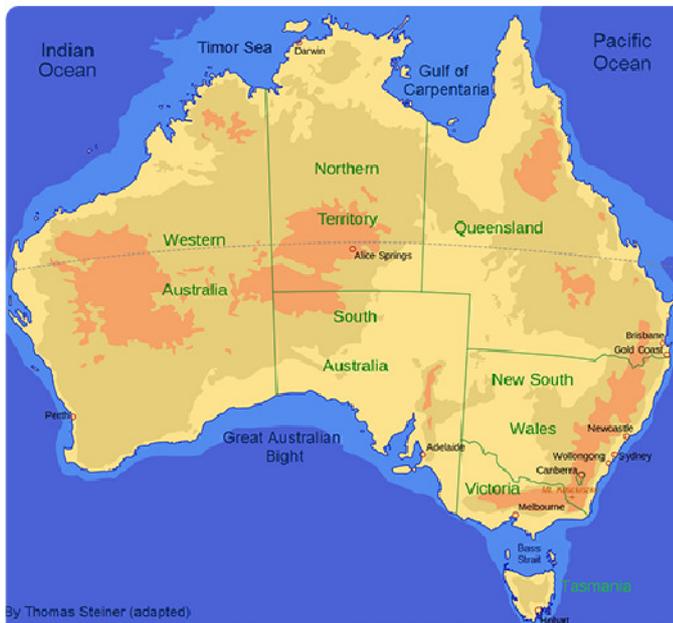


Australia

Engelsk



Navn: _____

Klasse: _____

Indholdsfortegnelse

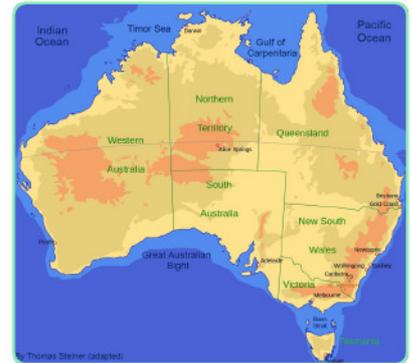
| | |
|--|--------|
| The Land Down Under – Australia (2,6 ns) | 2 - 3 |
| Writing an e-mail about a trip to Australia | 4 |
| Discussing tourists climbing Uluru | 5 |
| The Dreamtime – Aboriginal Australia (1,07 ns) | 6 |
| The Physical World (1,1 ns) | 7 - 8 |
| Australian Wildlife (3,01 ns) | 9 - 12 |
| Researching Australian wildlife | 13 |

The Land Down Under – Australia (2,6 ns)

Geography

Australia is the smallest continent in the world, but the largest island. It covers 7.69 million square kilometres and stretches about 3700 kilometres from north to south and 4000 kilometres from east to west. Australia is divided into six states and a number of territories. The states include:

- New South Wales – the oldest state
- Victoria – the smallest state
- Queensland – home of the Great Barrier Reef
- South Australia – the 'Festival' state
- Western Australia – the largest state
- Tasmania – an island and forest-covered state



The largest mainland territory is the Northern Territory, which is home to the famous Uluru. A number of islands administered by Australia make up the second territory. Canberra is the capital of Australia and the centre of government, and Sydney is the largest city and the most well-known to people outside Australia. Australia has a population of 23 million people and 80% live within 100 kilometres of the coastline.



The platypus



Red kangaroo



Wombat

Wildlife

Australia is famous for its wildlife. More than 80% of the animals can only be found in Australia. Australia also has a special kind of mammals – the marsupials.

The marsupials have their young ones in a pouch. The most famous marsupials are the kangaroos and the koala bears. Other famous marsupials are the wallabies and the wombats.

The monotremes is another animal group which is characteristic for Australia. The monotremes are egg-laying animals. The most famous is the platypus, with a bill like a duck and a furry waterproof body. Another monotreme is the echidna, a small ant-eating animal very similar to a hedgehog.

There are more than 827 species of birds in Australia and half of them are only found here. The cockatoo and the budgerigar are some of them. The reptiles are also well represented in Australia.

No continent has as many poisonous species of snakes; in fact 21 of the world's 25 deadliest snakes live in Australia.

Besides that they also have crocodiles and sea turtles. The marine wildlife of Australia is also spectacular. The Great Barrier Reef is one example of this with its beautiful corals and magnificent colourful species of fish. And let us not forget the great white shark which also lives here.

History

The first humans came to Australia at least 50,000 years ago. They lived in over 300 clans and spoke over 250 different languages and over 700 different dialects. These people are called the Aboriginal people, and they still live in Australia today.

In 1770 when Captain James Cook arrived, Australia became part of the British empire. In the beginning the new continent was used as a penal colony.

On the 26th of January 1788, 1,500 people arrived in Australia – half of them convicts. Until 1868, when penal transportation ended, more than 160,000 men and women came to Australia as convicts.

It was a disaster to the Aborigines. The Europeans brought new diseases with them which the Aborigines had no natural resistance to. Furthermore, the Europeans took their land and killed many of them. The British government had good intentions in the beginning, but lack of understanding and greed led to the death and deportation of many of the Aborigines.

Explore

Sydney is the largest city in Australia, and home to many interesting cultural events. The beautiful Opera House is famous worldwide and designed by a Dane, Jørn Utzon.

There are 70 different beaches you can visit, e.g. Bondi Beach where you can go surfing.

Sydney also offers plenty of cafes and restaurants and a lot of nice shops and markets.

You can also go to the Northern Territory and see the Uluru. The Uluru is sacred to the Aborigines and if you see it at sunset, you will probably know why. It is an impressive sight, that stands 348 metres tall in the middle of the desert.

The Great Barrier Reef is also an attraction you must not miss. You can go scuba diving or snorkel at this marvellous place. It stretches more than 2,000 kilometres, and contains the world's largest collection of corals. There are more than 1,500 species of tropical fish, dolphins, sharks, more than 200 types of birds and many reptiles including sea turtles. The Great Barrier Reef is on the World Heritage list.



Uluru



Sydney Opera House

The Dreamtime – Aboriginal Australia (1,07 ns)

The Aborigines - or the Indigenous Australians - are the native Australians. They make up about 2,5% of the population (439,704) today, but it is estimated that, at the time of the white man's arrival in Australia, 350,000 to one million Aboriginal people lived here. They were divided into numerous communities and societies and encompassed more than 700 different languages. Today only about 200 of these remain, and some of these languages are almost extinct and all but 20 are highly endangered.

History

When the white settlers arrived they brought with them an invisible enemy to the native people – smallpox. Within the first year about half of the native population had died due to this disease. Furthermore the settlers wanted their land, so they drove them away from the best places to live and some settlers also used violence against the aboriginals. The consequence was that from 1788 to 1900, 90% of the native Australians died. The settlers didn't think they should have the same rights to the land as them, even though they came first. Today it has been scientifically proven that they have been in Australia for at least 40,000 years. In their minds, however, they have been here since time began; since the Dreamtime.

The Dreamtime – the sacred world

The Dreamtime is, according to Aboriginal belief, the time where the creative ancestors created the earth and everything on it. When the ancestor beings had created everything, they sank into the earth again. Some of them became trees, rocks or part of the landscape. These places are sacred. Today the Aboriginal people enact the events from the Dreamtime in religious ceremonies and dancing. This is called 'Dreaming'.



Many of the dreamtime stories try to explain why the land or the animals look a certain way. Write a short story on how the kangaroo got its pouch.

The Human World

The Aboriginal people are scattered throughout Australia. They belong to different clans, and most clans have their own language. There is great diversity among the Aboriginal people. Some are university professors; others live in the Australian outback. But they all have a special connection to the land and aboriginal culture.

Aboriginal art

Aboriginal art is very famous and very easy to recognize. You can divide it into two types: Non-figurative art and figurative art. You will find rock paintings at sacred places, telling stories from the Dreamtime. Traditional art is also seen as decorations on tool, like a boomerang, or as body paintings for religious ceremonies.

Aboriginal life today

Today many Aboriginal people are westernised, and live in the cities. Some still live a more traditional lifestyle but not many. Aboriginal life today is not always easy. They are facing serious problems like poverty, poor education, alcohol- and drug abuse, racial discrimination, difficulties in getting medical help in rural areas, crime, etc. Aboriginal people are therefore 11 times more likely to go to prison than other Australians and they live on average 17 years less.



What could the Australian government do to help the Aboriginal people?
Name some other places in the world where native people have poorer living conditions than the rest of the population. Why is that so?

Australian Wildlife (3,01 ns)

Australia has some of the most exotic wildlife. Many of the species living in Australia do not live anywhere else in the world. Many of their mammals are marsupials, a kind of mammal which carries its young ones in a pouch. They have an enormous variety of reptiles and birds, and furthermore they have the largest coral reef in the world.

The Kangaroo

The most well-known animal of all in Australia must be the kangaroo or the 'roo' as it is also called. The word 'kangaroo' derives from the Aboriginal word 'gangurru' that refers to the grey kangaroo. The baby kangaroos are called 'joeys' and the large male kangaroos are called 'boomers'.



There are many kinds of kangaroos, but the biggest is the Red Kangaroo. It has short, reddish fur and can stand two metres tall and weigh 85 kilos. It lives throughout Australia, except in the northern and eastern coastal areas. The Eastern Grey Kangaroo is not as large as the Red. It is, as its name implies, greyish and weighs up to 66 kilos. It lives in the eastern part of Australia and in Tasmania. It is also called the Forester Kangaroo. The kangaroos are nocturnal and herbivores. They have a life span of around 16 years. You can find kangaroo meat in Australian supermarkets, which is supposedly very tasty.

The Koala

One of the cutest and most liked animals in Australia is the koala. With its teddy bear-like appearance it appeals to most humans. The word 'koala' derives from Aboriginal language and means 'do not drink'. That is, however, not entirely true. The koala does drink, but not very often. It manages mostly on the dew on leaves or the water that is contained in the plants it eats. Another misconception about the koala is that it is a bear. Koalas are not related to the bear family in any way. Their closest living relatives are the wombats.



A koala's diet consists almost entirely of eucalyptus leaves and they eat on average between ½ - 1 kilo a day. Eucalyptus leaves are a very poor diet. They are very low on nutrition and furthermore they are poisonous. The koalas are one of only three species that can eat them without getting sick. As the leaves are so poor in nutrition, the koalas do not move around too much. They sleep upwards of 20 hours a day and they almost never get down from their trees. The number of koalas in the wild is declining, partly because of their diet. They need vast areas of eucalyptus forest, and that is a growing problem in Australia today, because of agricultural farming and housing development. Furthermore a disease (chlamydia) has spread amongst the koalas. Today it is totally prohibited to hunt koalas and a lot is being done to help them in other ways, so let's hope we are still able to enjoy the adorable animal in the future.

The Wombat

There are three kinds of wombats. The Common Wombat is spread through south-east Queensland and Tasmania. It can weigh up to 35 kilos and live more than 15 years. The Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat and the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat are endangered species, because of competition from other grass-eating animals such as sheep and cattle and because of the invasive African buffel grass, which threatens to wipe out the grass the wombat feeds on.



Once there lived a giant wombat in Australia. It was the size of a hippopotamus. It became extinct when the first people arrived in Australia about 55,000 years ago. Like the koala the wombat doesn't drink much. It makes tunnels under ground, and the fact that it would rather dig through an obstacle (like a fence) than go around it, makes it unpopular with farmers. The wombat is thought to be very intelligent. It has a large brain, and it can be quite playful, which is usually a sign of high intelligence.

The Saltwater Crocodile

You can meet the saltwater crocodile – or 'Saltie' as they call it in Australia – from the south-east Queensland to the north-east of Western Australia. It can get up to 7 metres in length and weigh up to a tonne, and it is the largest of all crocodile species. They have incredible strong jaws; they can even crush a buffalo cranium! Most of their time is spent sun-bathing because they need to maintain a body-temperature of about 32°.



Protecting their territory is another occupation for the Salties, and hunting of course. The Salties are carnivores, but what kind of meat they eat depends almost entirely on their size. The biggest crocs can eat prey the size of buffalos, while the young ones mostly feed on crabs and other small animals. The largest crocs can eat humans, although it happens very rarely. The last 27 years the crocs have only been responsible for 14 deaths, and in most of these cases, the humans were acting recklessly. Salties can get up to 100 years old - possible even older. It is estimated that there are about 100,000 - 150,000 saltwater crocodiles in Australia and they are not currently in danger of extinction.



Put an X in the right box.

The Kangaroo

The Aboriginal word 'gangurru' means 'tall thing'

True False

The baby kangaroos are called 'joeys'

The biggest kangaroo is the Eastern Grey

The kangaroos are carnivores

The Koala

The word 'koala' means 'do not drink'

True False

The koala's closest living relative is the brown bear

They eat between ½ - 1 kilo of eucalyptus leaves a day

Koalas can get chlamydia

The Wombat

There are four kinds of wombats

True False

Wombats can grow to the size of a hippopotamus

They dig tunnels under ground

They are herbivores

The Saltwater Crocodile

They can get up to 10 metres in length

True False

They are called 'Salties'

27 people have been eaten by crocodiles in the last 14 years

There are at least 100,000 saltwater crocodiles in Australia



Find and correct the other 9 mistakes in the text.

There is a maximum of 1 mistake per line. Correct the mistakes in the box to the right. If there are no mistakes in a line, leave the box to the right empty.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| In Australia there are many fascinating animal. | animals |
| One of this fascinating animals is the bowerbird. | |
| Even though it looks like most other small birds, | |
| the australian bowerbird has a rather distinctive skill. | |
| When the male attempts to attract a female, | |
| hi builds a bower out of little twigs. | |
| The bower locks like a small hut or cottage | |
| and its built on the ground of the forest. | |
| Just like an interior designer who decorating a house | |
| the Australian bowerbird males decorate the ground | |
| outside there bowers with specific colours. | |
| They collect flowers, shells, feathers and other items. | |
| All bowers have different decorations and colours. | |
| Some males like green, others like wite and so on. | |
| Finally, the female birds inspects each bower and decide wether it is to their liking or not. | |

