

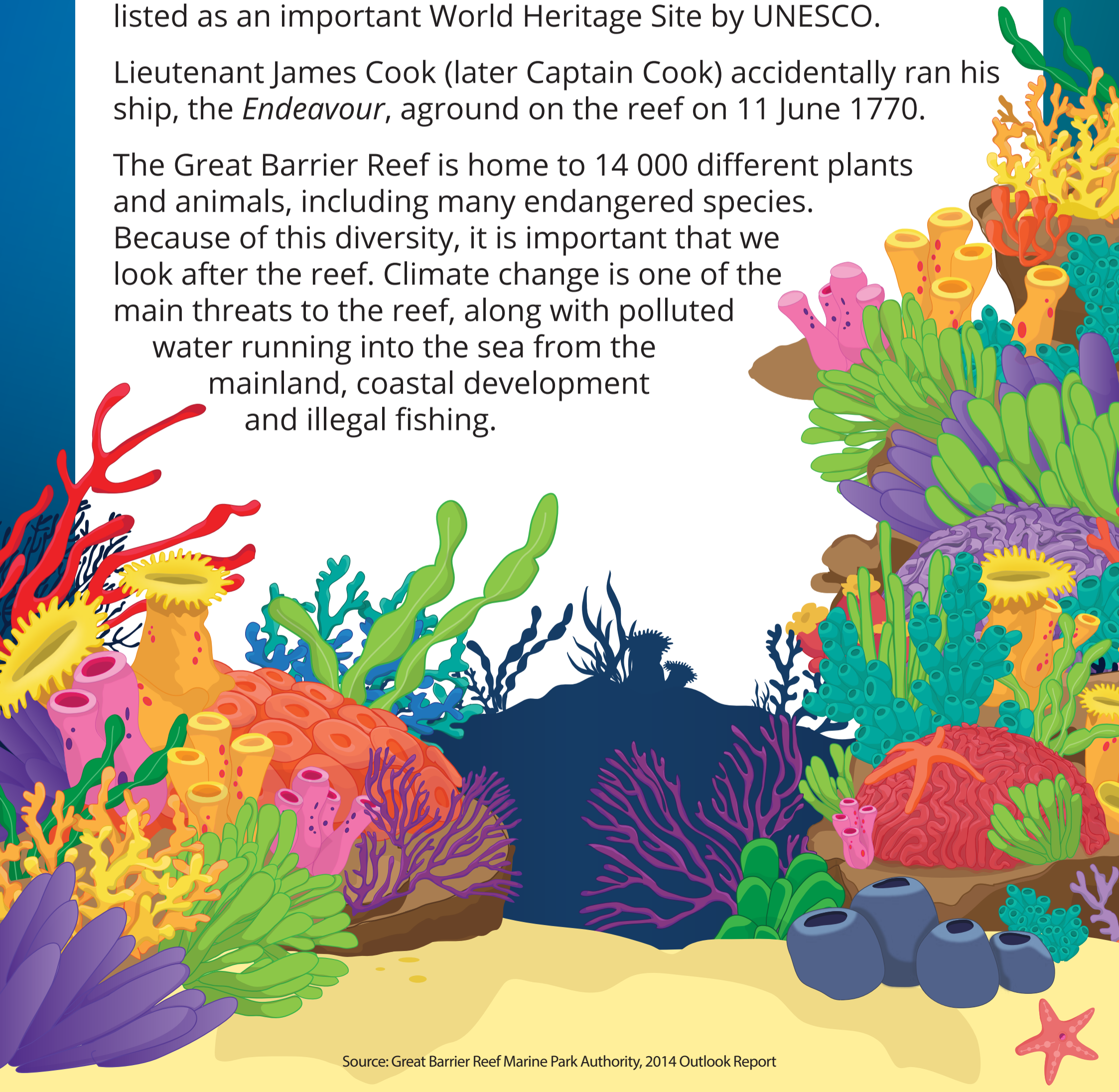
The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef. It is close to the coast of Queensland, Australia. It is made up of nearly 3000 coral reefs and more than 600 islands, and it stretches over 2600 km long. It is so big it can be seen from space!

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest structure made by living things. Because of its environmental significance, it has been listed as an important World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Lieutenant James Cook (later Captain Cook) accidentally ran his ship, the *Endeavour*, aground on the reef on 11 June 1770.

The Great Barrier Reef is home to 14 000 different plants and animals, including many endangered species. Because of this diversity, it is important that we look after the reef. Climate change is one of the main threats to the reef, along with polluted water running into the sea from the mainland, coastal development and illegal fishing.



Name: _____

Date: _____

The Great Barrier Reef

1. How long is the Great Barrier Reef?

2. How many different plants and animals live there?

3. When did the *Endeavour* run aground on the Great Barrier Reef?

4. What are the main threats to the Great Barrier Reef?

5. Why do you think we should protect the Great Barrier Reef?

6. Why do you think climate change would be bad for the Great Barrier Reef?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Research Skills - Note Taking

Read each paragraph from the text about the Great Barrier Reef.

- Highlight the key information in each paragraph.

Hint: Look for key words that inform the reader about the subject.

- Next to each paragraph, write notes about the key information.

Hint: Dot point notes should be a few words only, not full sentences.

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Answers

1. 2600 km long
2. 14 000 different plants and animals
3. 11 June 1770
4. Climate change, polluted water from the mainland, coastal development, and illegal fishing.
5. Answers may vary. E.g. To preserve the plants and animals that live there.
6. Answers may vary. E.g. The water temperature will change. Some animals, like corals, might not be able to live in warmer water and could die. Without coral, other animals that rely on the coral will die too.