

# 7.4 What a Wonderful World

## What is a Wonderful Place?

A place which is said to create great wonder or astonishment!

There are seven wonders of the world;	These wonders were chosen in 2007.
1. Great Wall of China	All are Unesco World Heritage sites
2. Petra	– this means the site is of cultural, historical scientific importance.
3. Colosseum	All sites are architectural marvels of enormous scale.
4. Chichen Itza	They are among the most visited tourist attractions in the world.
5. Machu Picchu	
6. Taj Mahal	
7. Christ the Redeemer	

## Giants Causeway – Northern Ireland

The Giants Causeway is made out of about 40,000 basalt columns. These formed when magma from a volcanic eruption cooled, hexagons formed as the magma cooled at different rates.

The Giants Causeway is important as it attracts tourists which helps local businesses and people.

## Death Valley – Nevada

Rocks fall from the nearby mountains where the wind is very strong. When it rains a mini lake forms on the valley floor. Due to cold temperatures this water freezes around the rocks. As the ice melts the wind can blow the rocks stuck in the ice and therefore changing their position.

## Antarctica

Antarctica has been described as one of the last great wilderness areas of the world unspoilt by mass tourism.

Antarctica’s isolation, almost entirely south of the Antarctic Circle surrounded by the Southern Ocean, extreme climate and lack of facilities, have restricted access and hampered the development of tourism.

## Madagascar's Animals

Madagascar is isolated and the animals have adapted to survive this wonderful environment.

**ADAPTATION - The process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment.**

Ring Tailed Lemur - Long tails to help them balance and communicate to each other.  
Hands and feet allow animals to grab branches for climbing and feeding.

Fossa - Very sharp teeth and claws to help it hold onto its prey.  
Sharp retractable claws help the fossa to climb trees to hunt.

Aye Aye - Large eyes to help it see at night.  
Large ears to help them locate insects inside the bark.

## Rio de Janeiro Harbour - Brazil

The harbour at Rio de Janeiro has been around for millions of years, gradually being eroded by the waves.

The harbour is surrounded by tall granite mountains that include The Christ the Redeemer.

The harbour was discovered Portuguese explorers were trying to map the shoreline of the South American continent.

The harbour is heavily polluted as rubbish and sewage flow in from rivers.

## Dubai

Dubai has a hot dry climate. Most of the country is desert.

In the 1950’s Dubai was a small pearl fishing and trading port. By 2006 the population had reached 1.1 million, 90% of whom are foreigners.

Dubai is becoming a centre for high technology industry.

Revenue from oil has been used to build modern roads, schools and hospitals.

The Burj al-Arab is the world’s first 7 star hotel. It is also the world’s tallest hotel, and designed to look like a sailing ship

## The North Pole - Arctic

The Arctic is mainly made up of frozen water. The Arctic region is made up of parts of eight countries: Russia, Greenland, Canada, USA, Norway, Iceland, Sweden and Finland.

The coldest recorded temperature in the Arctic is was –68°C. Between 2003 and 2012 the Arctic region has shrunk by 36% due to global warming.

Indigenous people who live in the Arctic have adapted to the cold weather and harsh environmental conditions. An estimated four million natives live within the Arctic Circle.

The arctic is home to over 70 unique species of animal. As a result of climate change 40 Arctic species are now considered to be endangered.

## The Great Barrier Reef - Australia

A coral is a tiny animal polyp and algae that have grown together to create a large structure called a coral reef. This coral reef is home for thousands of species of plants and animals. The colonies of coral grow in warm, tropical waters close to the surface and are usually found near areas with waves.

There Great Barrier Reef is 1400 miles long and consists of 3000 individual corals

There are several threats to the reef, such as shipping accidents, over fishing, pollution and climate change.

There are things you can do to protect the reef such as avoid touching or anchoring the boat on the reef.

When on the beach make sure to recycle plastic and but all rubbish in bins to stop it blowing into the ocean.