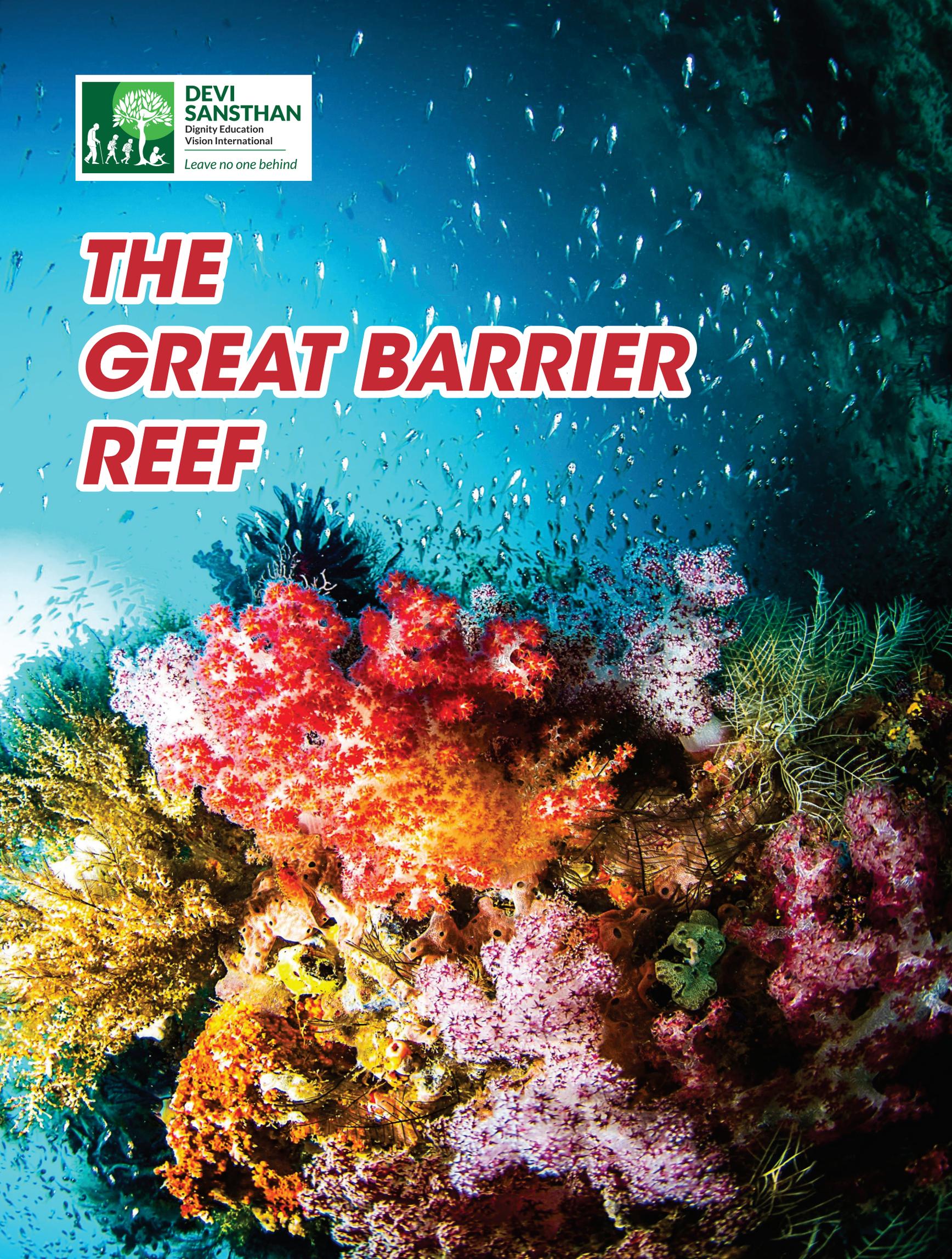




THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



Corals

As Tara tidied up her room, she stumbled upon a beautiful necklace gifted to her by her grandmother - a stunning coral necklace from Australia. The necklace reminded her of her dream to visit the Great Barrier Reef, home to over 600 types of corals.

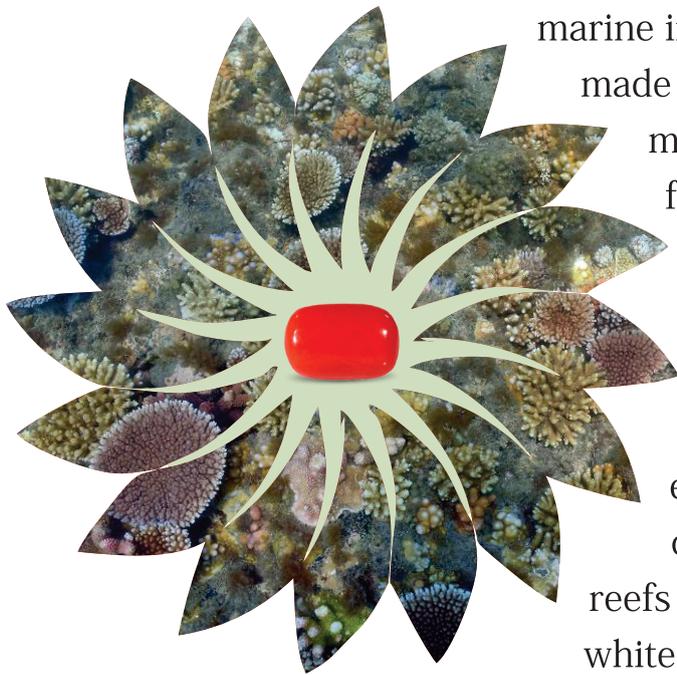


Hi!
I am Tara



Corals, a type of

marine invertebrates, have a hard outer layer made of calcium carbonate which hosts tiny microscopic algae. These algae provide food to the coral and are responsible for their vibrant colors.

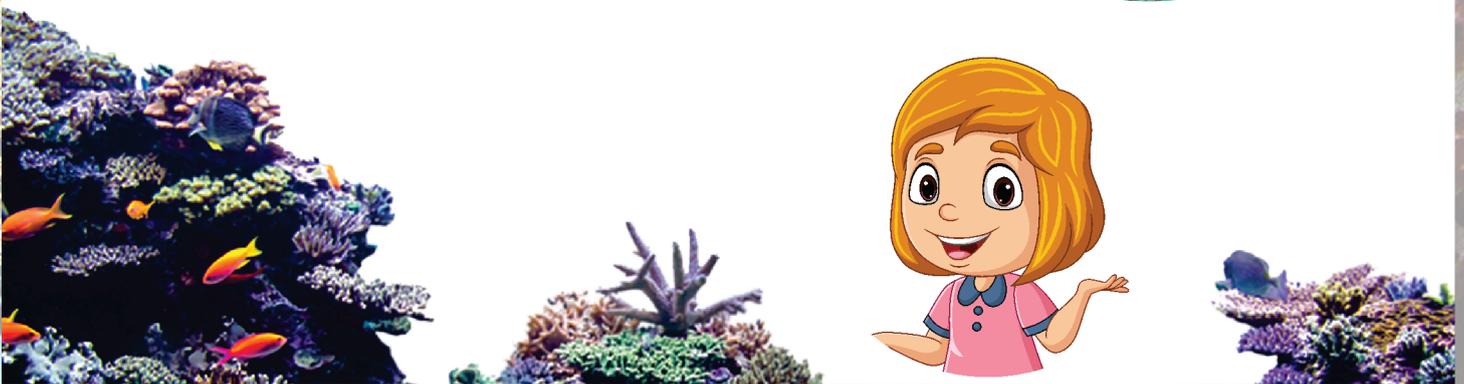


However, Tara was disheartened to recall reading about the vast expanse of coral



reefs turning white, losing their vivid colors due

to rising temperatures and ocean pollutants that cause the algae to leave. Corals cannot tolerate high temperatures, and as ocean water warms, they

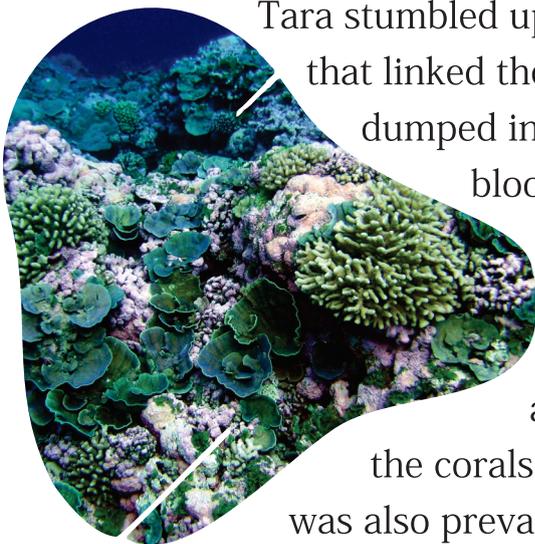




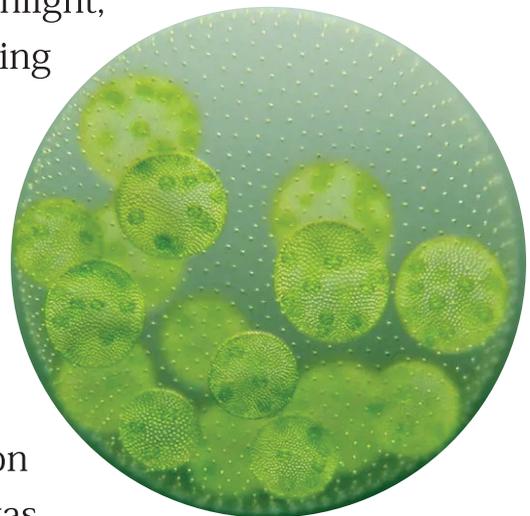
shed their outer layer, causing the colorful algae to move out. This results in the corals losing their colors and turning white, eventually dying if exposed to warmer waters for more than 8 weeks.

Coral reefs are considered the rainforests of the oceans, housing over 1,625 species of fish. The Great Barrier Reef also serves as a barrier against sea-level rise

and protects coastlines from erosion caused by tropical storms.



Tara stumbled upon a report that linked the pollution being dumped into coastal waters with the appearance of algal blooms that block sunlight, ultimately affecting the friendly microscopic algae living in the corals. This problem was also prevalent on the coast of Florida.



Tara came to the conclusion that global warming was affecting every corner of the planet.



As she fingered her beautiful coral necklace, she let out a sigh, realizing that in just a few decades, there may not be any corals left to make such jewelry.

New Words

1. **Invertebrates**- animals without a backbone
2. **Vibrant**- exciting
3. **Brunt**- impact of an action

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

Comprehension

1. What material was Tara's necklace made of?
2. What task was Tara completing?
3. Where was Tara dreaming of visiting?
4. What lives in the outer, hard layer of corals?
5. What provides food for the corals?
6. To what are coral reefs being compared?

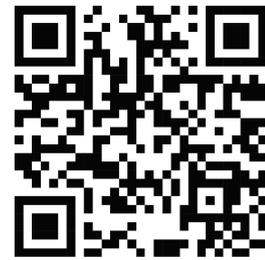
Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

Prompts Pair up

1. Locate Australia with the help of an atlas.
2. Name the capital of Australia.
3. Discuss with your partner what you have learned about corals and why they are important to the ocean's ecosystem. Brainstorm ideas on how to prevent ocean pollution and rising

temperatures to protect coral reefs. Share your ideas with the class.

Watch the video on the Great Barrier reefs. using the QR code.



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