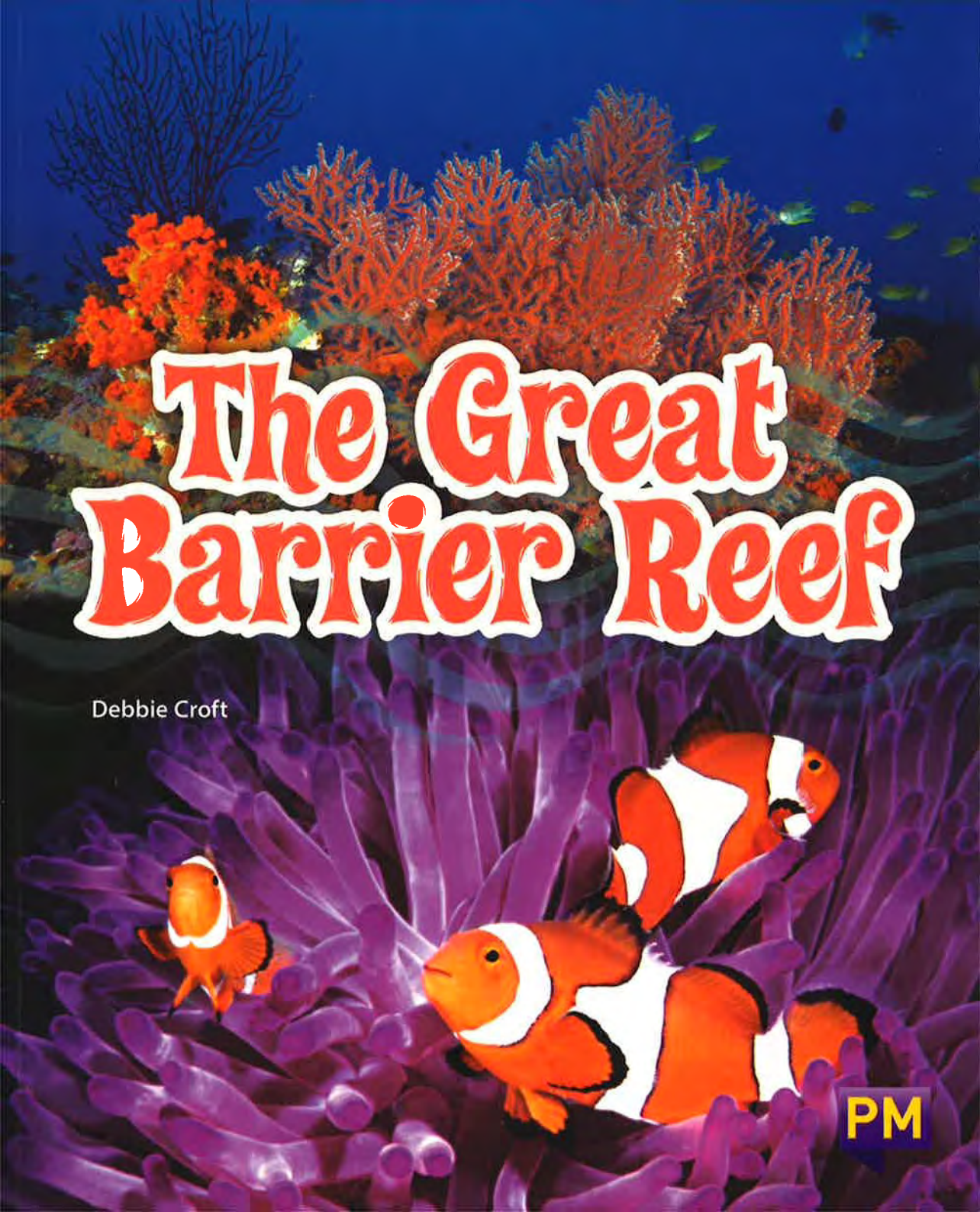

The Great Barrier Reef
Debbie Croft
PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

The Great Barrier Reef

Level 25 **Curriculum Area** Science
Running Words 1592 **Text Types** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–21
Recount (Imaginative) pages 22–30

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the information report and response in his or her own words.
Record the retellings for further discussion and reflection.

Think and Talk About ...

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 Why does coral mainly grow in clear, shallow water?
2 Why was the Great Barrier Reef made a World Heritage Site?

Inferential

3 Why are some soft corals at risk of being eaten by marine creatures?
4 What happens to coral that gets dumped into deep water during a cyclone?

Applied Knowledge

5 Why do Humpback Whales migrate to the Great Barrier Reef to breed?
6 How did the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples learn about the Great Barrier Reef?

Vocabulary

Replace the verb 'affect' in this sentence:
There are many risks that affect the survival of the Great Barrier Reef.

Snorkelling on the Reef

Literal

1 How did the visitors learn about the plants and animals in the reef?

Inferential

2 Why did the boat pull quietly away from the jetty?
3 Why did Mum make the children practise using their snorkels before entering the water?

Applied Knowledge

4 Why was it important to protect the coral by not touching it?

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 25	Book	Information Report/Exposition	*The Arctic Circle*

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The Great Barrier Reef

Debbie Croft
Illustrations by Nathalie Ortega

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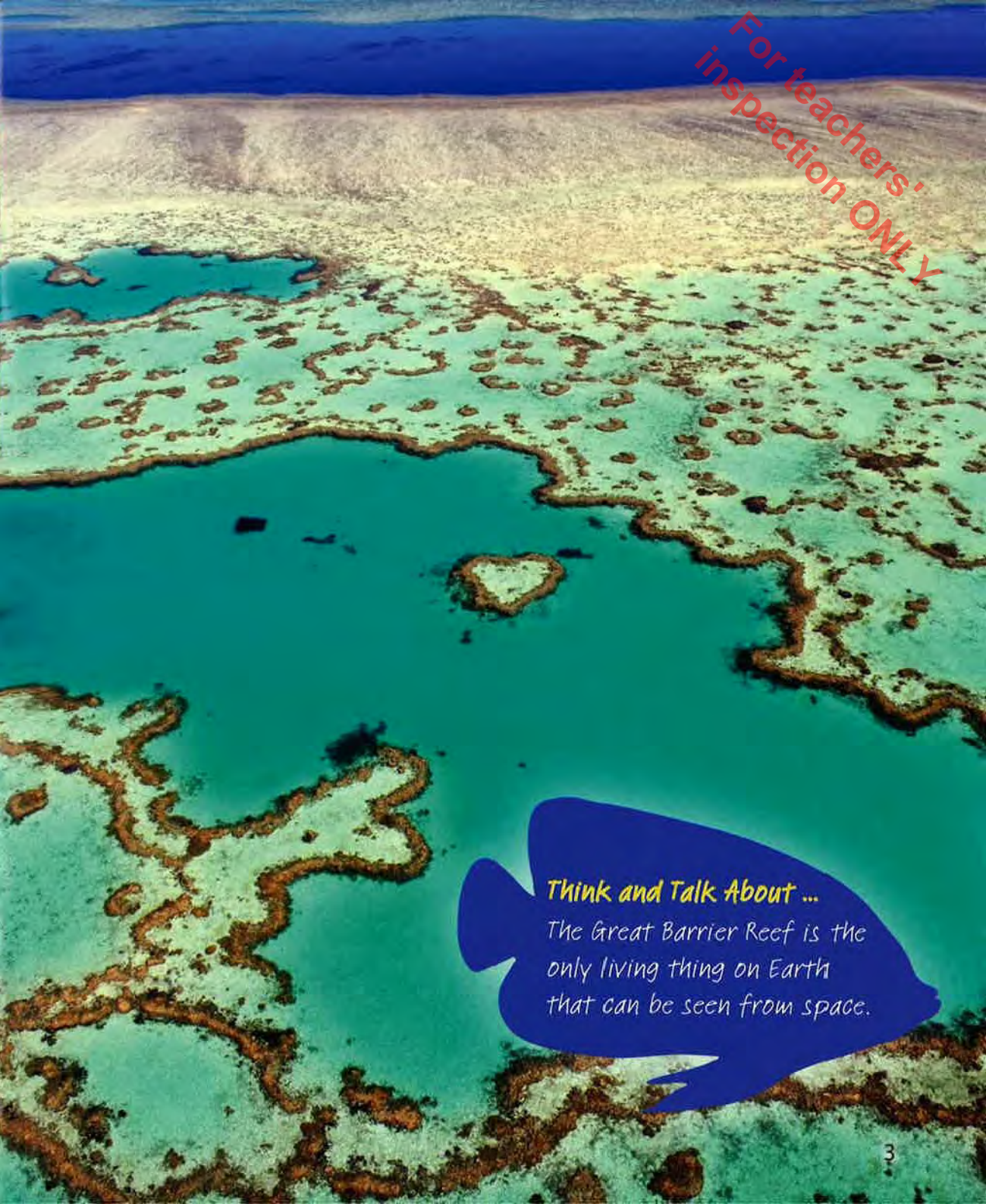
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The Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef system in the world. It is located in the Coral Sea, off the coast of Australia. It begins at the tip of Cape York in the north, and stretches 3000 kilometres south along the Queensland coast. The reef lies between 15 and 150 kilometres offshore. In some places, it is 65 kilometres wide.





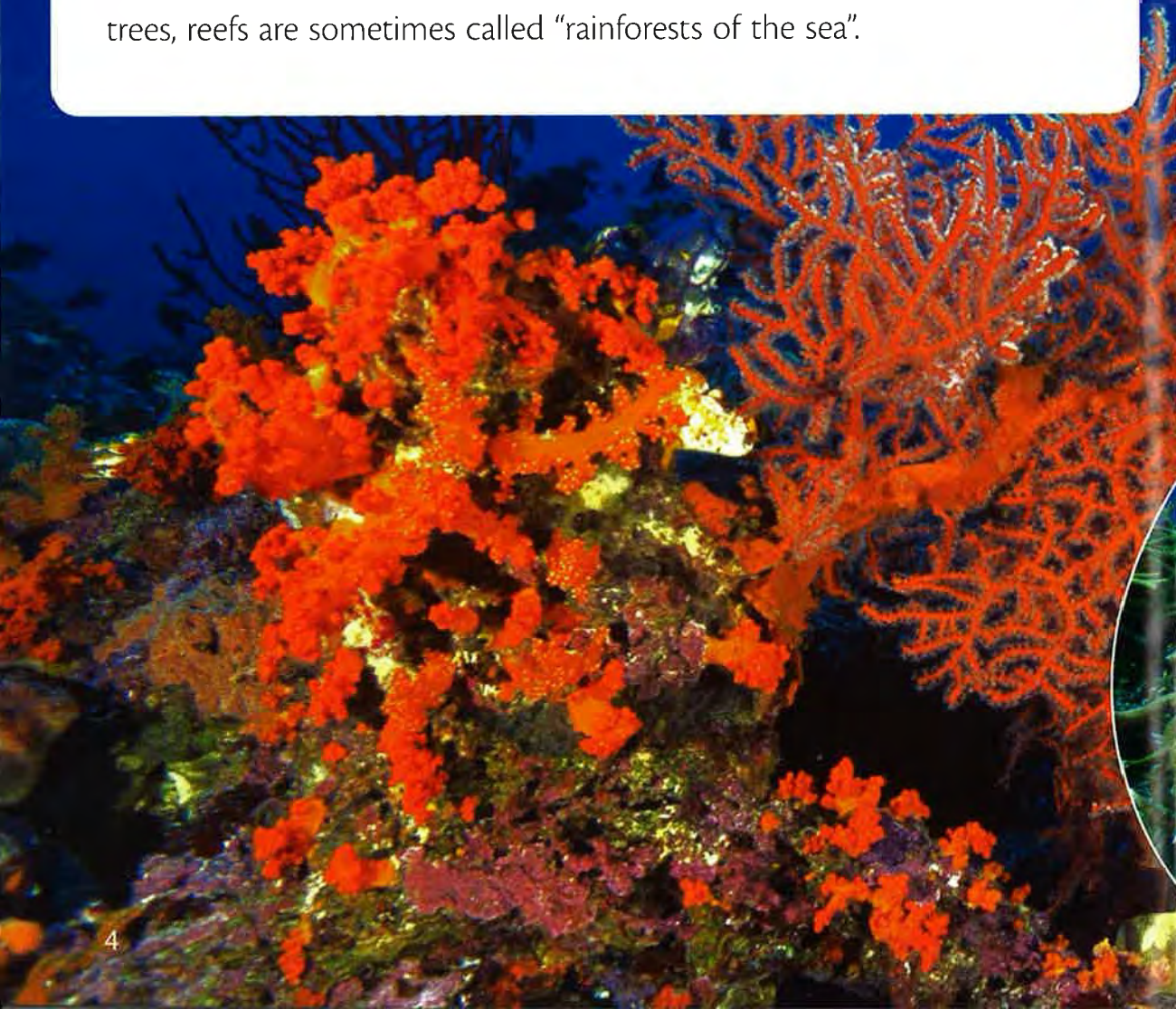
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Think and Talk About ...

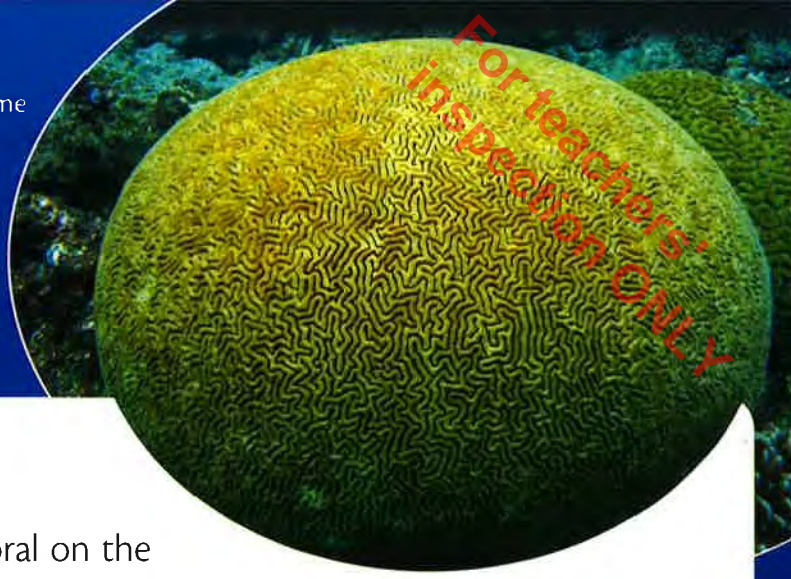
The Great Barrier Reef is the only living thing on Earth that can be seen from space.

This reef is the world's largest single structure made by living creatures. There are almost 600 different types of coral on the Great Barrier Reef. Together, they create an impressive display of colour that has made this environment well known throughout the world.

Coral reefs need sunlight to grow, so they are mainly found in clear waters up to 60 metres deep. Because some types of coral look like trees, reefs are sometimes called "rainforests of the sea".



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Brain coral got its name because it resembles the human brain.

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Types of Coral

The two main types of coral on the Great Barrier Reef are hard coral and soft coral.

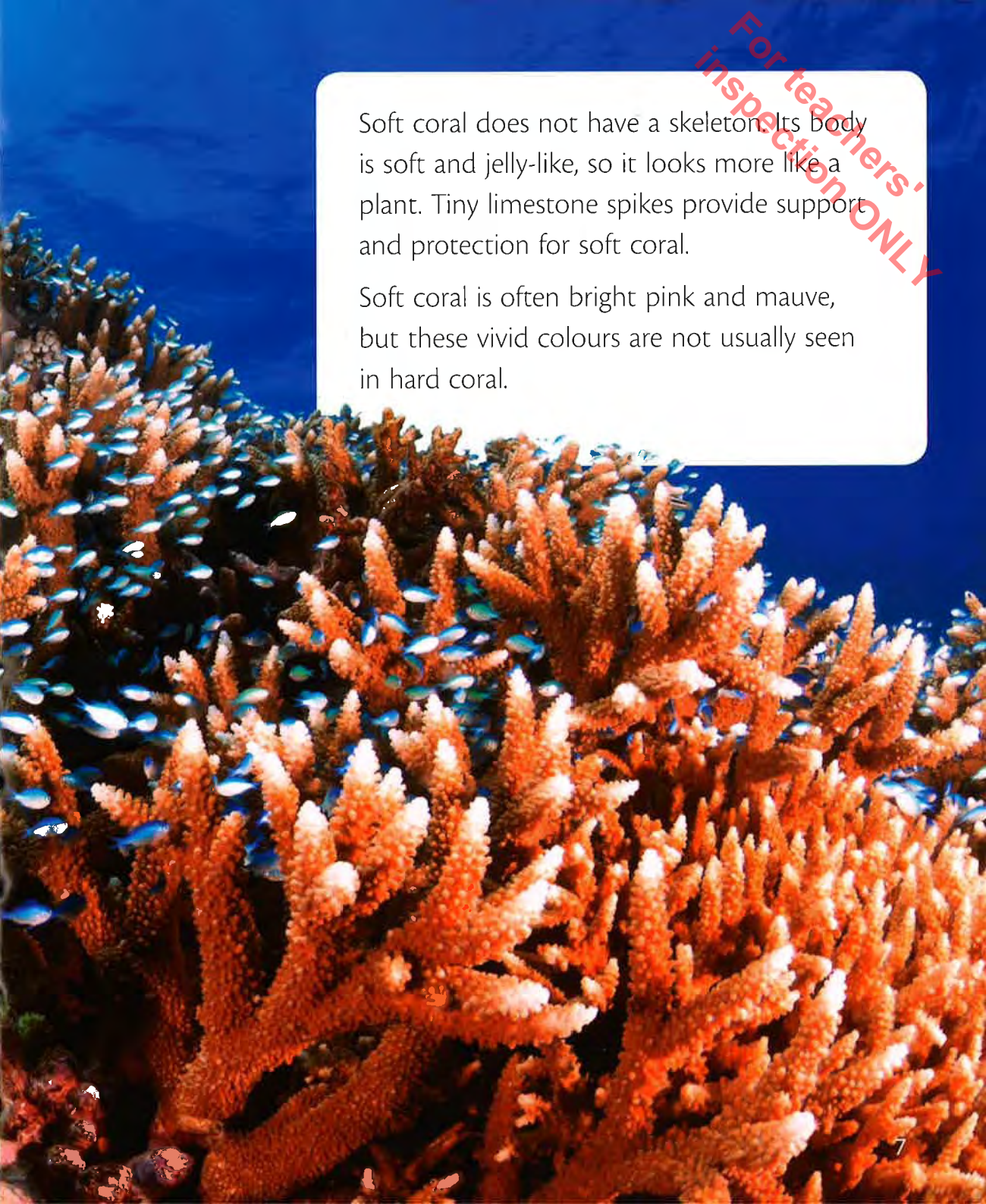
Hard coral forms when groups of **polyps** make **limestone** skeletons to support themselves. Usually, a single hard coral is made up of hundreds, thousands or millions of coral polyps. These polyps live together as a **colony**. The two most common types of hard coral in the Great Barrier Reef are "brain coral" and "staghorn coral".



Staghorn coral grows extremely quickly.



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Soft coral does not have a skeleton. Its body is soft and jelly-like, so it looks more like a plant. Tiny limestone spikes provide support and protection for soft coral.

Soft coral is often bright pink and mauve, but these vivid colours are not usually seen in hard coral.

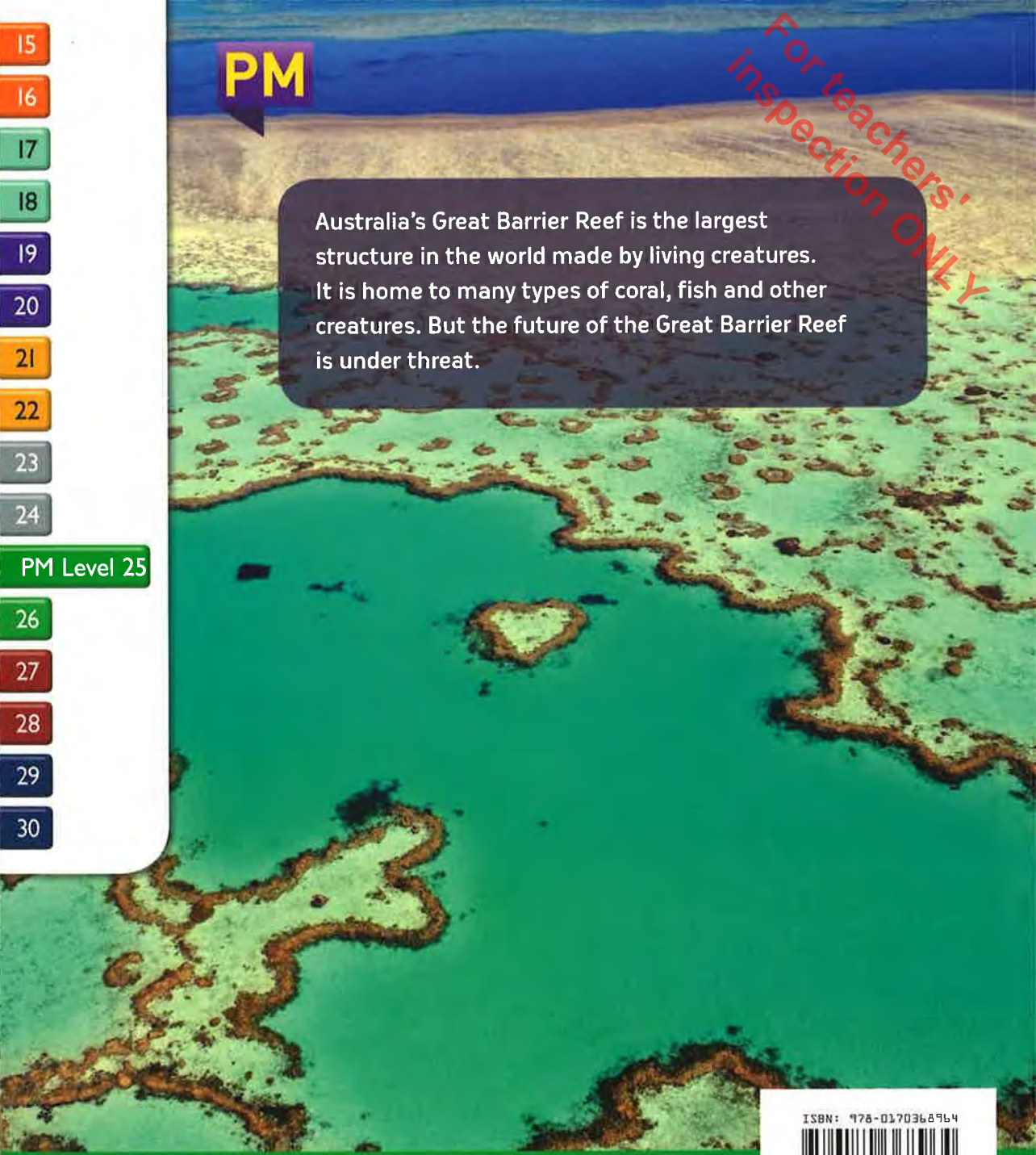
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Australia's Great Barrier Reef is the largest structure in the world made by living creatures. It is home to many types of coral, fish and other creatures. But the future of the Great Barrier Reef is under threat.



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Text Types:
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Recount (Imaginative)

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