



GREAT BARRIER REEF IN DANGER

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's natural wonders. It stretches along the coast of Queensland on the eastern side of Australia for 2,600 km and is home to hundred of types of coral, thousands of species of fish and 30 species of whale and dolphin. But this unique ecosystem is at risk from industry's need for coal.

On July 29 2014, the government said „yes“ to plans for a gigantic coal mine in Queensland. Although the mine will be 400km inland from the reef, environmentalists say it will have terrible consequences for the ecosystem.



The Carmichael coal mine, which is owned by the Indian Adani Group, will cover 200 square kilometres and produce 60 million tonnes of coal per year. It would be the biggest coal mine in the southern hemisphere. A railway will have to be built to transport the coal to the coast, where it will be loaded on to ships and transported, mostly to India, to be burnt in coal-fired power plants.

Supporters of the mine say it will have huge benefits for Queensland and create hundreds of jobs. According to the Australians for Coal website, the coal industry today employs about 50,000 people directly and 150,000 indirectly. Coal is worth \$60 billion to the Australian economy, and is one reason for the country's wealth and high standard of living.

For opponents of the coal mine, the price for the environment is too high. The mine will produce huge amounts of carbon dioxide, adding to the volume Australia already produces. The country is the 16th largest emitter of CO₂ worldwide and per capita, the biggest producer.

The coal will be shipped from the Abbott Point port, which will become one of the world's biggest coal ports. Thousands of tonnes of mud will have to be dredged up and dumped in the reef area to extend the port so that it can deal with the extra coal. Some fear that the mud and the toxins it contains could harm the delicate coral.

Another fear is that a coal ship could run aground on the reef. There are already 12 ports around the reef, and 4,000 ships per year sail through it. That number is expected to rise to 6,000 by 2020. And the more ships there are, the more likely an accident becomes.

The Great Barrier Reef has enough problems without the coal industry. Coral is very sensitive to global warming, which causes what is known as coral bleaching.

Coral gets its bright colours from algae which it shelters and which provide it with food. The algae can only carry out photosynthesis to make that food if the water is cool enough. If it is too warm, they can't produce enough, so the coral expels the algae and the reef loses its colour. If the water is too warm for six weeks or more, the coral dies of starvation.

Coal is not the only important industry in Queensland: the beauty of the reef – when it is healthy – attracts more than 2 million visitors a year. The tourist industry is worth \$6 billion and supports 60,000 jobs, and people who work in tourism are among the many who have protested against the coal mine plans.

The reef has been protected since 1975 when the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was created. In 1981, it was named a World Heritage site by Unesco. Now the organization is worried about the reef's future in view of the developments and has warned that it might be put on the World Heritage danger list.

READING

1. Read the text and decide whether the following statements are true or false or not in the text.

		true	false	nit
a)	The Australian government supports plans for a new mine in Queensland.			
b)	The Great Barrier Reef is endangered because fossil fuels are going to be transported through it.			
c)	The mine is quite near to the reef.			
d)	Australian coal will be shipped to Indian by the Adani group when the mine gets built.			
e)	There will be strict regulations for the mine owners to protect the environment.			
f)	The reef might suffer when an already existing port is enlarged.			

2. In which paragraphs of the text can you find the following information? There is one note which refers to two paragraphs.

		paragraph
g)	size of the mine	
g)	The coral loses its colour when its environment gets too warm.	
h)	description of the reef	
i)	emissions produced by the mine	
j)	reasons for building the mine	
k)	Tourism is also an important factor for Australia's economy.	

3. Finish the following sentences by using the information from the text



l) The reef could be damaged because

m) The coral loses its colour when ...

m) The risk of accidents in the water will increase when the mine is built because

n) The reef might be put on the World Heritage danger list if

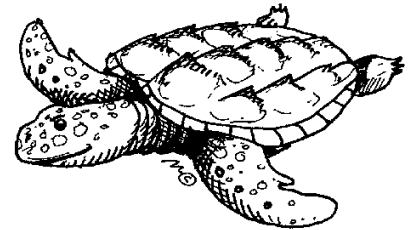
VOCABULARY

1. Find synonyms or synonymous expressions for the following words.
Do not change the meaning of the sentences.

- a) gigantic (paragraph 2) _____
- b) terrible (paragraph 2) _____
- c) huge (paragraph 4) _____
- d) harm (paragraph 6) _____
- e) becomes (paragraph 7) _____
- f) starvation (paragraph 9) _____
- g) worried (paragraph 11) _____

2. Find the opposites of the following words.

- a) eastern (paragraph 1) _____
- b) biggest (paragraph 3) _____
- c) wealth (paragraph 4) _____
- d) to rise (paragraph 7) _____
- e) healthy (paragraph 10) _____



Shen Neng 1, a Chinese-registered bulk coal carrier grounded in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. It veered off course into the restricted area.

Error spotting

Read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of them are correct, but six of them have a word that should not be there.

If a line is correct, please put a (X). If a line has a word that should not be there, write it in the space provided.

_____	The coal mine which will cover 200 square kilometres will produce 60 million
_____	tonnes of coal at a year. This is enough to supply 100 million people with
_____	electricity, the Australian government estimates. The coal has to be shipped
_____	through the Great Barrier Reef and then on to India. The reef is so much
_____	unique that it is regarded as one of the seven natural wonders of the earth.
_____	Others are for example the Grand Canyon or Victoria Falls. It is as big as
_____	Germany. Even without the threat of the new mine the reef is very in danger.
_____	Half of the corals are already dead, killed by pollution or other forms of
_____	environmental damage. When the mine is built, this natural wonder might be
_____	completely destroyed. People who think that the Australian government might
_____	protect this great natural sight better must know that the coal industry is very
_____	powerful in Australia everywhere. However, people are waking up and are
_____	protesting to save the reef. A lot of them think that renewable energies such
_____	as solar power or wind are a far better way to produce energy than the
_____	burning coal. That only contributes to global warming and which pollutes the
_____	environment even further.

Lösung

READING

2. Read the text and decide whether the following statements are true or false or not in the text.

		true	false	nit
a)	The Australian government supports plans for a new mine in Queensland.	X		
b)	The Great Barrier Reef is endangered because fossil fuels are going to be transported through it.	X		
c)	The mine is quite near to the reef.		X	
d)	Australian coal will be shipped to Indian by the Adani group when the mine gets built.	X		
e)	There will be strict regulations for the mine owners to protect the environment.			X
f)	The reef might suffer when an already existing port is enlarged.	X		

2. In which paragraphs of the text can you find the following information? There is one note which refers to two paragraphs.

		paragraph
g)	size of the mine	3
h)	The coral loses its colour when its environment gets too warm.	8+9
i)	description of the reef	1
j)	emissions produced by the mine	5
k)	reasons for building the mine	4
l)	Tourism is also an important factor for Australia's economy.	10

3. Finish the following sentences by using the information from the text



m) The reef could be damaged because

mud will get into the reef. / ... the water gets too warm.

n) The coral loses its colour when ...

the water gets too warm.

o) The risk of accidents in the water will increase when the mine is built because

more ships will sail through the ports around the reef.

p) The reef might be put on the World Heritage danger list if

the mine gets built

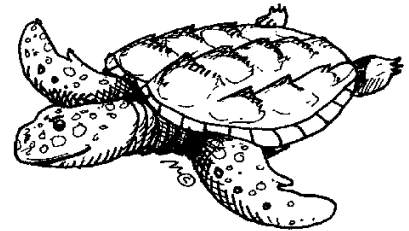
VOCABULARY

1. Find synonyms or synonymous expressions for the following words. Do not change the meaning of the sentences.

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| a) gigantic | (paragraph 2) | _____ huge _____ |
| b) terrible | (paragraph 2) | _____ awful, dreadful _____ |
| c) huge | (paragraph 4) | _____ enormous _____ |
| d) harm | (paragraph 6) | _____ damage _____ |
| e) becomes | (paragraph 7) | _____ gets _____ |
| f) starvation | (paragraph 9) | _____ hunger _____ |
| g) worried | (paragraph 11) | _____ concerned _____ |

2. Find the opposites of the following words.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| a) eastern (paragraph 1) | _____ western _____ |
| b) biggest (paragraph 3) | _____ smallest _____ |
| c) wealth (paragraph 4) | _____ poverty _____ |
| d) to rise (paragraph 7) | _____ to fall _____ |
| e) healthy (paragraph 10) | _____ unhealthy _____ |



Error spotting

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If a line is correct, please put a (X). If a line has a word that should not be there, write it in the space provided.

✓	The coal mine which will cover 200 square kilometres will produce 60 million
at	tonnes of coal <u>at</u> a year. This is enough to supply 100 million people with
✓	electricity, the Australian government estimates. The coal has to be shipped
much	through the Great Barrier Reef and then on to India. The reef is so <u>much</u>
✓	unique that it is regarded as one of the seven natural wonders of the earth.
✓	Others are for example the Grand Canyon or Victoria Falls. It is as big as
very	Germany. Even without the threat of the new mine the reef is <u>very</u> in danger.
✓	Half of the corals are already dead, killed by pollution or other forms of
✓	environmental damage. When the mine is built, this natural wonder might be
✓	completely destroyed. People who think that the Australian government might
✓	protect this great natural sight better must know that the coal industry is very
everywhere	powerful in Australia <u>everywhere</u> . However, people are waking up and are
✓	protesting to save the reef. A lot of them think that renewable energies such
the	as solar power or wind are a far better way to produce energy than <u>the</u>
which	burning coal. That only contributes to global warming and <u>which</u> pollutes the
✓	environment even further.