



PROTECTING SHARK BAY

by Sally Newman, 3F

Last September holidays, I visited Shark Bay with my family. It is one of many special areas in Australia that is **protected**. If we don't continue to protect Shark Bay today, people in the future won't be able to visit it and enjoy it.

Where is it?

Shark Bay is **located** in the Australian state of Western Australia. It is about 800 kilometres north of the state capital, Perth.

World Heritage status

The Shark Bay area was **inscribed** on the World Heritage List in 1991. It is one of Australia's 19 World Heritage sites. The protection and preservation of Shark Bay is important to the whole world and its future generations, not just Australians. The Shark Bay area measures 23 000 square kilometres and the water may be up to 9 metres deep in places. You can stay in towns such as Denham, and there are many islands in the bay.

Scan the code to link to a video about Shark Bay in Western Australia.



▼ Shark Bay in Western Australia is a World Heritage site.



▲ The Shark Bay area, Western Australia

FACT!



Shark Bay may sound dangerous but most of the 28 or more species of shark that live here are harmless to humans. There have been no shark attacks at Shark Bay for more than 100 years.

Why we need to protect Shark Bay

We need to continue protecting Shark Bay because it has many special places that I want my children and grandchildren to visit. Here is a list of several of them:

- Dirk Hartog Island is where the Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog landed in 1616. He left behind a plate **commemorating** his visit.
- There is a place called Monkey Mia where you can see dolphins.
- Shark Bay is also home to the world's largest seagrass meadows, where more than 10,000 **dugongs** come to feed.
- Finally, in the southern part of the bay there is a special pool called Hamelin Pool. Special limestone columns called **stromatolites** grow here. These are modern living **equivalents** of the earliest signs of life on Earth.

Please help me spread the word about how important Shark Bay is to the world.

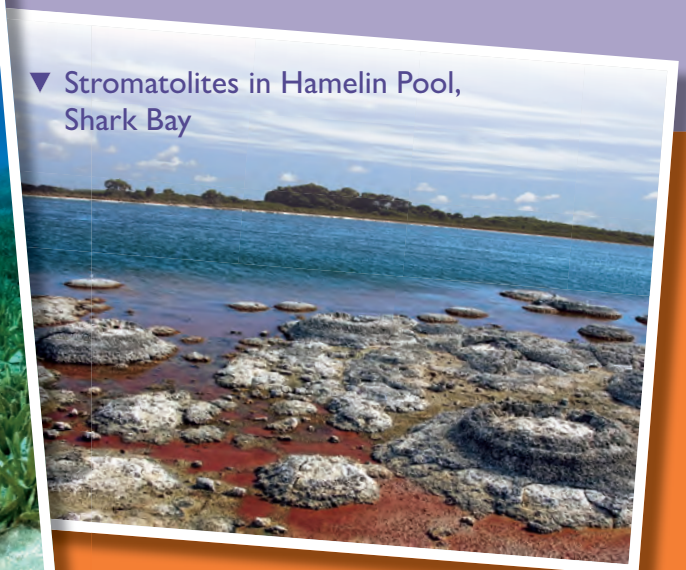
QUESTIONS



1. List three things that you think might be threatening Shark Bay.
2. Imagine you are going to visit Shark Bay. Pick two special places that you would be interested in visiting, and explain why.
3. A synonym is a word that has a similar meaning to another word. Can you list two synonyms for the word 'several'?
4. Use the QR code (or <http://qrs.ly/ql4y4zv>) to watch a video about Shark Bay. When Dirk Hartog arrived, he couldn't find any valuables or spices to trade. List five things he might have hoped to find.
5. Research some information on dugongs. For example, you may wish to find out where dugongs live and what they eat.
6. Using the information you have gathered in Question 5, write a short information report on dugongs.



▼ A dugong feeding on seagrass



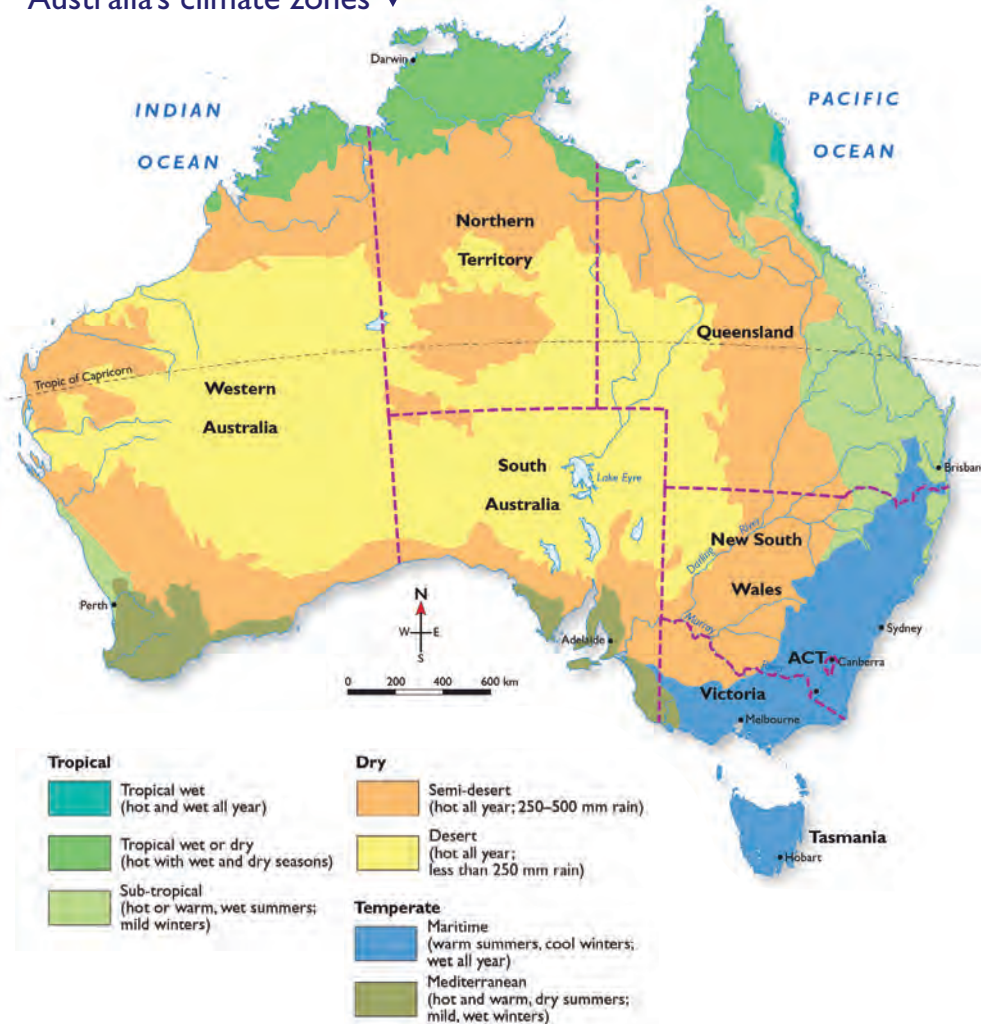
▼ Stromatolites in Hamelin Pool, Shark Bay



THE CLIMATE ZONES

Australia is a huge country. It is so big that different parts of it have very different climates. This means that the typical weather conditions in one region can be very different from those in another.

Australia's climate zones ▼



Australia's main climate zones

Equatorial, tropical and subtropical: These zones are hot and humid. They have two main seasons – the wet season and the dry season.

Temperate: This zone has four seasons – summer, autumn, winter and spring.

Desert and grassland: These zones are dry and hot. They are also **affected** by the four seasons of the temperate zone.

FACT!



Indigenous Australians have their own **seasonal** calendars. Their **knowledge** of how local plants and wildlife are affected by the seasons **reveals** a deep understanding of the land.

Let's meet two cousins who live in very different climate zones.

Lila, from Darwin

Hi, I'm Lila. I live in Darwin, in the tropical zone. Up here, we have two seasons – wet and dry – but it's warm all year round. In the wet season, it gets really sticky. We have lots of rain and storms. This happens between November and April. In the dry season, it's dry and warm. This is the best time for outdoor fun!



▲ Darwin during the wet season



▲ Autumn is one of the most pleasant times to visit Melbourne.

Mika, from Melbourne

I'm Lila's cousin, Mika, from Melbourne! Down here we say, 'If you're bored with the weather, wait five minutes and it will change!' Compared to Darwin, the weather in Melbourne changes a lot through the year. Down here we have the four regular seasons. It can be very hot in summer and very cold in winter, but it is usually quite mild.

Scan the code to link to a website about the seasons identified by Indigenous people in the north of Australia.



QUESTIONS



1. Based on the information on the topic card about climate zones, which climate zone do you live in? Why do you think it has this climate zone?
2. What factors do you think affect different climate zones? Discuss this with a partner and explain two factors you have identified.
3. Lila states that 'In the wet season, it gets really sticky'. What word that relates to weather can we use to describe this stickiness?
4. Use the QR code (or <http://qrs.ly/pw4y506>) to link to a website with calendars that show the Indigenous seasons. Choose one calendar and create a poster to represent its different seasons.
5. Have you ever visited a climate zone different from the one you live in? Explain how it is different from where you live. If not, ask a classmate who has to share their **experience**.
6. Write a script of Lila and Mika having a phone conversation about the weather that day. Choose a month and accurately use words that describe what the weather would be like in each girl's area.



SAVE OUR REEF!

SAVE OUR REEF!

A reef in danger

The Great Barrier Reef is in danger, and we need to do something about it.

The reef is one of Australia's most **incredible** places. It is a huge reef of coral that **extends** along the Queensland coast for about 2300 kilometres. It is home to around 1625 different types of fish, 133 types of shark and 3000 types of **mollusc**. The reef is so big that it can be seen from space.

The reef offers all kinds of **experiences** for tourists. These include whale watching, swimming with dolphins, scuba diving, snorkelling and boat trips.

In 1981, the **United Nations declared** the reef a World Heritage Area. This means that it is of great **significance** to the whole world and should be protected.

Damage to the reef

The Earth's seas are slowly growing warmer due to **climate change**. Many plants and animals may not **survive** in warmer water.

▼ Coral can come in a range of **spectacular** colours.

As climate change warms the reef, it will also make the waters more **acidic**. This will affect the **ability** of sea animals to make strong shells and skeletons. It will also make the reef's coral weak and **brittle**.

It's time we all worked together to save our reef. The best way we can do this is by fighting climate change. We need to reduce our waste and **pollution** to save the reef and the planet.

Scan the code to link to a cartoon about how acidic water affects the reef's creatures.



I FACT!

The crown-of-thorns starfish is another big threat to the reef. The starfish eats the reef's coral faster than the coral can grow.

◀ The crown-of-thorns starfish is covered in **venomous**, thorn-like spines.

I QUESTIONS



1. Write a short paragraph explaining the threats to the Great Barrier Reef.
2. After reading this topic card, what do you think you could do to help save the Great Barrier Reef?
3. Write a definition for the word 'coral'.
4. Use the QR code (or <http://qrs.ly/lm4y50b>) to watch a video about how acidic water affects sea creatures. Draw a diagram to show how our ocean waters are becoming more acidic.
5. Design a bumper sticker with a slogan that would encourage people to do something to help the Great Barrier Reef.
6. Create a comic strip that shows a sea creature having a conversation with a human about acidic water and what needs to be done to stop it.