Great Barrier Reef at Risk

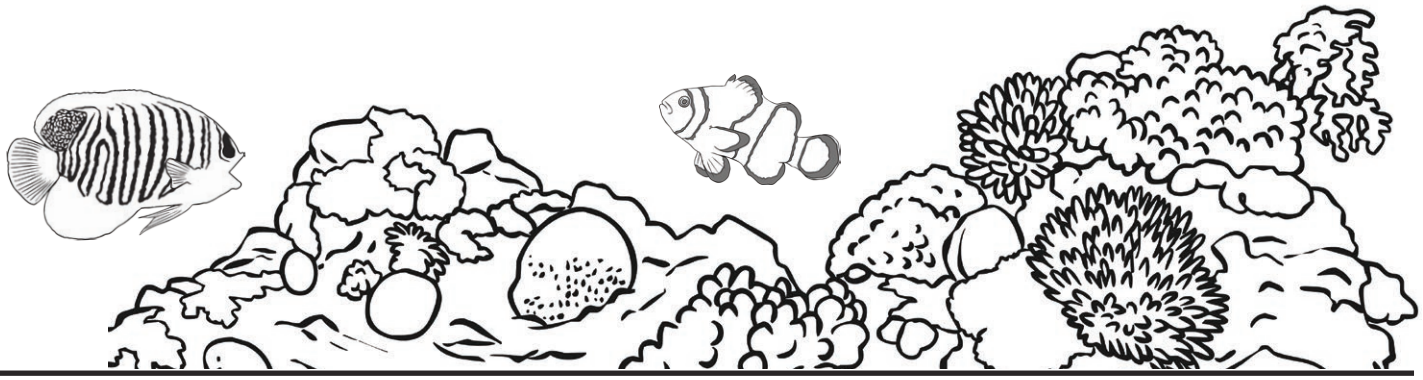
Use the words in the boxes below to complete the text about the biggest risk to the Great Barrier Reef.

Word Bank

shallow	algae	sunlight	gentle	white	rubbish
survive	nutrients	detach	Barrier	planting	prevent
coral	weeks	staghorn	stringent	beach	360
colourful	skeletons	animals	temperatures	branches	bleaching

Thousands of different _____ live in the Great _____ Reef, the most common being _____ and sponges. _____ species of hard coral grow there including: bottlebrush coral, bubble coral, brain coral, mushroom coral, _____ coral, tabletop coral and needle coral. Hard corals grow in _____ water and help build the structure of coral reefs. They grow in several forms such as mounds, plates, and _____ . When a coral colony dies, a new one will grow on top of the _____ of the dead coral. This creates a three-dimensional architecture.

Coral _____ is a current threat to the Great Barrier Reef. _____ grow on coral and they need each other to _____ because the coral eats the algae. The algae also makes the coral _____ . Pollution, high water _____, low water levels and too much _____ make the algae _____ from the coral. When the algae detaches itself from the coral, the coral is left bare. Over several _____ it starts to turn _____, losing all its colour. The coral then loses its _____ and can become sick and even die. You can do several things to help prevent coral bleaching. Being _____ with water, always putting _____ in the bin, being _____ to the reef if you swim in it, _____ trees and picking up rubbish at the _____ are all ways to help _____ coral bleaching.



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Thousands of different **animals** live in the Great **Barrier** Reef, the most common being **coral** and sponges. **360** species of hard coral grow there including: bottlebrush coral, bubble coral, brain coral, mushroom coral, **staghorn** coral, tabletop coral and needle coral. Hard corals grow in **shallow** water and help build the structure of coral reefs. They grow in several forms such as mounds, plates, and **branches**. When a coral colony dies, a new one will grow on top of the **skeletons** of the dead coral. This creates a three-dimensional architecture.

Coral **bleaching** is a current threat to the Great Barrier Reef. **Algae** grow on coral and they need each other to **survive** because the coral eats the algae. The algae also makes the coral **colourful**. Pollution, high water **temperatures**, low water levels and too much **sunlight** make the algae **detach** from the coral. When the algae detaches itself from the coral, the coral is left bare. Over several **weeks** it starts to turn **white**, losing all its colour. The coral then loses its nutrients and can become sick and even die. You can do several things to help prevent coral bleaching. Being **stringent** with water, always putting **rubbish** in the bin, being **gentle** to the reef if you swim in it, **planting** trees and picking up rubbish at the **beach** are all ways to help **prevent** coral bleaching.