

# the great barrier reef

One of the great wonders of the world lies just off the north Queensland coast – the Great Barrier Reef. But like so many natural environments that are sensitive to temperature changes or pollution, there are signs that serious damage is already being done to the coral of the reef. Every environmentally friendly thing you do at home or school will have some effect on the long-term health of the reef. If you are lucky enough to live near it, or to go there on holiday, there are also lots of simple things you can do to help minimise your impact.

**Fact:** Australia's marine environment is home to 4000 fish species, 50 types of marine mammal and many different sea-birds. Five hundred coral species are found in the northern reefs.



Research how global warming is affecting the Great Barrier Reef.

# 79



## are we there yet?



While flying is fun (most of the time) it produces large amounts of emissions. So for your next holiday you might want to talk to your parents about taking the train, going by bus or driving. It's a lot less stressful – and you get to see more of the countryside. A flight from Melbourne to Perth produces nearly 800 kg of carbon dioxide for each passenger. A family flying from Adelaide to Disneyland is responsible for an incredible 3031 kg of greenhouse gases per person. And because planes release their emissions high in the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect is three times greater than on the ground.



Before you go on your next holiday, compare the Carbon Footprints for the various ways you can travel.

Photos left: Crows Nest, Tourism Queensland  
Top: Roma, Tourism Queensland