



Australia



Pupils will learn to...

- Classify living things in different ways
- Explore food chains
- Recognise that environments can change
- Identify how features of a coastline can change
- Compare Australia with the local area

Important facts

- 90% of Australians live on the coast.
- The Australian Alps get more snow than the Swiss Alps.
- Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world.
- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest ecosystem in the world.
- Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world.
- Indian Pacific train has the longest straight section of train track in the world.
- 80% of the animals are unique to Australia.
- 2.5 km of Uluru (formerly Ayre Rock) is underground.
- Criminals from Britain were sent to Australian as a prison during Victorian times.
- Australia consists of:
 - Six states: New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.
 - Two territories: Northern territory and Australian Capital Territory
- The federation star (the big one on the flag) represents the different states and territories. Six points represent the states and the seventh is shared between the two territories.

Local links

- Sainsbury's Centre - There are loads of pieces of art from the region and also a book
- Norwich Castle (Animals exhibition)

Home learning ideas

- Make your own aboriginal art.
- Make your own Australia travel guide

Books to read at home

- Read this bizarre love story online (Search: A Norwich Love story: From Dungeons to a dynasty)
- Diary of a Wombat
- Possum Magic
- Edward the Emu

Inquiry Questions

- Would you like to be sent to Australia as a convict 200 years ago?
- Why are the animals so different to other continents?
- What is the impact of climate change on Australia?
- How is the Australian coastline (similar/different) to the Norfolk coastline?

Further Information



Key Vocabulary

Aborigines	The first people to live in a country.	Food chain	The order that plants and animals get their energy (i.e. which animal eats which).
Bush	Dry, wooded wilderness	Great Barrier Reef	The world's largest coral reef system.
Billabong	Australian term for a pond or lake not connected to a river.	New Holland	The original name given to Australia
Biodiversity	The variety of different living things.	Rabbit Proof Fence	A fence built to stop the spread of rabbits and non-native species.
Colony	A group of people from one country living in another country.	Marsupial	Mammals whose young are raised in a pouch (such as Kangaroo).
Continent	A large land mass	Oceania	The area that describes Australia and many Pacific Islands
Commonwealth	The group of countries that were once part of the British Empire.	Outback	Remote wilderness of Australia
Ecosystem	A community of living things in an area.	Wollemi	An area of Australia made famous by the ancient tree discovered there.
Achieve	Being successful in a goal through skill, effort or courage.	Exclude	Deny or omit something.
Establish	To start something	Similar	Looking or being almost the same.

* Words in grey are Tier 2 (non-topic specific) vocabulary