

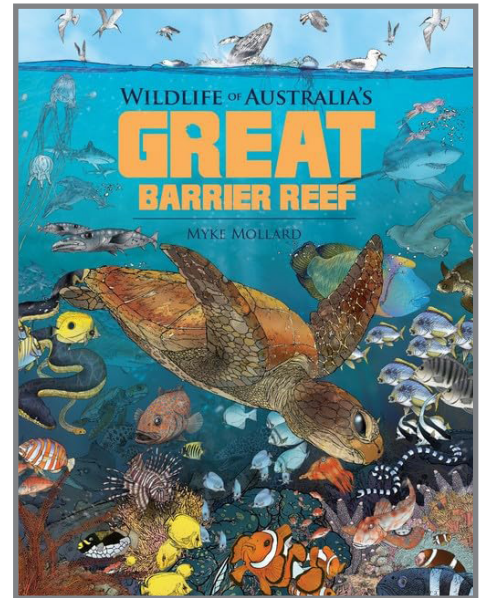
Wildlife of Australia's Great Barrier Reef

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

Myke Mollard's signature illustrations and engaging text bring kids up close and personal with hundreds of the creatures found on Australia's Great Barrier Reef: corals, fish including sharks, turtles and other marine reptiles, whales and dolphins, birds, molluscs, crustaceans, even the animals found on the reef's 900-odd islands.

The creatures are not only beautifully drawn and coloured, but the accompanying text vividly describes their lifestyles and habits. The wonderment of these stunning animals, delivered in an engaging cinematic punch, will excite the imaginations of children for life and fully engage any adult with a love of Australia's wildlife.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Myke Mollard is a children's educator, illustrator, author and designer. He began his career in graphic design, branding management and producing commercials for TV. He later found outlets for his passion for educating kids about the world around them, both in person, in classrooms, and online settings, and via his books which he fully writes and illustrates himself.

Other books by Myke Mollard include *A-Z of Australian Bush Creatures*, *Australian Endangered Bush Creatures*, *Australian Dangerous Bush Creatures*, *Australian Dinosaurs and Mega Beast*, and *Australian Backyard Birds*.

STUDY NOTES

Conventions of Nonfiction

- Ask students to list the conventions used in this book.
- Challenge them to create an index and glossary for this book.
- Challenge students to use Myke Mollard's incredible illustrations as inspiration to write descriptive narratives about either how it would feel to dive in a healthy coral landscape abundant with marine life or describing what they would see as a bird flying over The Great Barrier Reef.

Australia's Coral Reefs

- What is coral?
- How did The Great Barrier Reef come to be?
- Why has The Great Barrier Reef been listed as a World Heritage Area?
- Do you know another Australian coral reef that has been listed as a World Heritage Area?
- Are all coral reefs the same? Why might we find different species in different places?

- Why is The Great Barrier Reef considered to be a living structure?
- Of what importance is The Great Barrier Reef to Australia?
- What types of coral are found on The Great Barrier Reef?
- What is coral bleaching?
- What are the biggest threats to The Great Barrier Reef? As a class, create a list of threats.
- What can we do to help? As a class, create a list of ways we might help.
- Create a papier-mâché coral reef as a class project. See <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZFGfTzoqP8>>
- Have students each create a story wheel to illustrate the life cycle of a coral.
- Australia's northern, western and south-eastern coastlines are underwater playgrounds with their own unique coral-reef eco systems waiting to be explored. Give each student a map of Australia and have them draw in The Great Barrier Reef, The Southern Great Barrier Reef, Ningaloo Reef and Montgomery Reef.
 - Encourage students to research each reef and report back to the class on whether they all face similar threats.
- Challenge students to each write a newspaper article focusing on one critical marine habitat (sea grass, sand, sargassum, mangroves), or on the importance of islands to environmental conservation.
- Urge students to consider whether it is possible to maintain the health of Australia's coral reefs while at the same time supporting tourism to the reefs. Based on their conclusions, challenge them to either design a sustainable Great Barrier Reef eco resort and tourist brochure advertising its virtues or to give a persuasive speech to the class as to why tourism and The Great Barrier Reef cannot co-exist and to design a poster based on their speech.
- Inspire students to find out what a coral reef ecologist does and what other scientists work on coral reefs, eg. marine biologists and climate scientists.
- How can Indigenous knowledge help protect The Reef?
- Work in groups to use information from the book to create illustrated files of incredible facts about any of the species found in or around The Reef. They can be from the book or any other species that you may have discovered while researching.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of all living things—plants, animals, and microorganisms—and the different genetic information they contain, and the varied ecosystems they form. All species, including humans, rely on other species to live and we need a variety of healthy ecosystems to support the life of all species. It may help to have students think of this like a pyramid of oranges, all balancing on each other. Could remove one orange from the pile and know with confidence that no other oranges would fall? The CSIRO describes five core values that humans place on biodiversity:

- Economic—biodiversity provides humans with raw materials for consumption and production. Many livelihoods, such as those of farmers, fishers, and timber workers, are dependent on biodiversity.
 - Ecological life support—biodiversity provides functioning ecosystems that supply oxygen, clean air and water, pollination of plants, pest control, wastewater treatment and many ecosystem services.
 - Recreational—many recreational pursuits rely on our unique biodiversity, such as birdwatching, hiking, camping, and fishing. Our tourism industry also depends on biodiversity.
 - Cultural—Australian culture is closely connected to biodiversity through the expression of identity, spirituality and aesthetic appreciation. Indigenous Australians have strong connections and obligations to biodiversity arising from spiritual beliefs about animals and plants.
 - Scientific—biodiversity represents a wealth of systematic ecological data that help us to understand the natural world and its origins.
- As a class, debate and discuss the following statements:
 - 'Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.'—Albert Einstein
 - The Great Barrier Reef offers us lessons for the present and choices for the future.
 - Colonisation was a tsunami of destruction that decimated animals, habitats and language in Australia.
 - The world's most precious commodity is wild nature. Every turtle saved makes a difference.