

Rainbow Readers

Title: Australia

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

community

fleets

gather

journal

oval

1. In World War II the only safe way for ships to travel was in large fleets.
2. We know what happened on their trip because they kept a journal.
3. I live in a very nice community that has a lot of kids in it.
4. Eggs, people's faces, and many skating rinks are oval in shape.
5. We should gather some berries to put in our ice cream.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Australia has four oceans and two seas around it. T / F
2. The first people to arrive in Australia used to be called the "originals." T / F
3. All of Australia's first residents were Christian. T / F
4. The school year in Australia has four terms. T / F
5. "Footy" is a combination of football and an Aboriginal game. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Australia is still ruled by the (people / Queen) of England.
2. The didgeridoo is an (instrument / song) used during a special ceremony.
3. Most prisoners (made Australia / went back) home after their sentence was over.
4. The school year in Australia may start in late (January / August), which is in summer.
5. Melbourne is the (largest / second-largest) city in Australia.

C. Choose the best answer.

1. Which is NOT on the Australian flag?

- a. The Union Jack
- b. The Southern Cross
- c. Five stars
- d. Seven points

2. Why is Uluru a monolith?

- a. Because it is a sacred place for the Aborigines
- b. Because it is also known as Ayers Rock
- c. Because there is a national park around it
- d. Because it is just one giant rock

3. Who did James Cook say Australia would be good for?

- a. Prisoners
- b. Tourists
- c. Explorers
- d. Farmers

4. Who used to use radios to attend school?

- a. Kids who lived in the outback
- b. Kids who did not start school until they were six
- c. Kids who were able to attend preschool
- d. Kids who lived near the Royal Flying Doctors

5. What used to be illegal in Australia?

- a. For Aborigines to compete in the Olympics
- b. For non-Europeans to enter the country
- c. For Greeks to move to Australia
- d. For tourists to visit the Great Barrier Reef

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

estimated	claimed	Commonwealth	prisoners	World Heritage List
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Australia is an island, a country and a continent. It is in the southern hemisphere. This means that when it's summer there, it's winter in Europe and Asia. Australia is a(n) Commonwealth country. This means it is still ruled by the Queen of England. The first people to live in Australia were the Aborigines. They arrived as long as 50,000 years ago. A huge rock called Uluru is a special place for them. It is on the World Heritage List. Everything in Australia changed in 1770 when Captain John Cook arrived. He claimed all the land for England. England started sending prisoners there, and many stayed to live. In the outback, or country, farmers are far from everything. Their kids go to school with the help of the Internet. Australians love sports. They have hosted the Olympics twice. Today, Australia is modern and has two very large cities. People from all over the world live there. It is estimated that soon there will be more Asians born in Australia than Europeans.