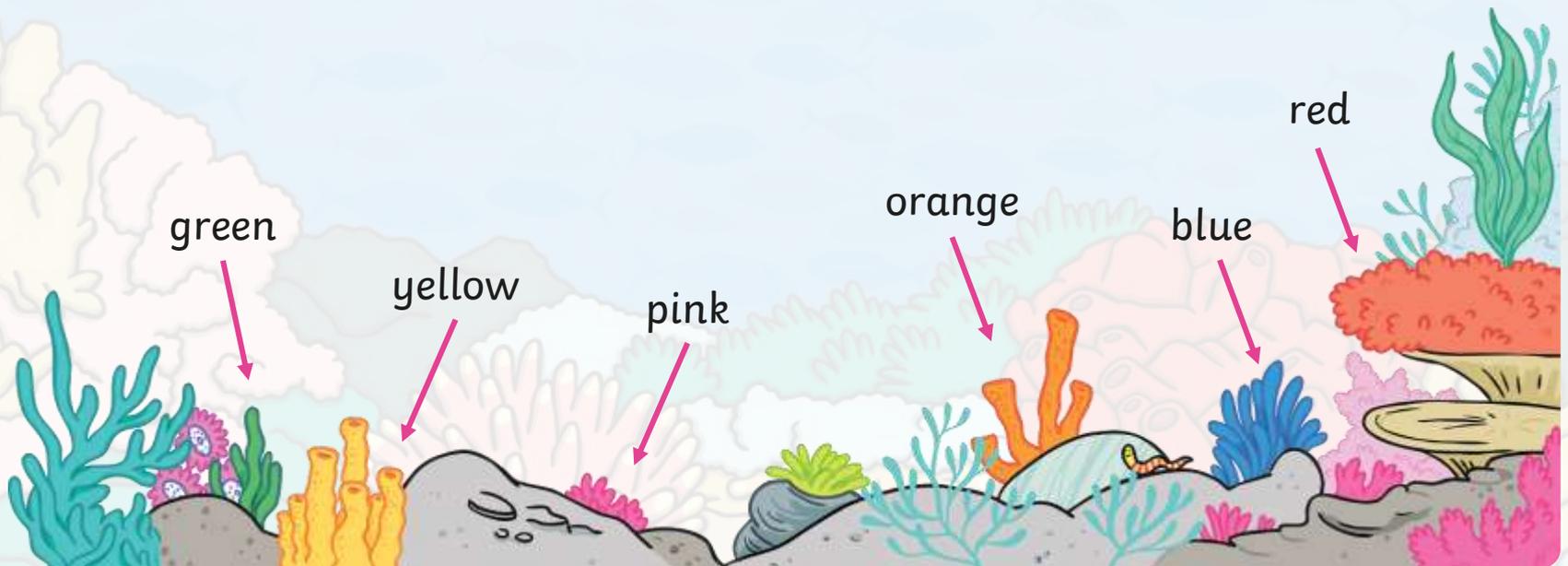
They are mostly found in **shallow waters** because they need sunlight to help them grow.



What Does a Coral Reef Look Like?

Most corals are **brightly coloured**.

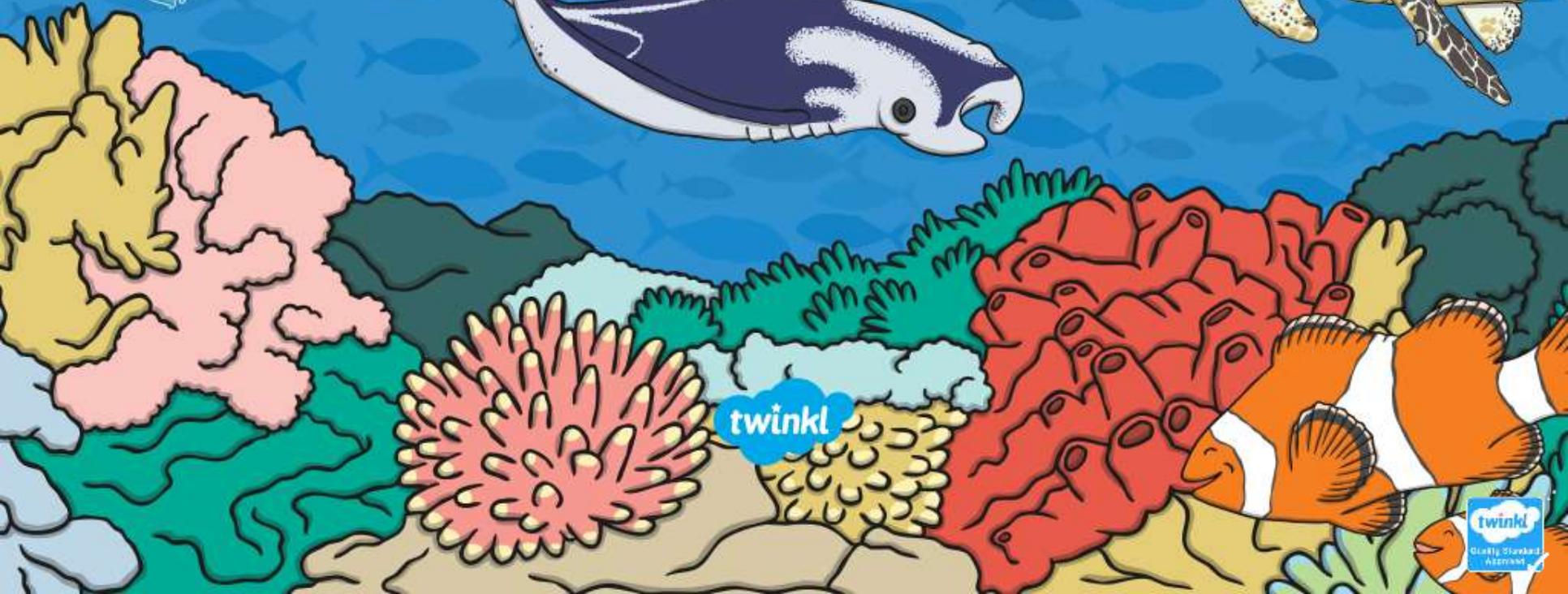
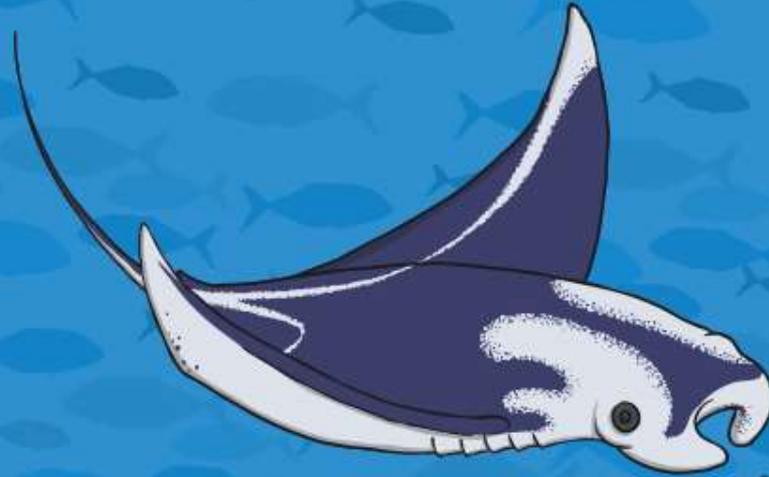
They can be many colours, including yellow, red, pink, green, blue, orange and purple.



Coral Reef Fun Facts!

- A group of corals is called a **colony**.
- Coral reefs are home to millions of different types of creatures! These include fish, lobsters, clams, octopuses, seahorses and sea turtles.
- Coral reefs feed at night-time. They have small **stinging tentacles** which they use to catch their prey.
- The oldest living coral reef was over 4000 years old!
- Corals are used in many different medicines.

The Great Barrier Reef



twinkl



Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef

The **Great Barrier Reef** is the largest coral reef in the world.

It is in the **Coral Sea**, off the coast of **Queensland in Australia**.

It is more than 1600 miles long and can be seen from space!



Photo courtesy of Taylor, Dream It. Do It. (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Where Is the Great Barrier Reef?

United Kingdom



The Great Barrier Reef

Where Is the Great Barrier Reef?



The Great Barrier Reef

Where is the Great Barrier Reef?



The park stretches over 3000km (1800 miles) along the Queensland coast, from near the southern town of Bundaberg, up past Cape York.



How Big Is the Great Barrier Reef?

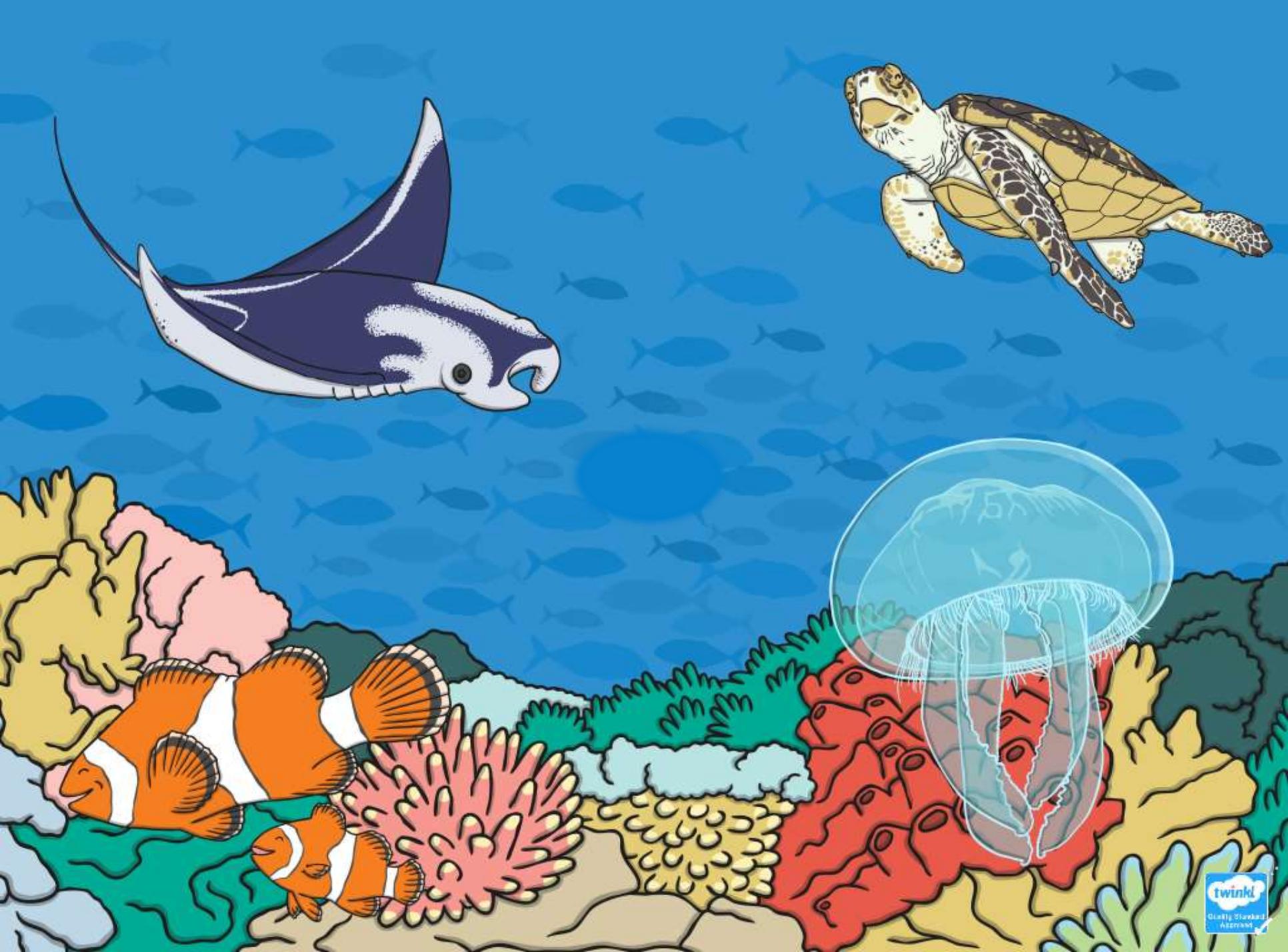
It is the world's largest reef.

It can even be seen from outer space.

It is bigger than the United Kingdom, Holland and Switzerland put together.

It is bigger than Tasmania and Victoria put together.





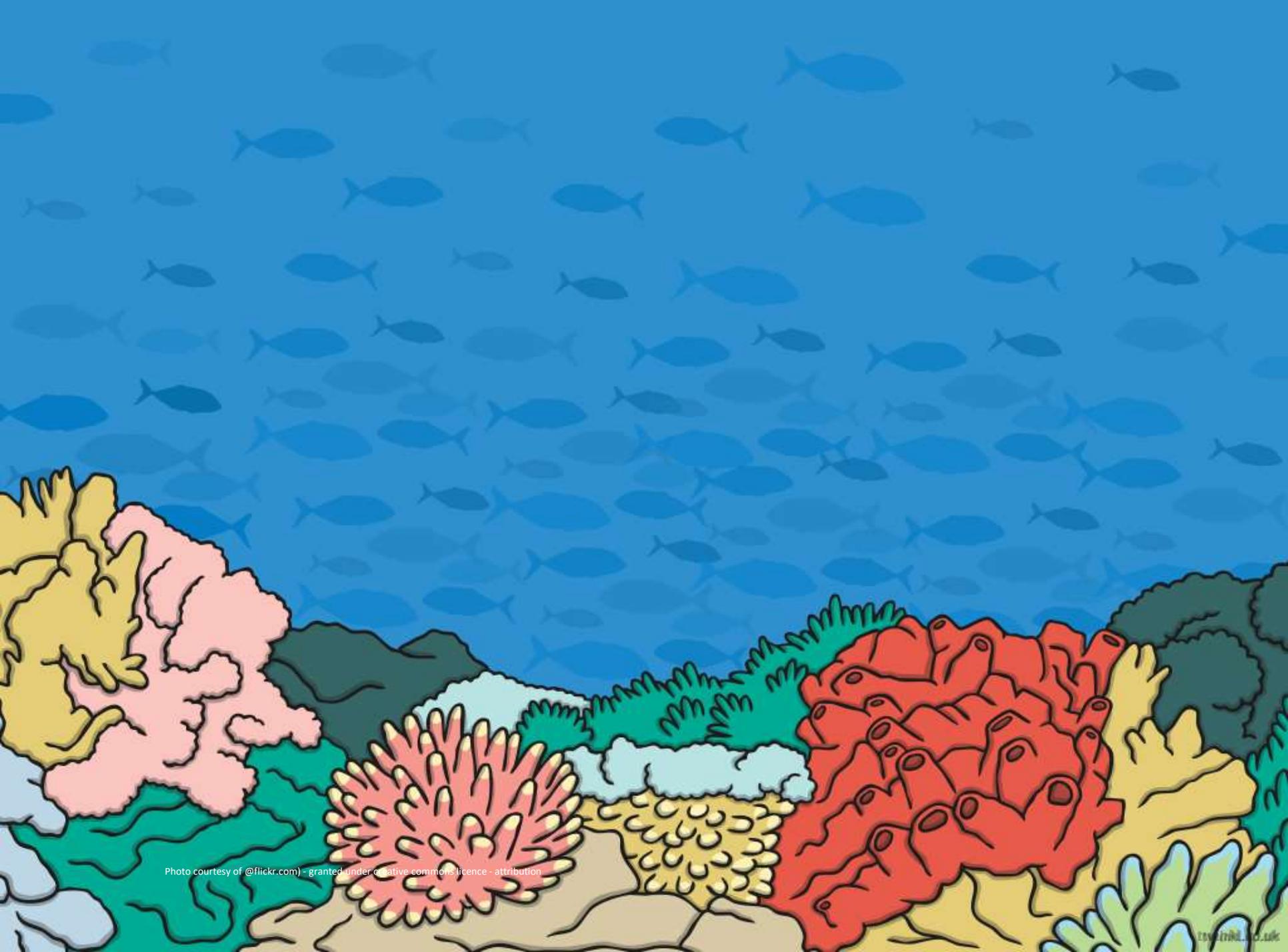


Photo courtesy of @flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Animals of the Great Barrier Reef

coral



Manta ray



Fish

There are many different types of bright and colourful fish that live in coral reefs.

They are bright because they can easily camouflage themselves against the colours of the coral.



hawk fish



lion fish



clown fish



angel fish



butterfly fish

Starfish

Starfish cannot swim. They have hundreds of tiny feet on each of their arms, called **tube feet**.

Starfish like to eat tiny fish, clams, oysters, and snails. This means they are carnivores.

Starfish have two stomachs and five arms. They do not have a brain or any blood.

Starfish have tiny eyes on the end of each arm but they cannot see very well.



seahorse



Seahorses

Seahorses are called 'seahorses' because their heads are shaped a bit like a tiny horse!

They swim upright in the seaweed and between other sea plants.

Seahorses are very good at camouflaging themselves. This helps them to hide from other creatures that may want to eat them. It also helps them to find their own food.



Sea Snails

Sea snails can be found in nearly every ocean. They are often found in coral reefs where there is lots of food for them to eat.

Sea snails breathe through gills, like a fish. They stick themselves to surfaces in the ocean, such as rocks and plants. They might also bury themselves in the sand.

Some sea snails sleep during the day and are active at the night (they are nocturnal).



Loggerhead turtle



Octopuses

Octopuses have two eyes. They have eight long legs called **tentacles**.

Octopuses are invertebrates. This means that they have no skeleton.

An octopus has a hard beak, a bit like a bird. They use this to break into their food, such as crabs and shellfish.

Octopuses have three hearts. They have very good eyesight and they are very clever.

An octopus can camouflage itself by changing its skin colour!





anemone

Moray Eels

A moray eel is the largest type of eel.

Eels look a little like snakes but they are actually fish.

They like to live in caves and cracks in rocks on the bottom of the sea.

Moray eels eat meat, such as fish, octopuses, squid and crabs.

Moray eels have large eyes but they do not see very well.





dugong

Crabs

Crabs have 10 legs. The first pair of legs are used as claws.

Crabs have their skeleton on the outside of their bodies. This is called their shell.

Crabs eat meat and plants.

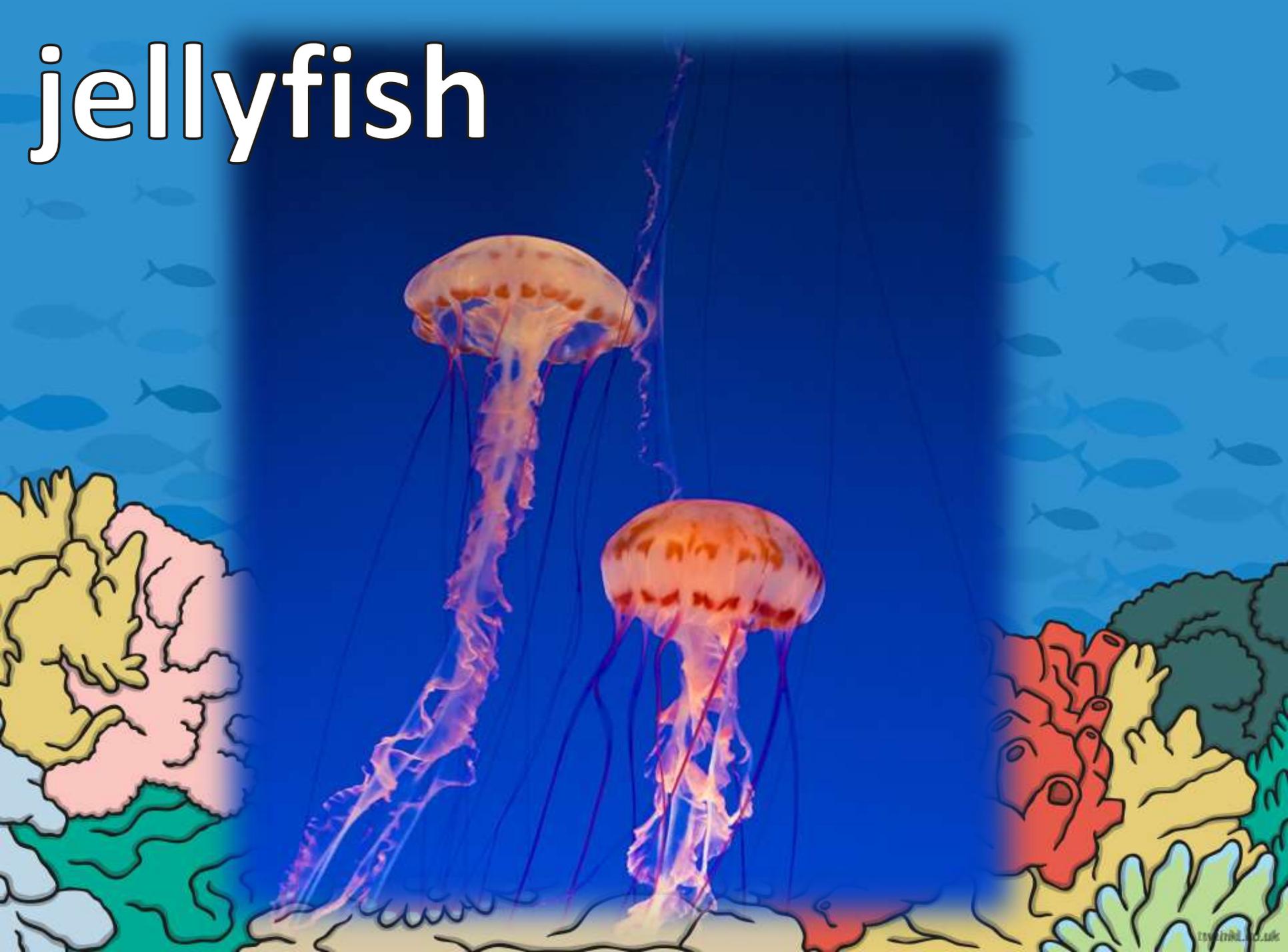
Crabs swim and walk sideways. They breathe with the help of gills.



clownfish



jellyfish



Indigenous People and the Great Barrier Reef

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the traditional owners of the Great Barrier Reef.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have used the sea to give them food for thousands of years.

Today, food from the sea is still important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who still collect food and prepare meals using their traditional foods.

Creeks, rivers, beaches, islands, coastal and sea areas provide bream, catfish, cod, eels, prawns, crayfish, oysters, periwinkles, stingrays, sharks, crabs, dugongs, bird eggs, clam and many other things.



Threats to Coral Reefs

Large areas of the Great Barrier Reef are beginning to die.

Some of the coral is also losing its bright colour and turning white. This is called **bleaching**.

This is happening because the **oceans** are getting warmer.



The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef:

- ✿ Is the world's largest reef system. It is composed of over 2,900 individual reefs.
- ✿ Has over 900 islands stretching for over 2,600 kilometres and can be seen from outer space!
- ✿ Has thirty species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises and six species of sea turtles come to the reef to breed.

 215 species of birds (including 22 species of seabirds and 32 species of shorebirds) visit the reef or nest or roost on the islands.

- ✿ There are seventeen species of sea snake.
- ✿ There are more than 1,500 fish species.
- ✿ There's around 10 percent of the world's total fish species.
- ✿ There are at least 330 species of ascidians.

The Great Barrier Reef is an extremely ancient, enormous host of living things, composed of living coral growing on dead coral dating back perhaps as much as twenty million years.

There are some threats toward the Great Barrier Reef, and climate change is perhaps the biggest threat.

 www.twinkl.co.uk

The Great Barrier Reef



Learn more about the Great Barrier Reef here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61RzwwbaSoeU>

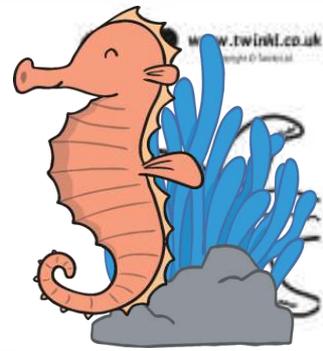
Go diving in a Coral Reef here: :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2BKd5e15Jc>

Learn ten fun facts about the Great Barrier Reef here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w7qflkeKdE>

My Great Barrier Reef Write-up!



Name: _____

Date: _____

I learnt these 3 things...

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Here are two interesting facts....

1. _____

2. _____

I would like to know...

