

The Great Barrier Reef

1. Read about the animals on the Great Barrier Reef and then do the quiz questions.

Blue-ringed octopus

The blue-ringed octopus is the most dangerous octopus in the world. It is a brown-yellow colour but when it gets angry or feels scared blue rings appear on its body and tentacles.

It is quite a small octopus - about the size of a human hand. It lives on the coast, often in rock pools. If you pick one up it will bite you with its small mouth and inject venom. Watch out as a blue-ringed octopus carries enough poison to kill 26 adults! Just take a photo and leave it alone.

Sea snakes

There are fourteen species of sea snakes living on the Great Barrier Reef. Sea snakes are long and thin and are adapted for efficient swimming. They also have paddle-shaped tails to help them swim. They have to come to the surface to breathe but they can spend up to two hours under water.

Many species of sea snake produce highly toxic venom when they bite, but they are not normally fatal for humans. The snakes we see today probably evolved from the original sea snakes which lived about 135 million years ago!

Quiz questions

True or False?



1. Blue-ringed octopuses always have blue rings.
2. This octopus is approximately as big as a hand.
3. It lives out in the deep sea.
4. It is very dangerous and can kill a lot of people.
5. Sea snakes are fatter than normal snakes.
6. They spend all their time under water.
7. Sea snakes are poisonous but don't usually kill people.
8. The first snakes on earth lived in the sea.

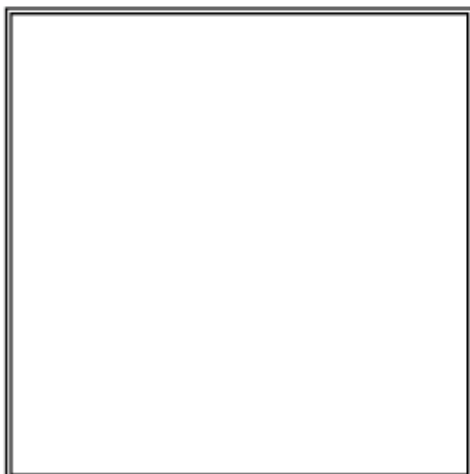


Answers: 1=F; 2=T; 3=F; 4=T; 5=F; 6=F; 7=T; 8=T

2. Now find out more about animals on the Great Barrier Reef.

Go to <http://www.barrierreefaustralia.com/the-great-barrier-reef/great-barrier-reef-info4.htm>.

Choose your favourite animal. Draw a picture and complete the animal profile.



Animal Profile

Name of animal: _____

Description: _____

Where it lives: _____

Special features/facts: _____
