

# MEASURING WATER THAT IS WARMER THAN NORMAL

Your mission: An oceanic heat wave is causing severe coral bleaching at reefs across the globe. It's the worst bleaching event in history. To what extent are the corals on the Great Barrier Reef at risk? You have been selected to join a team of scientists who will analyze temperature data to find out.



*Can you locate the Great Barrier Reef from space?*

Instructions:

1. Go to the Coral Bleaching activity on the website. Click on [Level 2](#) and scroll down to the activity titled *'Measuring Water That Is Warmer Than Normal.'*
2. The graph shows real temperature data (collected by satellites) along the Great Barrier Reef during Summer 2017. Use the graph to answer the questions below:
  - a. On the Great Barrier Reef, how warm does the water need to be for corals to bleach? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How many weeks did the temperatures exceed the 'bleaching limit'? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How many degrees above the bleaching limit did the sea surface temperature rise during the week of Feb 18th, 2017? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Are the corals on the Great Barrier Reef at high risk, moderate risk or low risk of bleaching due to heat stress? Use the temperature data to explain your answer.

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4. As you work through Level 2, keep a list of questions that you have about coral bleaching in the table below.

What GENERAL questions do you have about coral bleaching?	What questions could you ask (and answer) using the types of data you explored in Level 2?