



*The Outback*

## CHAPTER 4

### Geography of Australia

Australia is a country with the Pacific Ocean to the east, the Indian Ocean to the west, and the Southern Ocean to the south.

Australia has got different climates in different regions. The southwest and southeast have got a moderate climate with four **seasons**, just like in Europe. Because Australia is in the southern hemisphere, the summer is from December to February and the winter is from June to August. People in Australia celebrate Christmas on the beach!

The centre of the country is a desert. People call this area 'the Outback'. It's very hot in the day and very cold at night.

The north has got a tropical climate. There's a wet and dry season. The wet season is very hot, with temperatures between 30° and 50°C, and the dry season is about 20°C.

Around 20 million people live in Australia. The majority live in the main cities: Melbourne, Canberra (the capital) and Sydney are all in the southeast and Perth is on the southwest coast. Australia has got eight areas: New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, Northern Territory, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the island of Tasmania in the south, home to more than 500,000 people.

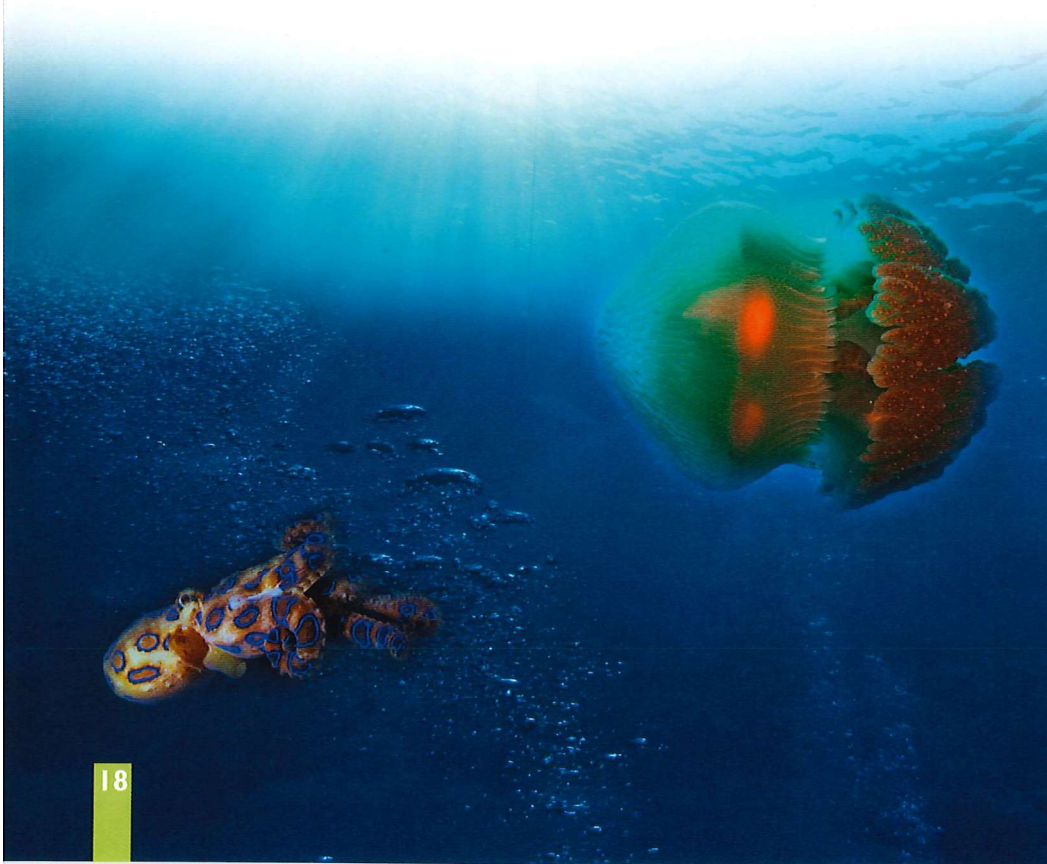
There are 8,222 other islands around Australia. Some of the islands are popular tourist places with beautiful beaches, interesting animals and forests. Fraser Island is famous because it's a large sand island. It's the only place in the world with **rainforests** growing on sand. For thousands of years, decomposing vegetation coloured the sands and now, the beaches are very beautiful.



### **The Great Barrier Reef**

The Great Barrier Reef is a **World Heritage Site** and is one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World. It's over 2,300 km long and 60.250 km wide. Millions of microscopic coral form groups. These gradually become reefs in the warm water near the coast of Queensland. Coral reefs are home to thousands of marine creatures. Whales, dolphins, clown fish and the very **poisonous** box jellyfish and blue-ringed octopus all live on the reef. Astronauts can see the Great Barrier Reef from space. That shows how enormous it is.

*Box jellyfish and blue-ringed octopus*





*Lake Argyle, Western Australia*

### **The Outback**

The Outback is an enormous, remote dry area in central Australia. Few people live there because there is very little rain and plants don't grow well. But there are some artificial lakes there, like Lake Argyle, in Kimberley, Western Australia.

Mining is an important industry in the Outback because there are different metals, including **iron**, aluminium, gold, **lead** and uranium. There are also precious stones under the ground. There are two important mines, the opal mine in Coober Pedy and the Argyle Diamond Mine in Kimberley. This mine produces about one third of the world's diamonds and it is the main producer of pink diamonds.

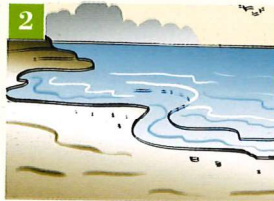


*A pink diamond*

## CHAPTERS 3-4 ACTIVITIES

1 Write the words under the correct picture.

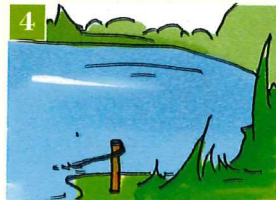
forest lake coast desert road



.....

.....

.....



.....

.....

2 Circle the word that doesn't belong.

- |   |         |        |           |          |
|---|---------|--------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | dry     | few    | wet       | warm     |
| 2 | gold    | stone  | church    | sand     |
| 3 | bread   | buy    | send      | leave    |
| 4 | hungry  | hard   | beautiful | wonder   |
| 5 | survive | become | far       | remember |



**3 Choose the correct answer.**

1. John Wilkes **is / isn't** a bad man.
2. John Wilkes can't return to Britain for **four / seven** years.
3. In 1787, convicts and prison guards established a new colony in **Botany Bay / New South Wales**.
4. John Wilkes is free and he **returns to Britain / becomes a rich farmer**.
5. The **southwest / north** is very hot in the wet season.
6. Tasmania is **a territory / an island** south of Australia.

**4 Correct the bolded words in the following sentences.**

1. The Outback is the **stone** area in the centre of the country.  
.....
2. The southeast has got **four** of the main cities. ....
3. **Sydney** is famous for its rainforests because they grow on sand.  
.....
4. **The Outback** is one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World.  
.....
5. **Swimming** is an important industry in the Outback.  
.....
6. Coober Pedy has got an important **diamond** mine.  
.....



In the Outback, emergency services are a problem because people live far from a hospital. The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, or The Flying Doctor, gives health and 24-hour emergency services by air for people in rural areas.

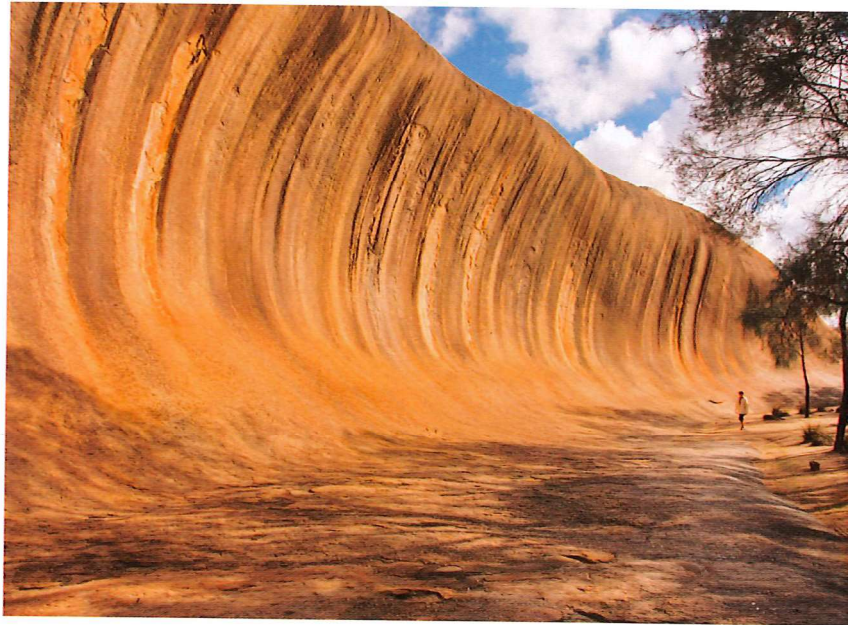


## CHAPTER 5

### Famous Places

#### Wave Rock

Wave Rock is an enormous rock formation in the Hyden Wildlife Park, Western Australia. It's about 14 metres high and 110 metres long and looks like a wave breaking on the beach. More than 140,000 people come to see this rock every year.



*Wave Rock*

#### Sydney Opera House

Almost all people recognise the Opera House in Sydney **Harbour**. An architect from Denmark, Jørn Utzon, designed the building. He started the work in 1957 and it opened in 1973. The construction of the **roof** was very difficult and the builders worked on it for four years.

*Interesting facts:*

- Almost 2,700 people can sit in the main concert hall.
- About one million **tiles** cover the roof and they are self-cleaning.
- There are more than 1,000 rooms in it.



### **Uluru**

Tourists to Australia love visiting Uluru (Ayers Rock). The rock changes colour throughout the day and is especially beautiful at **sunset**. This famous site is in the south of the Northern Territory.

About 600 million years ago, enormous pieces of land moved together and created mountains. Over time, the land around it disappeared and only the rock stayed.

This enormous sandstone rock is 348 metres high and 9.4 kilometres around the base. The Aborigines call it Uluru, and it is the sacred site for the Anangu, the Aboriginal people of the area. They don't climb Uluru because it is sacred and request visitors to respect it, too. In the past, Europeans called it Ayers Rock, after Sir Henry Ayers, the Governor of South Australia at the time. Explorer William Gosse and his team were the first Europeans to see the rock, in 1873.

I.E.S. "MAR DE ALBORAN"  
BIBLIOTECA

*Uluru  
(Ayers Rock)*





## CHAPTER 6

### Animals of Australia

#### Marsupials

Australia is far from the rest of the world and the evolution of the animals there was different from other continents. For example, marsupials only live in Australia. Marsupials are mammals, but the babies are born **undeveloped**. Then, they climb into their mother's pouch and stay there for months. They only leave it once they're ready to survive alone. Kangaroos, koalas and Tasmanian **devils** are examples of marsupials.

#### Kangaroos

These animals have got strong back legs and they can jump very high, sometimes three times their height! They've got very big feet. This means they can't walk normally. They must use their tails to help them walk.



#### Koalas

Koalas eat about a kilo of eucalyptus leaves every day and almost nothing else. No other animal eats eucalyptus leaves and this is very good news for koalas. It means they have no enemies to take their food! Koalas sit in the eucalyptus trees and sleep there for about 18 hours a day. Aren't they lucky!

### **Tasmanian Devils**

You can only see these carnivorous marsupials on the island of Tasmania. They help keep the island clean because they eat dead or sick animals, and rubbish from humans. The devil is an iconic symbol of Tasmania and many organisations use it in their logo. It attracts a lot of tourists to Tasmania.



### **Duck-billed Platypus**

The year was 1798, and scientists looked in shock at a picture of the duck-billed platypus. What was this animal with the beak of a duck, the tail of a beaver and webbed feet? Was this a special effect? No! This unique animal really exists and still lives on the eastern side of Australia and Tasmania.

Platypuses are mammals, but they **lay** eggs. The mother keeps the eggs warm for about ten days and then, small pink babies are born. They drink milk from their mother for three to four months, and leave her once they can swim. Platypuses spend about 12 hours a day hunting for small creatures at the bottom of rivers. They hold the food in their beaks, take it to the **surface** and eat it there.



### **Dingoes**

Dingoes live wild in Australia and can be dangerous animals. A **pack** of dingoes can kill an adult kangaroo weighing 90 kilos! People sometimes forget that dingoes are ferocious animals, not pet dogs, and try to approach them. It's important to keep a distance from them and not to give them food.

The dominant female in a pack of dingoes only wants her babies in the pack. She kills all the other babies and then the whole pack protects her young dingoes.

Dingoes are unique because they can **rotate** their **paws** and do complex actions. They can use this ability to open doors, enter houses and search for food. That's very frightening!



### **Snakes and Spiders**

Many of Australia's snakes and spiders are poisonous and dangerous.

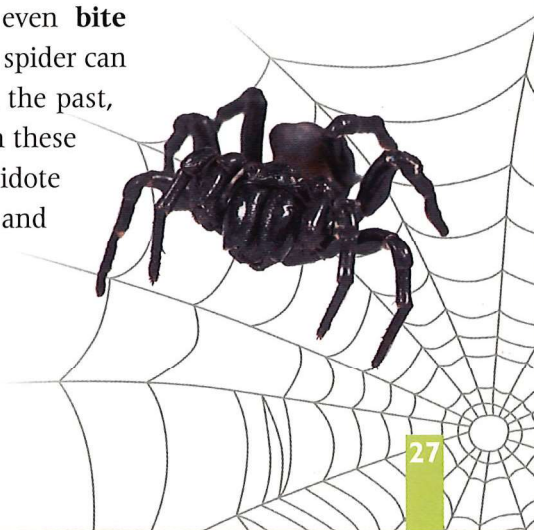
#### **Inland Taipan**

One very dangerous snake is the Inland Taipan. Its poison can kill a human adult in 45 minutes! This snake lives in a very remote area on the borders of Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory. It can be dark brown or yellow. The snake's favourite food is rats, so a good year for rats means a delicious year for the Inland Taipan!



#### **Sydney Funnel-web Spider**

The Sydney Funnel-web Spider is ferocious. Its **fangs** are large and it can even **bite** through **toenails**! A bite from this spider can kill a human being in an hour! In the past, there were 13 reported deaths from these spider bites. Luckily, there is antidote today and people usually survive and recover.



## CHAPTERS 5-6 ACTIVITIES

### 1 Put the letters in the correct order to form words. Then use the words to complete the sentences.

1. The treasure is at the ..... (mtboto) of the sea.
2. A ..... (kenas) hasn't got a nose. It smells with its tongue.
3. The pelican can hold a lot of food in its ..... (kabe)
4. The animals go to the ..... (ervri) to drink.

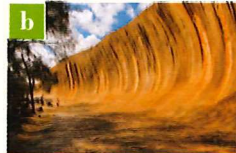
### 2 Complete the sentences with the words below.

sleep  
climb  
recover  
forget  
recognise  
disappear

1. You look tired. Why don't you ..... for a few hours?
2. Don't ..... to do your homework tonight.
3. Take this medicine. It will help you .....
4. I ..... you. We studied in the same school.
5. You must ..... a lot of steps to the roof of the building.
6. The sun is going to ..... behind that cloud.



**3 Match the pictures to the sentences below. You can use some of the pictures more than once.**



- ..... 1. An architect from Denmark designed it.
- ..... 2. Ayers Rock is another name for it.
- ..... 3. It is 14 metres high and 110 metres long.
- ..... 4. There are more than 1,000 rooms in it.
- ..... 5. It is sacred to the Anangu people.

**4 Mark the sentences true (T) or false (F). Then use the letter of each answer to find this Australian bird.**

- 1. You can find kangaroos and koalas in Australia.
- 2. Many animals like eating eucalyptus leaves.
- 3. Tasmanian devils are good for Tasmania.
- 4. The duck-billed platypus is a reptile because it lays eggs.
- 5. Many Australians keep dingoes as pets.
- 6. The Inland Taipan and the Sydney Funnel-web spider are dangerous.

T	F
k	a
p	o
k	e
d	b
i	r
r	s

The name of this Australian bird is ..... o ..... a ..... u ..... a.



Eucalyptus trees have got many uses: they are a natural insecticide and people also use eucalyptus oil as an antiseptic. The Aborigines also use the wood to make didgeridoos, a traditional musical instrument.

