

Australia

Project Week



Every year, for one week, all our classes focus on one special topic. This year our theme was "Australia!"

Have a look inside and see what we discovered!



AUSTRALIA



- In Australia they live 24 millions peoples.
- Daintree is a special rainforest, there are 1200 species insects and is oldest forest.
- Uluru is ayers rock, they are 348 meters and 600 years old.
- Great Barrier Reef is a biggest coral reef, there are 1500 species of fish.
- In Sydney they are two famous landmarks, the first is the opera house and the second is harbour bridge.
- In Australia they are a lot of animals, snakes, spiders, platypuses, koalas, emus, sharks, wombat...



JARE and MADDI

Australian History

Our class, B1+, has been investigating the fascinating history of Australia. We read how the continent was "discovered" by Europeans, colonised by British Whites who transported thousand of convicts from British prisons to construct the new country, and the native Aborigine population was devastated. Mikel and Unai have sorted the information and written this timeline for you to easily see the important dates!

13th May 1787

The first fleet (group of 11 ships) left Britain and went to Australia. There were **1350 people** in the ships, **736 of them were convicts** who were taken from prison and were going to work in the new land.

26th January 1788

Captain Arthur Philip arrived in **Botany Bay** with his fleet. He was now going to build a British penal colony on the new continent

8 days later

The British move to Port Jackson to find a better conditions: water and good soil for planting. In the following years the convicts are made to construct and build the new city, **Sydney**. They build **hospitals, houses, road and bridges**

Following years

The British start to explore more of the land and find the aborigine people. The British think the land is theirs and kill the Aborigine people if they fight back.

More Aborigines die because of the diseases that the British people bring. Between 1780 and 1900, they think that **90% of the Aborigines** were killed.

By 1821

All convicts were given their freedom and many had prosperous positions in society.

1868

The last fleet of convicts arrived. The total number of people transported was 162, 000 men and women on 806 ships.

Letters from Australia.

After learning about the history of the colonisation of Australia, we imagined what some people might have been thinking through that time. Here are some diary entries and letter that we have written.

Diary of a convict

10th May 1787

My name is John. I'm 23 years old and I am in prison because I stole an apple from a shop. I have been in prison for 9 years, I have another 14 years left.

11th May 1787

A man came to visit me today. He told me about going to a new continent. I wouldn't be in prison anymore, but I would have to work 12 hours per day. I'm bored of being here, so I have decided to go to the new continent.

13th May 1787

I took the boat this morning. Here there are more than 1000 people, but 736 of us are convicts. I made a friend, his name is Joseph. He said he killed his friend, but he seems very nice.

100 days later

I don't know what day it is. I don't know where we are going. The only things I can see are the sky and the ocean. I'm fed up with being here. I hope land is near.

Day 251 afternoon.

Land ahoy!!! It is getting dark, and we must have dinner. It's disgusting I hope I survive tonight!

The final day of the trip

We have finally arrived. It's very hot here and there are some strange things: cube poos, strange animals, strange rocks.

We have already started working.

1 month later

We are working on a very big bridge that is made of wood. The continent, Australia is improving fast. Our city, Sydney, is already bigger and more beautiful.

May 1781

I haven't written here for a long time. I have a beautiful wife and a son. But my wife is native, so we have to be hidden.

Diary of an aborigine

May 1788: I was hunting when a boat with a lot of strange white people arrived. I didn't know what would happen, but I went to receive them. They are very nice and generous. We collaborated to construct a better city. Besides, they have been helping me with my house. When they have their time to relax, they come to my house and all together we improve the house. We drink my favourite juice, and we eat a strange food called "bread".

1790: We built a hospital. When we were building it a convict had an accident. I tried to help him, but I couldn't, so I went to get some plants. The plants are the best solution to any accident. A few days later he was better and I'm sure it is thanks to my plants. He gave me lots of presents from Europe to say thanks you.

1791: The hospital was full of my people because we were all feeling ill. We think it was because of the European diseases because our medicines couldn't help. 90% of my people have died. We have already finished building the city "Sydney" and it is the biggest in Australia.

1868: I'm continuing my grandfather's diary. Today the last ships of convicts have arrived. With these convicts we will build the last roads and bridges to go from Sydney to other cities. When we finish all the buildings, I will suggest the convicts stay here with us. They are good people.

A letter home...

Dear Dad

We arrived in Australia one year ago. I miss you everyday. We have been working a lot, but now we are allowed to have free time.

Last month, after travelling through the heat of the desert, we found "Uluru". It is a fascinating, spiritual place. The natives say it has been here for 10 000 years. There are lots of animal here that come out in the cool of night.

I am thinking of you.

Diary of an Aborigine

13th May 1788: Oh my goodness! White people are entering my country! They have arrived in enormous boats, like floating cities. They carry exploding guns and metal, and we are very scared.

10th October 1789: The White people are so aggressive. They have stolen our important places. They have enslaved our families. We are dying.

1791: More and more White people arrive every month. They are taking over our beautiful land, destroying everything. They don't stop constructing buildings everywhere.

A letter from a convict ...

Dear mum,

So much has happened since we left that horrible British prison ten years ago.

A year ago we left Sydney, the biggest city in Australia, by horse. We were free!

We travelled around the forests, and we have seen many different animals. One is a kangaroo, an enormous animal that sits on its strong back legs and can jump further than you can imagine. Now we have discovered the largest coral reef. It is the most beautiful place we have ever seen. YOU HAVE TO SEE IT!

There are thousands of species of fish and molluscs. We are planning to make a company here so that visitors can enjoy the reef swimming and diving. We miss you a lot.

Dear mum!

Last week, I was in the Daintree Forest which we have found in the north of Australia. It is very hot here.

The animals are much more colourful here than in London. We also saw the native tribe the Kuki Yalanji. At first, we were scared but they are not what we thought. They are kind and friendly.

We are planning to stay here for a while because there is a lot of fresh water and food and that's exactly what we need to survive.

Love you!

Aboriginal Face Masks

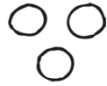
LH4 spent two classes learning about aboriginal symbols and tools, and watched a video about Uluru (an important rock and meeting place for the aboriginal people). We then decorated masks – can you see which symbols they have?



boomerang



bush berry



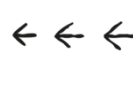
ants, fruits, flowers or eggs



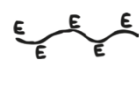
campfire



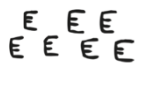
resting place



emu tracks



goanna tracks



animal tracks



kangaroo tracks



meeting place



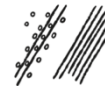
moving kangaroo tracks



people sitting



person



rain



witchetty grub



waterholes connected by running water



sandhill or cloud



snake



spear



star



digging or clapping sticks



emu



human tracks

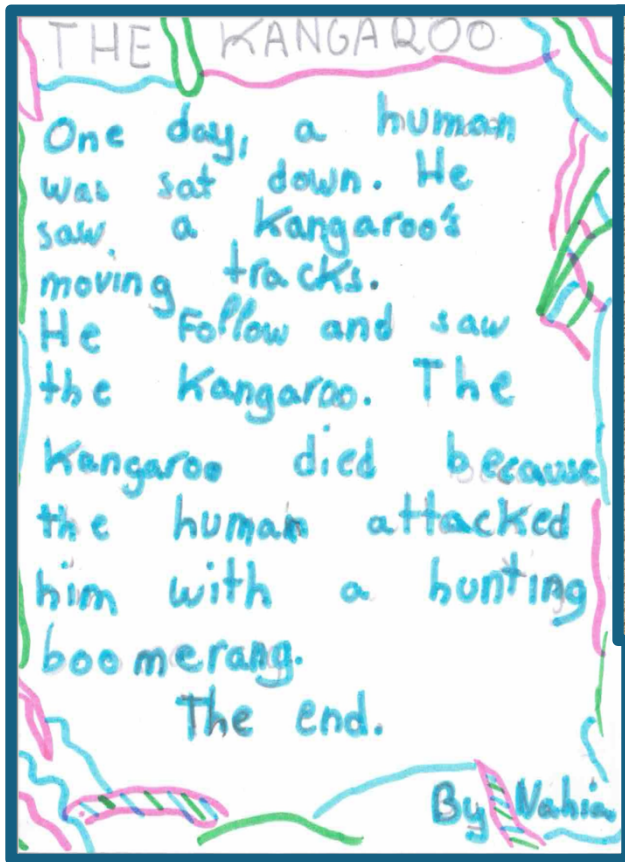


hunting boomerang

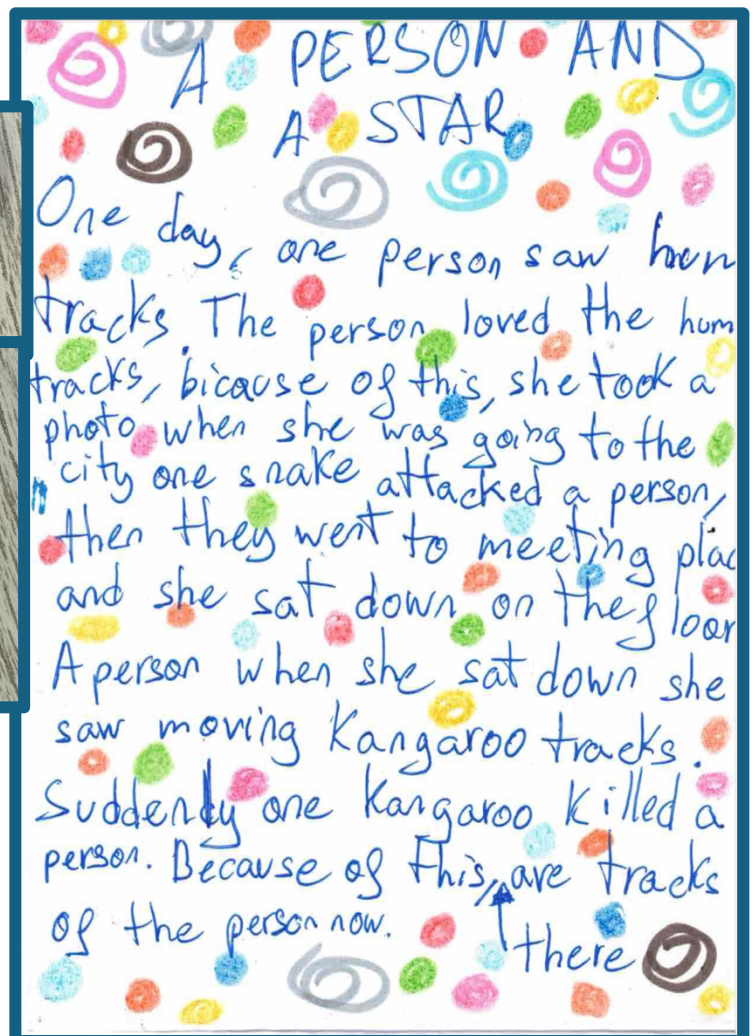


Aboriginal story stones

Our LH5 group invented some animal stories in the style of Australian aboriginals. They painted traditional story stones to help them remember the story. How many symbols can you see?



By Enara



the family

One day, a person
in front of him



Saw an emu.

He went to attack an
emu. The emu has a family
so he saw reason and he
didn't attack.

the end



By Eider

The magic star

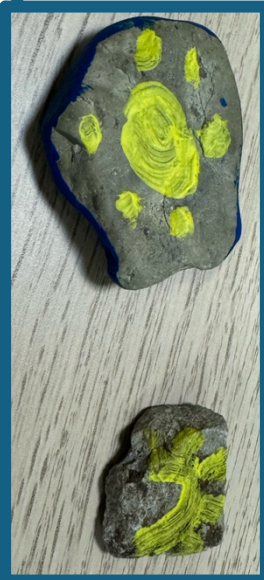
One day a Person
whose name Eider.
She was aboriginal.
One day she saw a
human track and she
decided to follow them.
She stay 2 weeks follow-
ing the tracks. She arrived
to a mountain. It was night
and she was alone, so she
decided sleep. But she can't
sleep so she ate some
ants, fruits, flowers and
eggs. Then she saw a light
it was a star. The star
said to Eider to follow and
she go back to the country.



The bad Emu

One day an emu was hungry.
The emu saw a snake.
So the emu ate the snake.
When the emu ate the snake,
saw stars in the sky
and started falling onto
the floor. When he got up
he was in a campfire
with 3 aborigines.

By Mikel



Aborigine Weapons and Tools

In Go Getter 4, we learned about the weapons and the tools that the Aborigine people used.



Did you know a boomerang wasn't just a toy? It was also used for hunting!

Have you ever seen someone use a plastic stick to throw a ball far for their dog to play with? Aborigines had one too! It was called a **woomera**.

A woomera is a special stick that people used to throw their spears further. That made it easier to hunt an animal that is far away.



Nets were very important for catching fish and other animals.

To travel on rivers and catch fish, Aborigines use **canoes**. They used tree bark and rope to make the canoes.



We watched a video about the plants they used to take with them on their canoes.

A banana plant was important for three reasons. Can you think what? Yes!

The **fruit** for food, the **branches** for construction and the huge **leaves** from protection from the sun and rain.



Aborigines spoke many different languages, but none of them were written. So, when one tribe wanted to tell a message or story to another tribe they used **message sticks**. On the message stick the painted

symbols to remember the message they had to tell.

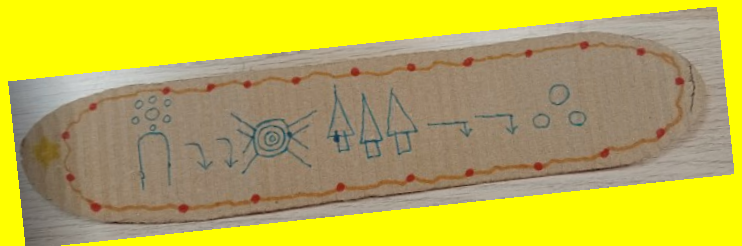
Here are some message sticks that we designed. Can you match each stick to the message?

Next week, on Friday, an important person is coming to our Snake Forest. He's coming to bring fruit and eggs.

Your island is invited to come to the meeting place and participate in the meeting. And don't forget to say "thanks!"

Can you bring Ginger Shampoo plant to give as a present. We are going to give some banana plants.

Jare and Ashley



It was 933 and one Australian village had a problem. They didn't have food and the people were dying.

So, one day an important person, The King of the tribe, went to hunt animals in the other village. But unfortunately, he didn't see any, but he found some new plants and took them to the village.

The people were very happy because with the new bamboo plants they made weapons and were able to catch fish in the river.

Julen and Oinatz



In our village there was an important person who had superpowers and had a very good aim.

She could read people's memory and she had the best sight in the world and that was amazing.

Her passion was to throw her boomerang, all day, every day. That day she threw the boomerang in the jungle, so she went into the jungle to find it.

That was when she discovered a waterhole connected by running water. This was great for our people because in summer it gets very hot. Now we have water forever.

June, Paula and Malen

One hot day in Australia, Clark was very sad because his family and friends didn't have food. But Clark saw some human and emu tracks, so he followed them.

After three hours, Clark entered in the forest and found the emu family. There was a man with the emus. Clark spoke with the man, and he gave Clark a giant emu egg. Clark went home very happy!

Jon





Adopt an Australian animal

In recent years, Australia has suffered many forest fires and flooding, mainly due to climate change.

As a result of these disasters, many Australian animals have lost their homes.

Here are some Australian animals looking for a new place to live. Would you like to adopt one?

MARIA LUIS

Hello I'm Maria Luis and my house is demolished so can you adopt me?
I live in trees so if you have a tree you don't have to do a house



I'm very polite, although I have sharp claws.

IF I live with you, you don't have to give me food because I eat insects, and I protect you from bites.

IF you want to adopt me
Call: 828282824

ADOPT ME!

Hello, I'm Sofia! I'm very sad because I don't have a house. If you want to adopt me, I'm free! **Tasmanian devil**

I'm black, but I have a white masking on my chest; and I'm a little bit fat. I live in Tasmania (Australia) it's beautiful so I can live in all places.



I eat lizards, frogs, insects and any animal meat. I'm a little bit dangerous. I can attack you but if you train me I WANT!

TO ADOPT ME CALL: 12374568

♥ ~ ADOPT ME! ~ ♥

Hello I'm Echi! One Echidna. I'm very sad because I don't have house.
ADOPT ME PLEASE, I'M FREE!

I eat insects
so if you
adopt me you
won't have
more insects.

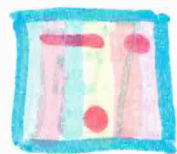


You don't have
to do any thing
because I can live
in deserts, costal
forests...

If you adopt me, I will protect you.

If you want adopt me, call:

654 56 78 94



JOSE LUIS

Hellow, I'm Jose Luis
and I'm a Kangaroo adopt
me because I am great!



I'm a marsupials so
I have a big pouch
to keep the babies
Kangaroos,

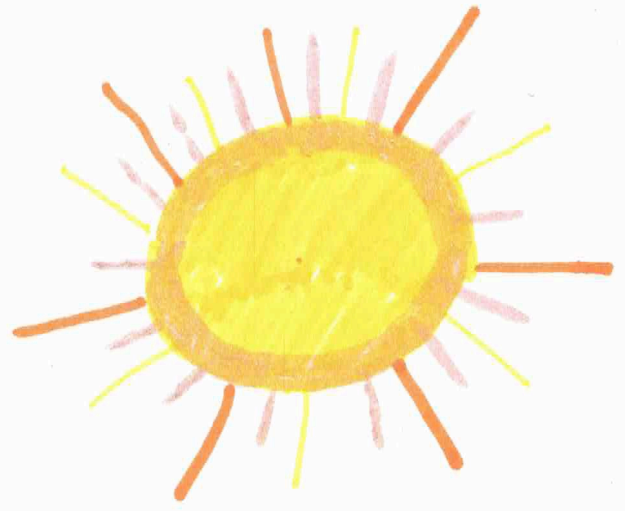
I eat plants so I can live in
your garden and you don't have
to cut the grass. IF I will protect
you from robbers because I am
big and strong.

You don't have to spend money on water
because I can be months time without drinking
anything at all.

IF YOU WANT TO ADOPT ME CALL: 646 75 12 36

ADOPT

ME!



Koala:

Hi! I am Kevin If you adopt me, I will be very quiet because I can sleep 18-20 hours a day can I live 12-18 years so will be friends for a long time

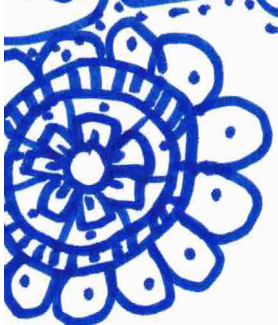
I eat eucalyptus leaves, if you have one garden with eucalyptus tree I can live in your garden.

I have long claws so I will protect you, and I so friendly

I am marsupial and I won't disturb you

nocturnal too, so

I have big nose and big ears too, you can cuddle me.



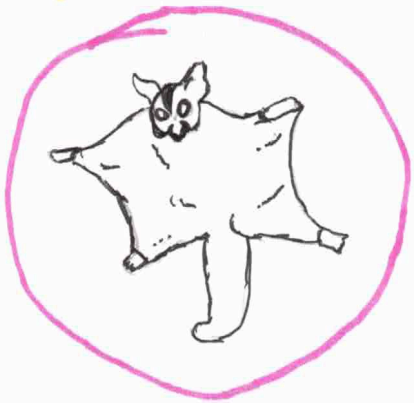
ADOPT ME!

Raluxa coñar.

Sugar Glider

Hello, I am Shaila the sugar glider.

I eat nectar, pollen and small invertebrates so I can live in your garden with flowers



I'm nocturnal and marsupial so I have a pouch in my tummy.

I am a fantastic acrobat you can create a circus with me and we can travel the world.

If you live in parts of the north and eastern coastal areas of Australia. I am perfect for you because I am the most common animal of this part.

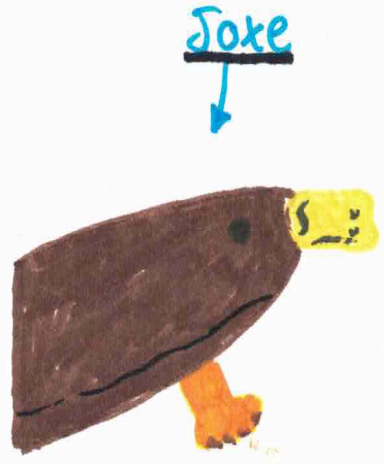
If you adopt me, I will be with you.

SO PLEASE ADOPT ME!

TO ADOPT ME CALL: 645 12 43 89

INTZA

Hello, I'm Jore. I'm a platypus,
and I'm a mammal. I ~~don't~~ weigh
a lot, 1-2,5 Kg. So I will ~~not~~ be a
problem in your house. Sorry but
if you ~~don't~~ live near the river
I ~~don't~~ want go there.



If I live with you, when we go to river and we can play together because I love water.

I eat worms, insects and shrimp, so I can live in your garden and eat the animals that live there.

I'm a fantastic swimmer so we can swim together!

[illegible]

ADOPT ME!!

ADOPT ME

ADOPT ME!!

Hello, my name is Wompy and I'm sad, because I haven't got a house and if you want to adopt me I'm free.



→ My (Wompy)

I eat grass and roots so I can live in your garden and you don't have to cut the grass.

I'm perfect for digging because, my body is built, with short legs, a compact head, short broad feet and strong claws.

I live in burrows with trees, soil, leaves and rocks so you don't have to make me a house because I will do my burrow in your garden.

DO YOU KNOW?

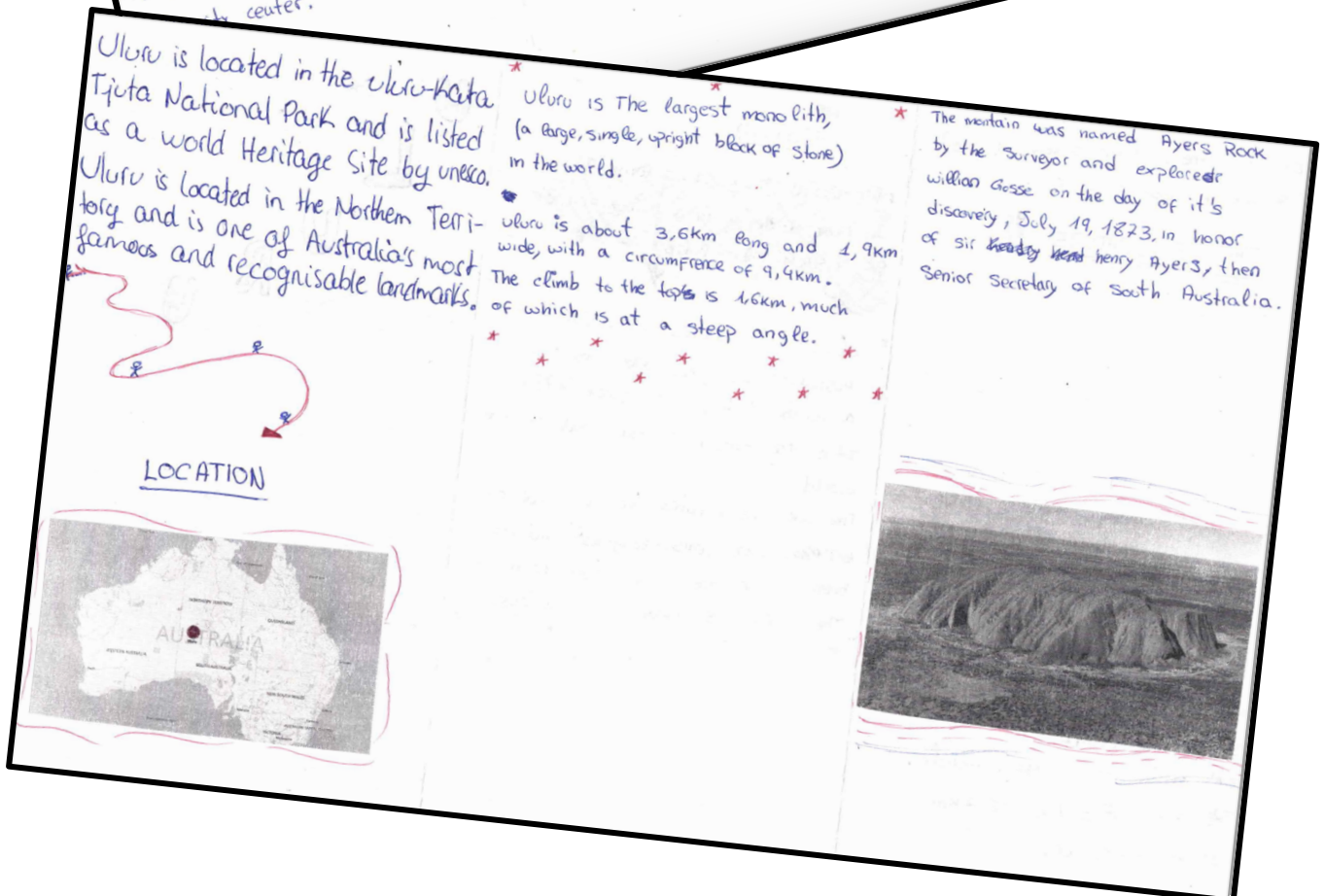
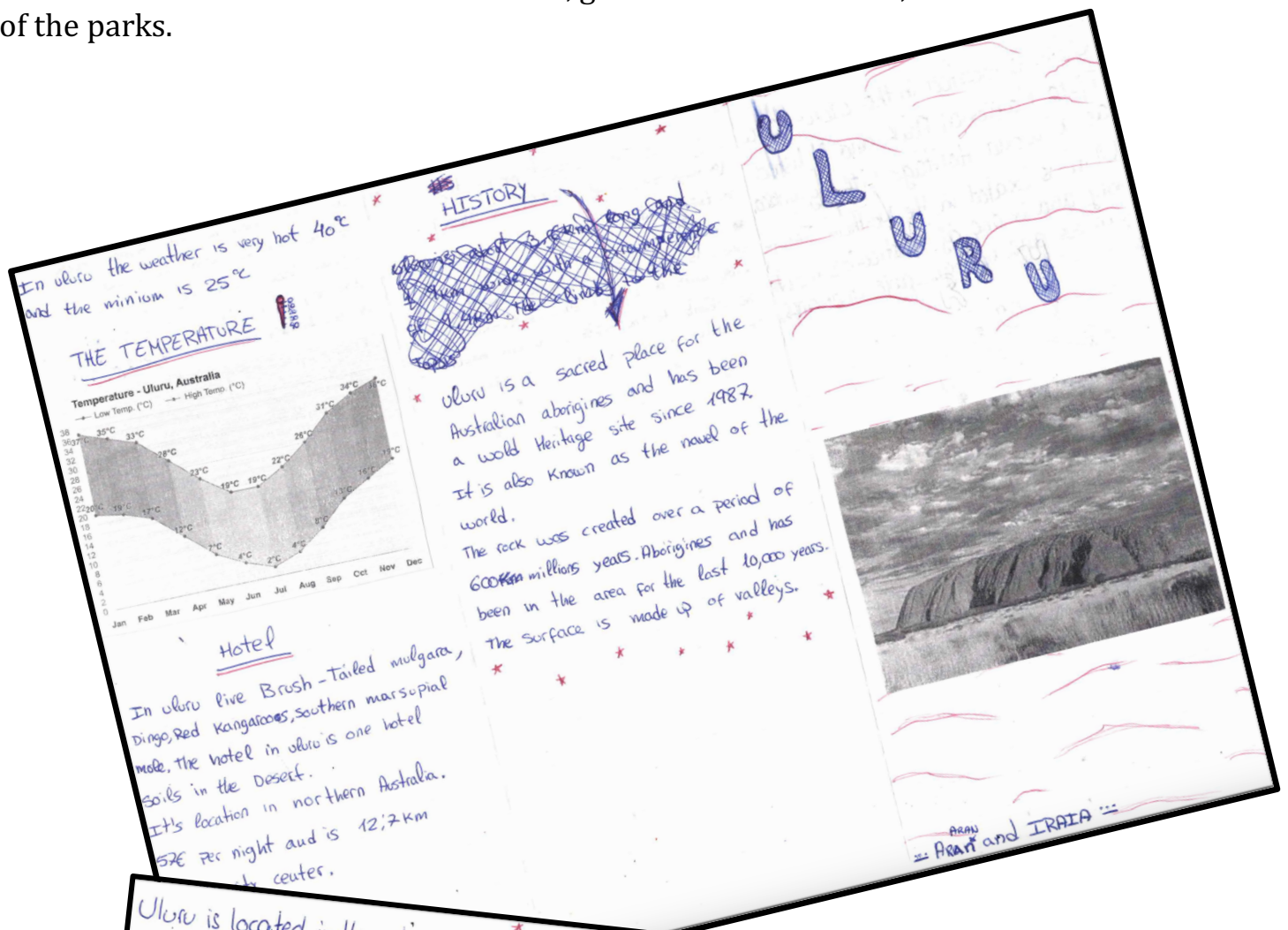
My poo is square

ADOPT ME PLEASE!!

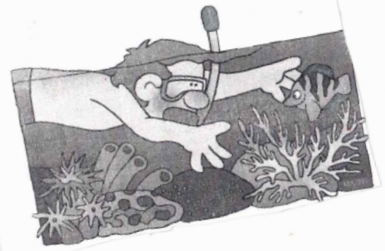
THE TELEPHONE: 818124921 (my telephone)

Tourist guides to Australia's natural parks

Our B1 group did research about some of Australia's natural parks. They then designed tourist leaflets to detail the wildlife there, give some travel advice, and talk about the location of the parks.



THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



By Unai

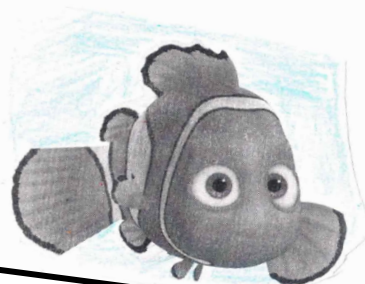
Of the thousands of interesting organisms in the Great Barrier Reef only 5% need to be avoided. Don't touch the long black spines of the anemones because they may penetrate the skin and breed off in hands and feet.

The Great Barrier Reef is a fragile and delicate environment, it may suffer damage and harm from uncontrolled human usage.



You can find 1600 species of fish, 5000 types of molluscs, 125 species of sharks and 3 types of whales.

The Great Barrier Reef is located in the north-east of Australia. It is a world heritage site. Extends 2000km and is the biggest structure of this type in the world.



Visitors can swim, snorkel, dive and sail around the reef. You have better contact with the fish.

WELCOME
TO

THE DAINTRIE
EAST RAINFOREST



By: Orkato



LOCATION

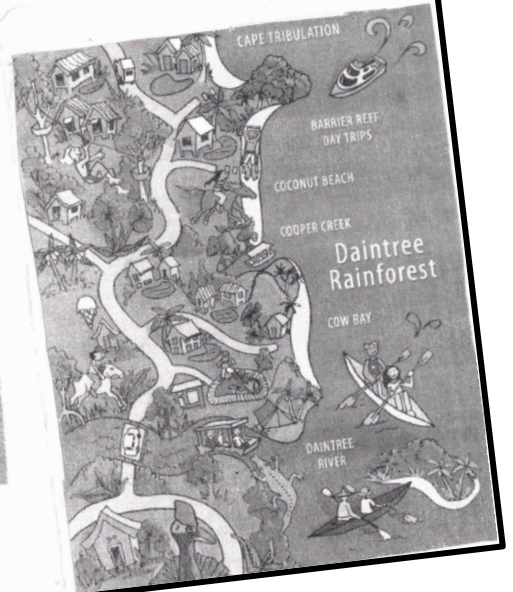
Is located on the
north-east coast of
Queensland in Australia
• It is approximately 110-140
km north of Cairns via
the Captain Cook highway



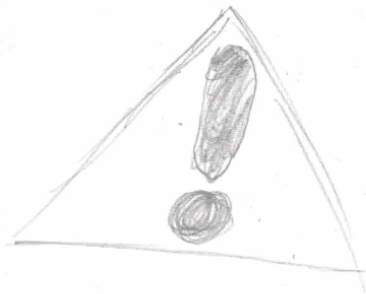
Daintree
garners
living
wondrous
wildlife

national
rainforests
habitat
variety of

parks
are vital
for a
variety of



- Don't place rubbish or contents of chemical toilet tanks in the toilets
- Always stay walking track



Australian holidays

After researching the different places of Australia, (Did you know the capital is not Sydney but actually Canberra?) we decided to plan some trips to discover what this continent has to offer. Which one would you choose?

Discover the Nature of Australia

On this three-stop tour you will discover the most beautiful natural places that Australia has to offer.

Great Barrier Reef

The 12 km reef has the most amazing colours you can imagine in one place. You will see more than 6225 species of animals.

Plan:

We are going to arrive at 11.00.

We will sail around the reef for two hours, then spend the early afternoon swimming with fish. Then we will dive into the reef with experienced teachers.



Uluru

This is the biggest block of stone in the world, 863 metres, and is thought to be 500 million years old.

Plan:

We are going to arrive at 2pm and spend the first day in the hotel. It will be very hot, this is the Australian desert, so bring cool clothes and a hat.

We are going to spend the second day in Uluru National Park with a native tribe. They are going to tell us all the history of the place.



Kakadu National Park

Kakadu is home to 2000 plant species. We can also see some of the oldest paintings in the world.

Plan:

We are going to arrive at 11am

We will observe the birds in the afternoon, when they are active.

We will hike to the main waterfalls.

In the evening, we will take a tour with a park ranger.

(Gari and Andoni)



Forests and Coastal Tour

This it will be a great experience that you will not forget it.
To have the best holidays, we recommend these beautiful places.

DAINTREE

RAINFOREST



- Daintree rainforest is located on the northern coast of Queensland. Is part of the largest continuous area of tropical rainforest on the Australian continent, with 1200 square kilometres.
- It is home to an incredibly diverse and unique range of flora and fauna.
- Finally you can do a lot of different plans, for example: Hike, explore, cruise the river...

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



- The great barrier reef is located on Queensland's coast and is the world's largest coral reef system. Then over 1600 species of fish, 500 types of molluscs, 125 species of shark and 30 types of whale, dolphin, porpoise and dugong can be found.
- Finally you can do a lot of plans: swim, snorkel, dive and sail around the reef.

NINGALOO REEF : AND SHARK BAY



The Ningaloo reef and sharks bay is located in the north-west coastal region of Western Australia. Is a very interesting place. Apart from that, is home to diverse marine wild life, including whale sharks and manta rays. We have already thought about plans that you can do like, snorkel, dive, sail and camp. Also, you can watch the wildlife of Ningaloo Reef. Have a good time!

As you can see, if you go to these three places you will watch the best of the nature, enjoying an unique range of fauna and flora. All this, while you have fun in lots of incredible plans.



Relaxing in Australia

Are you stressed with life? Do you want to spend three luxurious weeks relaxing in Australia? Then join our tour and prepare to swept away!

In the first week you will stay in the hotel "Lizard Island", in Sydney; This is not the capital, but is the oldest and biggest city in Australia. This hotel is one of the world, because have a good service. Every day you will have the same activities but in the first day, in the afternoon you are going to go to The Opera House, This is one of the most famous buildings of Australia. First, you will start with a yoga session on Bondi Beach and then you can enjoy tropical massage at Deep Blue Hot Springs Warranbool. To finish except the last day you are going to go to the beach to watch the sunset.

To start the second week, you are going to take a private jet to go to hotel "Spicers Sangama Retreat" located near the biggest coral reef in the world;

The Great Barrier Reef. All the week you are going to do a lot of relaxing activities. First, you are going to dive with animals in the coral. Did you know, that there are more than 1600 species of fish? Then to relax, you are going to go to Spa "Natural Palm Bay" to live a new experience in your life. To finish, all the days you are going to live the experience of doing yoga in the sunset.

If you want to end this experience with a good feeling, you have to go to Uluru. It's 550 millions years old. Despite the years Uluru is 348m high and 863 broad. To go to Uluru you are going to take a limousin and you will arrive at the beach at night what activities can you do.



Letters to Sydney visitors

Our First Certificate classes researched shopping areas and tourist attractions in and around Sydney to advise friends or bosses about the best places to stay. They wrote so much that we weren't able to include all of them, but read some of their great letters, and find out all about Sydney's hotspots!

Dear Rob,

It was great to hear from you. It's been a while since we've talked.

I heard that you are coming to Australia in August and I am going to give you some tips to help you prepare.

To start with, there are many areas to choose from, such as central Sydney and the eastern suburbs. Why don't you choose the eastern suburbs? It's the best option to live in, simply because it's a 10 minute walk to the academy. It's surrounded by a centuries old park and you like your bike as a means of transport to get around.

And not only that, you have the old town 10 minutes away, too, where you can find the typical Australian stone and houses.

Regarding the rental price in this area, there are quite cheap apartments for rent for €700, you have a big room, kitchen, living room and garage, and it doesn't matter if it's summer or winter, the price is the same.

Let me know what you think, see you soon!

June.

Hi Rob!

I haven't seen you for ages and I miss you so much... When I read your email, I got really excited! Oh my god, I would really love the idea of you coming to live in the city, we would live really close! And of course, I would be really pleased to recommend you a really good place to live and also well reviewed shopping places.

To get started, as you said, you wanted a cheap place to live. What are waiting for? There's a place called Meriton Serviced Apartments. This hotel, in my opinion, I think you could like it knowing what things you like. This apartment has four (close to five) stars, it has amazing views and the rooms are really futuristic, but elegant at the same time! It includes its own bathroom and laundry so you can wash your clothes, because in Australia it is always hot. I've been to this apartment some months ago, and I loved it so much, it also has amazing and such relaxing views, even if you get the highest floor, the views are still amazing. Believe me, I used to live on the 75th floor and from there I could see all the city! It was such a breathtaking view, I really like it!

I hope you read this as soon as possible, I still can't believe that you're finally coming where I live! Have a nice afternoon!

Your friend, Nora.

Dear Mr. Simpson,

I am writing to recommend you possible things you can do in Sydney because I read that you need my help.

If you are looking to have a relaxed time, you should go to Manly Beach where you can go to the beach or also do a lot of activities in the water, like surfing. This beach is located in the north of Sydney. It is an area with a lot of hotels and also country houses that aren't too expensive. As you say you want shops near you, if you choose the Manly Beach area, you could go shopping at 'The Corso'. It is an indoor shopping centre that connects the Manly Wharf to Manly Beach, and is a place where you can buy a lot of things, but especially things that are connected to surfing. There is also a coffee shop.

This area is prosperous, it is an area with successful businesses and a high standard of living. You also have other things to do near the area. The school where you are going to work is near the area, so you can go to relax there, and the indoor shopping centre I mentioned is very close, too. I think this is the best area you can choose in Sydney.

I hope you find my recommendation useful,

Yours sincerely,

Telmo A.

Dear Mr. James,

I am writing to inform you about some areas in Sydney that can fulfill your requirements.

If I had to choose a place when my budget is limited, I would choose Sunny Hills. I know you will like this place, not only because of the prices, but there are also a couple of schools and many shops. Regarding flat prices, after doing some research, I found that they have decreased in recent weeks.

Another possibility if you are not concerned about this place is the Corso. The prices are a bit cheaper and there are more free time activities. The Corso is a leafy and vibrant area with more pedestrian streets than highways. That could make it easier to go to the school if you don't have a vehicle.

If you require any information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Adel C.

Modern Day Experiences of Australia

In the Advanced class we read about different ways you can work and study in Australia. We decided to imagine that we had taken part in an Australian experience. Here are our articles.

Harvesting Bounty

Are you a student? Do you want an adventure that you'll never forget? Come to Australia! We are recently visited Tasmania, and we have discovered the best way to explore a new country.

Little thought had we given to what we were going to do on this island, but when we arrived, we were instantly charmed by the beautiful scenery and wonderful temperature. We spent the first two months picking fruit from 5 am to 11pm to earn money to pay for our accommodation on the island. However, what really made this place stand out from the rest is the unique work experience we had after this.

But what did we do? We were runners for a film company which was making a Hollywood film on the island. Never have I had such a stressful, but rewarding job, watching the actors and film crew work their magic. Tasmania is an absolutely stunning backdrop for a film, and it is no surprise to me that it was chosen for this upcoming blockbuster. After a few months we had to leave and come home again for the start of term, but I will always remember my working holiday in Australia. You should try it one day!



The Gateway to beyond

We are a group of Danish people that believes in reincarnation and the existence of alien life. For that reason, we decided to go to Uluru to connect with mother nature and talk directly to her. Should you want to feel part of the universe, you can't miss this opportunity.

One of the things that stands out is the magical atmosphere that surrounds you there in Uluru. Not only does it make you feel unstoppable, you are also calm with the world. When the night comes out to the Aurora borealis appears and you realize the connection to other worlds. However, it must be said that the bad weather wasn't a positive point, it delayed us in our ritual dance competition. In conclusion Uluru is a stunning and wonderful place to enjoy this gateway between our world and the others.



FROGTASTIC

Last summer we had the opportunity to visit the Daintree forest. As biology students this opportunity to visit the world's oldest rainforest was amazing. Our goal was to study different frog species living in that unique ecosystem, but we also enjoyed this incredible experience.

First of all, as biologists, something that really stands out was the unbelievable number of different frog species living in the same place. I remember being a child and going to the forest of my hometown and only finding two different species, nothing close to the book about frogs. Another point that makes Daintree second to none is that you are totally submerged in nature allowing you connect with it like never before. The idyllic waterfalls and giant trees were mesmerizing.

It's true that the humid climate can feel overwhelming at times, so go prepared! But all said and done, this natural paradise on earth is a must for everyone!



Living remotely

As you must have realised by now, a huge part of Australia is desert. They call it The outback. In the Proficiency class we read various newspaper articles about different aspects of living in remote areas of Australia such as The Outback or one of the many islands off the Australian coast. For these people, online schooling, and living off-grid (not connected to the main electric supply) or flying to the doctor is an everyday reality.

Here are some of our thoughts after having read about living remotely, Australian style.

Power to the People

Most of today's population wouldn't be able to even last a day without energy. Can you imagine not being able to turn on the TV whenever you feel like it? I bet you can't. This, as unrealistic as it sounds, is the reality in some remote parts of this world. 2% of Australians live remotely: in places where the simplest things, such as fuel, need to be transported by ship. This being possible if, and only if, the weather collaborates.

Fortunately, King Island has left Australia in awe by not only reducing almost two thirds of the diesel used, but also by reducing the need for ship transportation. All this is thanks to the project KIREIP project, whose objective is to make the island totally self-sufficient energetically, by producing 100% renewable energy combining good weather with windy conditions.

So far, the record is being 6 days straight producing 100% renewable energy, and they are trying to prolong that amount. There is no doubt the King Island would make a global transformation, where are they to extend this project worldwide. People living in remote places could access networks with ease, making lives easier and in some case even saving them.



Patients or Patience?

Have you ever thought how lucky we are seeing a doctor whenever we need one? This is not the daily reality of people who live in The Outback. 10% of the people living in Australia live in the desert, and it goes without saying, that they live isolated from the world. One of the biggest inconveniences, and dangers they face, is not having access to health care unless they travel thousands of kilometers. Our world is a far cry from theirs, since the only way they can get medical care is by mail plane that flies to Brisbane twice a week run by the postal service. Should the appointment not align with the mail plane people will be forced to travel a 14-hour or 1,200 km Road trip.

In cases of emergency people rely on The Flying Doctors. These specially equipped planes can fly out to attend special emergency cases but they rely on charity donations and government aid to survive themselves.

The next time we complain about having to wait to see a doctor, we should think how lucky we are.

