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## **Level 5**

### **Australia to dump sludge in Great Barrier Reef**

**4th February, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

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**Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Australia has approved a plan to dump large amounts of sludge in the Great Barrier Reef. The mud will come from the expansion of a coal port on the coast near the reef. The go-ahead to the dumping was given by Australia's Environment Minister. Environmentalists are up in arms about the possible damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef. They say it is shocking that profits are being put ahead of such an important marine environment. About 3 million cubic meters of mud will be poured into the reef's waters. Authorities say it will not be dumped on top of any coral.

The reef is the world's largest coral reef system. It stretches for 2,600km, covering around 344,400 square kilometres. It gets special protection from Australia's government to limit the impact of fishing and tourism. Climate change is damaging it by bleaching and killing the coral. The reef creates \$3 billion a year in tourism revenue. Greenpeace said the dumping, "is one more body blow...which further threatens marine life, its World Heritage status and Australia's tourism and fishing". The WWF said it was, "a sad day for the reef and anyone who cares about its future".

Sources: <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/01/31/world/asia/great-barrier-reef-dump-approved/>  
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/grief-for-great-barrier-reef-say-environmentalists-20140131-31sjj.html>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Barrier\\_Reef](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Barrier_Reef)

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. dump large                                   | a. it is shocking         |
| 2. The go-                                      | b. into the reef's waters |
| 3. Environmentalists are up                     | c. amounts of sludge      |
| 4. the world's largest and                      | d. top of any coral       |
| 5. They say                                     | e. ahead to the dumping   |
| 6. such an important marine                     | f. most famous coral reef |
| 7. 3 million cubic meters of mud will be poured | g. in arms                |
| 8. it will not be dumped on                     | h. environment            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. It stretches                      | a. of fishing and tourism     |
| 2. covering around 344,400           | b. protection                 |
| 3. It gets special                   | c. marine life                |
| 4. limit the impact                  | d. blow                       |
| 5. bleaching and                     | e. for 2,600km                |
| 6. one more body                     | f. who cares about its future |
| 7. ...which further threatens        | g. killing the coral          |
| 8. a sad day for the reef and anyone | h. square kilometres          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Australia has approved a plan to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of sludge in the Great Barrier Reef. The mud will come (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of a coal port on the coast near the reef. The go-ahead to the dumping was given by Australia's Environment Minister. Environmentalists (3) \_\_\_\_\_ about the possible damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef. They say (4) \_\_\_\_\_ profits are being put ahead of such an important (5) \_\_\_\_\_. About 3 million cubic meters of mud will be poured into the reef's waters. Authorities say it will not be (6) \_\_\_\_\_ any coral.

The reef is the world's largest (7) \_\_\_\_\_. It stretches for 2,600km, covering around 344,400 square kilometres. It gets special protection from Australia's government (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of fishing and tourism. Climate change is damaging (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and killing the coral. The reef creates \$3 (10) \_\_\_\_\_ revenue. Greenpeace said the dumping, "is (11) \_\_\_\_\_...which further threatens marine life, its World Heritage status and Australia's tourism and fishing". The WWF said it was, "(12) \_\_\_\_\_ and anyone who cares about its future".

# OCEANS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the oceans in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

