



M I N I L E S S O N

AUSTRALIA



B E F O R E W E S T A R T



Meet Archie and his friends, the Intrepid Explorers. They are five adventurous Aussie kids who travel the world on missions to recover stolen artefacts or protect endangered species. This time, they are exploring their own country: Australia.

Before starting, they have decided to read up on the country's geography, history, economy, culture, and wildlife, and we hope you have fun learning with them!

What's more, the adventure does not stop there! On the website, you'll find more fun resources from their journey, including animal cards, interactive activities, a tasty recipe, and brain-teasing games to keep your kids learning and having fun every step of the way. And if you want to embark on a real-life mission with them, read the first book of the series available on the book page!

C O U N T R Y I N T R O D U C T I O N



Australia, the world's sixth-largest country and the only one that is also a continent, is known for its unique wildlife, diverse landscapes from deserts to rainforests, ancient Aboriginal cultures stretching back over 60,000 years, and landmarks like the Great Barrier Reef and Sydney Opera House.



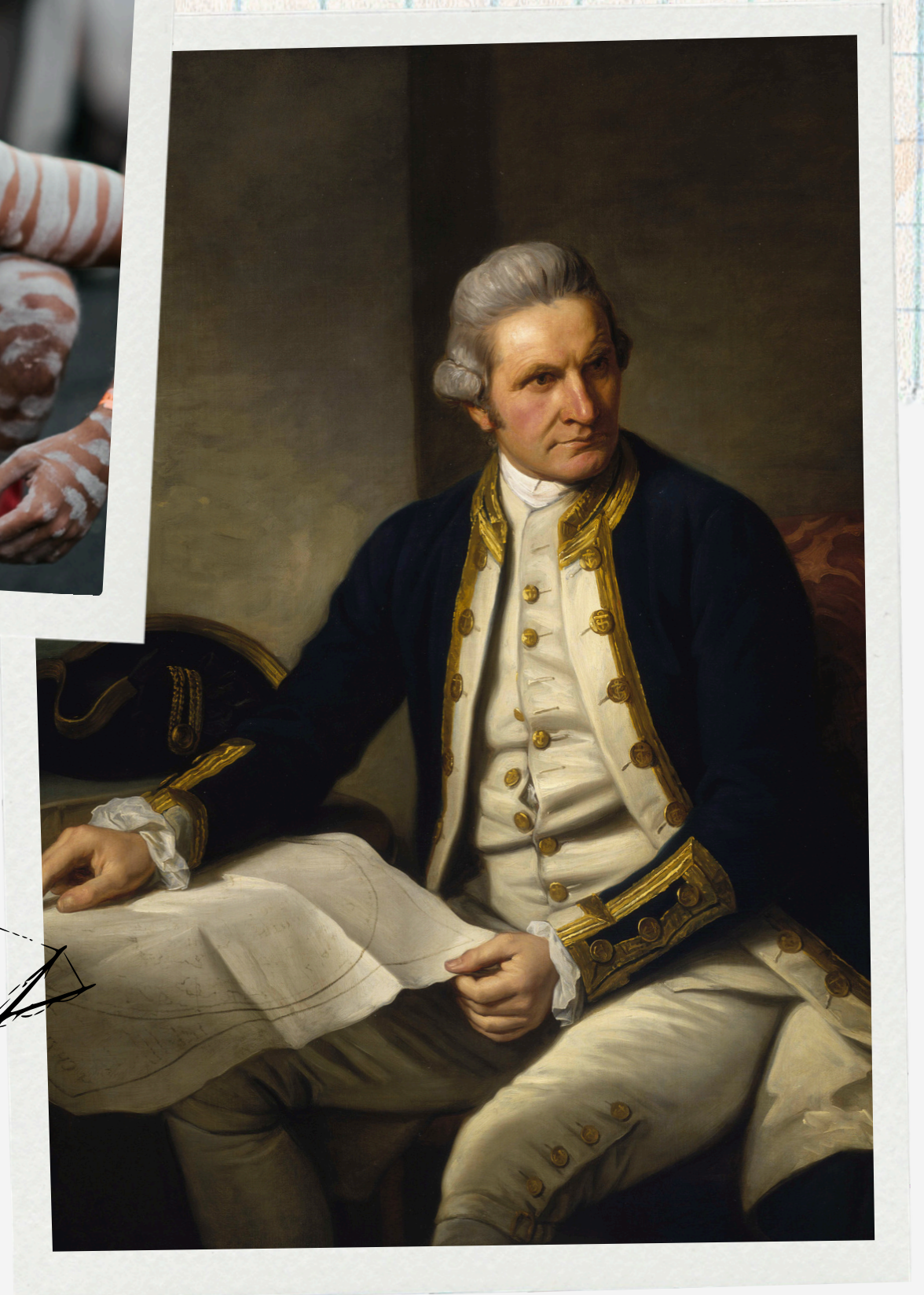
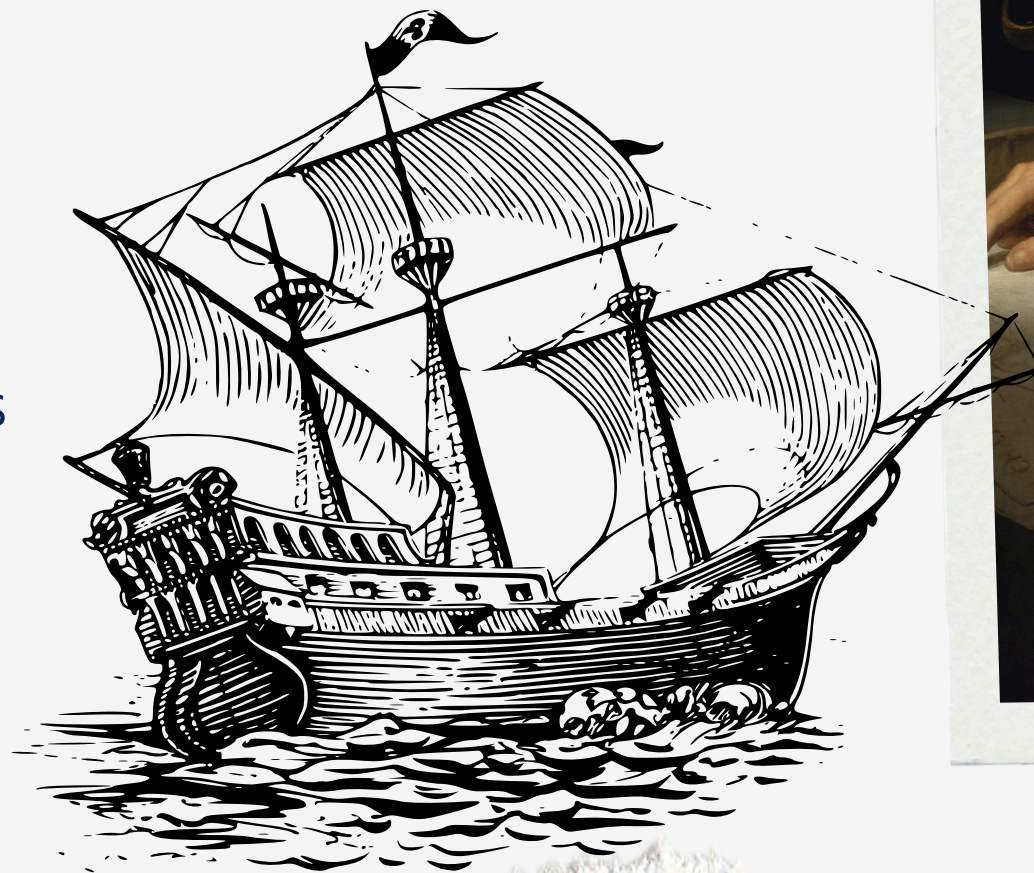
Overview of Australia

Australia is an island continent located in the Southern Hemisphere, so its seasons are opposite to those in the Northern Hemisphere. It is made up of six states—New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia—and two major territories: the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. Canberra, located in the Australian Capital Territory, is the capital city and the political centre of the country. Australia has a population of about 27 million people, with the largest cities including Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth.



History of Australia

Australia's history goes back more than 60,000 years with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who are the oldest living cultures in the world. In 1770, Captain James Cook claimed the eastern coast of Australia for Britain. Over the next decades, British settlers arrived and established colonies. Australia became a country in 1901 when the six colonies joined together to form a federation. Since then, Australia has grown into a diverse nation shaped by its Indigenous cultures, immigration, and events like both World Wars and the development of its government and society.



Focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

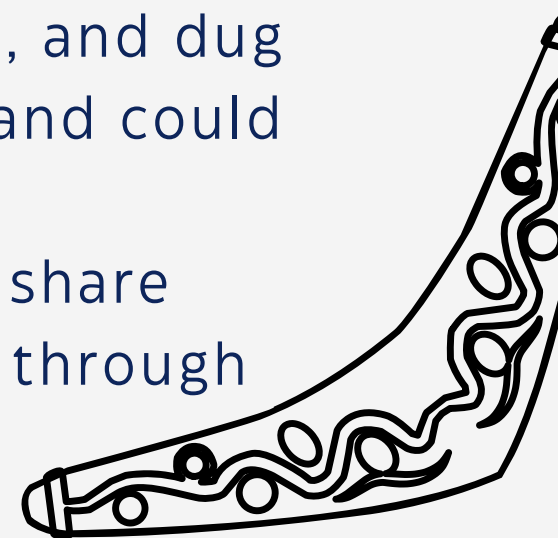
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Australians and have lived here for over 60,000 years, the oldest continuous cultures in the world.

There are over 250 nations and around 800 different dialects spoken across Australia. Each nation has its own laws, customs, and stories.

A key part of their culture is the Dreaming (or Dreamtime); stories that explain how the world, land, animals, and people were created. These stories also teach important rules about how to live, care for the land, and respect others.

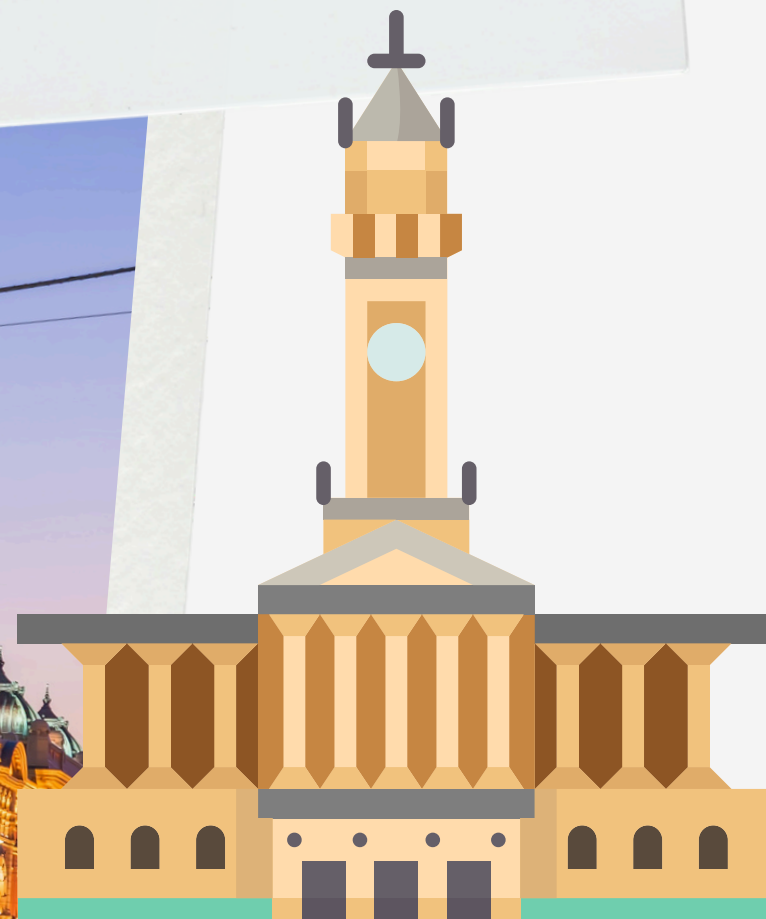
Traditionally, Aboriginal peoples were hunter-gatherers, moving with the seasons to find food. Men often hunted kangaroos, emus, and fish using spears or boomerangs, while women gathered fruits, seeds, nuts, and dug for yams. They only took what they needed and made sure the land could keep providing.

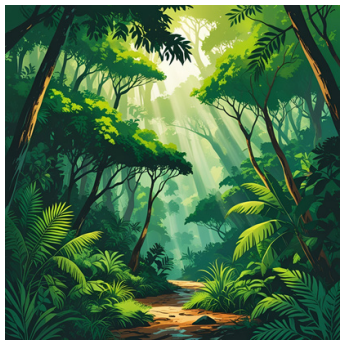
Today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to share their languages, protect sacred places, and keep traditions alive through art, dance, song, and storytelling.



Economy of Australia

Australia has one of the world's biggest economies (14th in the world). It is famous for mining valuable resources like coal from Queensland, iron ore from Western Australia, and gold from Victoria. Farming is important too, with many farmers raising sheep for wool and cattle for beef, especially in states like New South Wales and South Australia. Australia also grows crops like wheat and barley. In cities like Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane, many people work in industries such as tourism, education, banking, and technology. These cities are important centres for business and trade, both within Australia and with other countries.





Tourism in Australia

Tourists visit Australia to see its famous landmarks and natural wonders. In Sydney, the Sydney Opera House is world-famous for its unique sail-like design and hosts concerts and shows all year round. Nearby, the Sydney Harbour Bridge is one of the longest steel arch bridges in the world, and visitors can even climb it for amazing views. The Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Queensland, is the largest coral reef system on Earth and home to thousands of different marine animals and plants.

In the Northern Territory, Uluru (also called Ayers Rock) is a giant red sandstone rock that is sacred to the Aboriginal Anangu people and changes colour during sunrise and sunset.

Other popular places include the Blue Mountains in New South Wales, known for their stunning cliffs and eucalyptus forests, and Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory, famous for its ancient Aboriginal rock art and saltwater crocodiles!

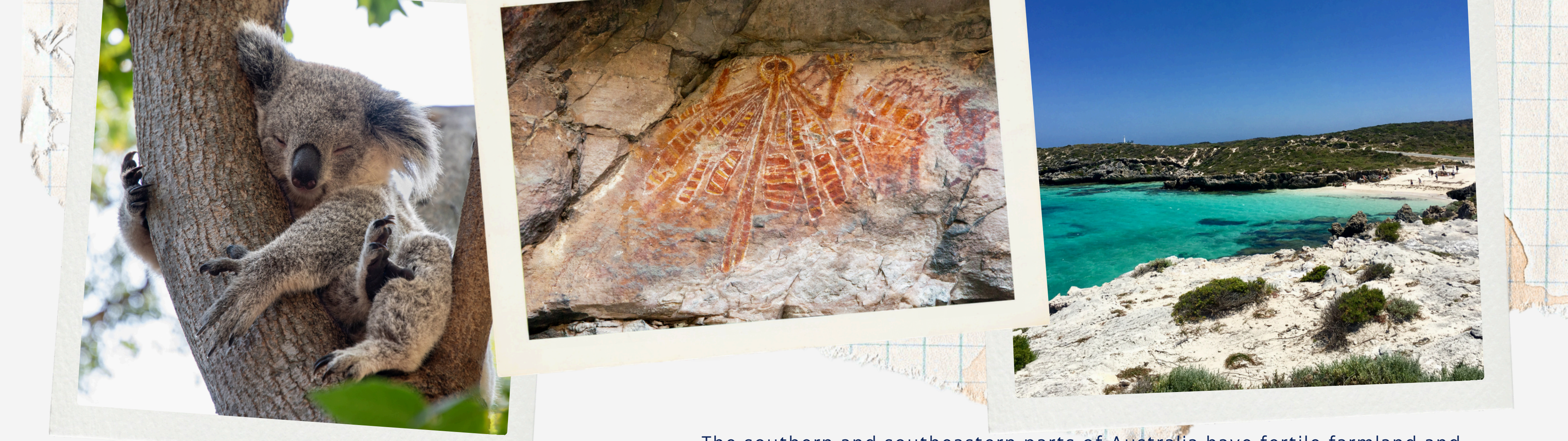




Natural Life in Australia

Australia has a wide variety of landscapes that support many different plants and animals. In the central part of the country lies the vast Outback, a dry, red desert region that is home to unique animals like kangaroos, emus, and dingoes. Along the east coast, there are thick, green rainforests filled with tall trees. Here you might see animals like the cassowary, a large, colourful bird, and tree kangaroos, which are kangaroos that live in trees! There are also many frogs, snakes, and colourful butterflies. The northeast is famous for the Great Barrier Reef, the largest coral reef system in the world, which provides a habitat for thousands of marine species, including turtles, sharks, and tropical fish.

Natural Life in Australia



The southern and southeastern parts of Australia have fertile farmland and beautiful forests. Here, you can find animals like the koala, which lives in eucalyptus trees, and the wombat, a burrowing marsupial. There are also many colourful birds such as the kookaburra, known for its laughing call, and the lyrebird, famous for copying sounds.

The island state of Tasmania is known for its cool climate and unique wildlife like the Tasmanian devil, a small but fierce marsupial with a loud screech. Tasmania is also home to different wallabies and the eastern quoll, a small carnivorous marsupial.

Australia has many national parks and protected areas. For example, Kakadu National Park preserves wetlands and Aboriginal cultural sites. It is home to animals such as the saltwater crocodile, jabiru stork, and many colourful birds. The Blue Mountains National Park is famous for its steep cliffs, waterfalls, and eucalyptus forests, where you can find animals like the greater glider, a possum that can glide between trees, and the spotted quoll, a carnivorous marsupial.

Festivals and Traditions in Australia

Australia celebrates many traditions that reflect its diverse history and cultures. One important day is Australia Day on January 26, which marks the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 and is celebrated with fireworks, parades, and community events. The NAIDOC Week honours the culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with festivals, art, and performances across the country.

In cities like Sydney and Melbourne, the Sydney Festival and Melbourne International Comedy Festival bring music, theatre, and laughter to people every year. Australians also enjoy sporting events like the Melbourne Cup, a famous horse race called "the race that stops a nation."



Australian Culture and Food

Sports like cricket, Australian Rules football (AFL), and rugby are very popular and bring communities together. Australia is also famous for its outdoor lifestyle, with many people enjoying the beach, barbecues, and nature. Iconic symbols like the didgeridoo (a traditional Indigenous wind instrument) and the boomerang reflect Australia's unique heritage.

Traditional Australian food includes dishes like meat pies, Vegemite on toast, and Lamingtons, a sweet cake covered in chocolate and coconut. Barbecues, or “barbies,” are very popular, where families and friends cook meat and sausages outside.



Curiosities about Australia

Australians drive on the left side of the road, just like in England. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived in Australia for at least 60,000 years, making theirs the oldest continuous culture in the world. The Sydney Opera House took 14 years to complete and was finished in 1973. Australia is also home to the Great Barrier Reef, which stretches over 2,300 kilometres and is the largest coral reef system on Earth. So large it can even be seen from space!



The First Intrepid Explorers' Book is Out and the first mission is set in Australia!

Solve the riddles. Find the stolen artefact. Survive the mission.

When thirteen-year-old Archie signs up for a high-stakes virtual reality game, he has no idea he's about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Thrown together with four unlikely teammates, Archie must decode historical puzzles, defeat dangerous pirates, and survive a cassowary attack...all to recover a priceless painting before it's lost forever.

But just when the team thinks the game is over, **a mysterious email changes everything: an ancient and sacred artefact, the royal flute of Makassar, has been stolen.** It's time for the Intrepid Explorers to take on a real-world mystery.

From crocodile-infested swamps and an abandoned mine in the Australian desert to a bobby-trapped room in a famous art gallery, the five children will face **life-threatening challenges** and cross paths with some seriously bad guys. They'll have to rely on their courage, survival instincts and ability to solve cryptic puzzles to complete their mission before time runs out.

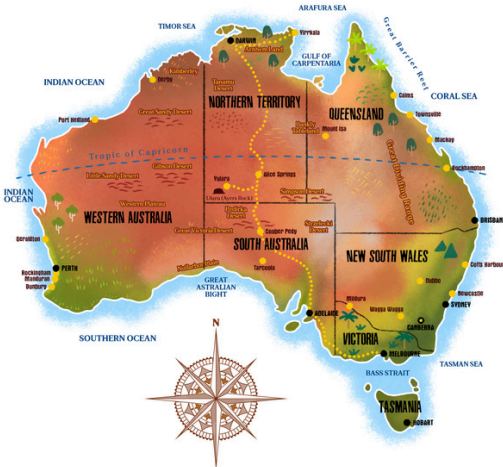
Will they be able to recover the sacred object before it vanishes forever?

This book is the debut instalment in a new mystery-adventure series that takes middle-grade readers on epic quests around the world, exploring cultures, wildlife, and landmarks along the way.

Adventure awaits, so **scan the QR code below** or hop on <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FM6Q1FNR> to buy the Kindle Version (paperback and hardcover versions coming out on the 20th of August 2025!)

Perfect for ages 10+, this book is packed with:

- ✓ Action & mystery
- ✓ Riddles
- ✓ Beautiful landscapes
- ✓ Facts about Australia's culture and history
- ✓ Courage
- ✓ Friendship
- ✓ Teamwork





C O U N T R Y I N T R O D U C T I O N

Thank You!

If you want to learn more about different countries around the world through mini lessons, short adventure stories, interactive resources, recipes, etc, join our free newsletter at www.thelittleexplorersjournal.com/newsletter

