

Self-test I – What do you know about Australia?

Task

Read the questions and tick (✓) the correct answer. Try to correct wrong answers as well.



questions	right	wrong	correct answer
1. Sydney is the capital city of Australia.			
2. Australia is a continent.			
3. The Red Back spider is the most poisonous spider in Australia.			
4. In the 18 th century only prisoners were sent to Australia.			
5. Australia is divided into seven states.			
6. The kangaroo is the national animal of Australia.			
7. Australia is bigger than Europe.			
8. The Great Barrier Reef is the biggest coral reef in the world.			
9. There were no indigenous people in Australia when British settlers arrived.			
10. There is a mountain in Australia which is called "Uluru".			
11. Within Australia there aren't any separated time zones.			
12. Fraser Island is the world's largest sand island.			
13. Tasmania is the only Australian State that is an island.			
14. In Australia, you must drive on the right side of the street.			
15. During a Great Ocean Road Trip from Adelaide to Melbourne you can see the Eleven Apostles.			

Crossword

Task

Look at the statements on Australia. Fill out the crossword puzzle by completing them.

The crossword puzzle grid consists of the following numbered starting points:

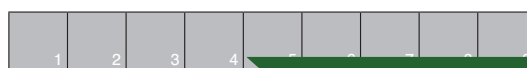
- Across:** 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11
- Down:** 3, 4, 7, 8, 9

Across

- The capital city of Australia is...
- Australia is divided into ... states.
- The Great Barrier Reef is the biggest... reef in the world.
- Only ... were first sent to Australia.
- There are many ... animals in Australia

Down

- The most poisonous snake is the...
- ... discovered Australia in 1770.
- Barbeque is called ... in Australian English.
- Australia is the smallest ... of the seven continents of the world.
- The indigenous people in Australia are called...
- Tasmania is famous for its Tasmanian...



Reading I – More facts about Australia

Task 1

Read the following text and highlight important information. Choose a partner and tell each other what you have learned about Australia.

Facts about Australia

Australia is the world's largest island, but the smallest continent. It covers a total area of 7.69 million square kilometers. At the time of European discovery and settlement, up to one million Aboriginal people lived across the continent as hunters and gatherers. They were scattered across 300 clans and spoke 250 languages and 700 dialects. In 1770, Captain James Cook discovered Australia. Many years ago, only British prisoners were sent to Australia as workers, but many captives stayed in Australia after their prison term.

Australia is a constitutional monarchy with Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state and consists of New South Wales, Western Australia, Victoria, the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. A lot of people think that Sydney is the capital city of Australia, but this is not true. The capital city of Australia is called Canberra. The smallest continent has multiple time zones. Some of them are half-hour and quarter-hour time zones. Further, the most poisonous animals live in Australia. Have you ever heard of the jelly box fish, the Red Back Spider, the Brown Snake or the Taipan? Nevertheless, Australia is also very famous for its cute and unique animals. For instance, sleepy koala bears, hopping kangaroos and fast emus.

Australians love to surf and to meet their neighbours at a barbie (= barbeque). Moreover, they are well-known for being friendly and open-minded. They love to meet people from all over the world – especially backpackers. Australian English is very hard to understand at the beginning because they often use words different from those in British English.

- G'day = hello
- mate = friend
- sheila = girl
- chook = chicken
- OZ = Australia



Task 2

Create a quiz with at least ten questions for your classmates and ask them your questions.

Use the information from the text.

Mediation – The Great Barrier Reef

Task 1

This is the text from Station 7. Read the text again and look up the words you don't know in a dictionary.

The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is one of Australia's most remarkable gifts and located on Australia's north-eastern coast in Queensland. In 1981, it was added to the world heritage list. The reef consists of 3000 individual reef systems, 400 types of corals, 1500 species of fish and hundreds of tropical islands. One of its most famous islands is called: The Whitsundays. The Whitsunday Islands provide magnificent vegetation and beautiful white sandy beaches spread over light blue water. Therefore, the Great Barrier Reef became one of the world's most famous tourist attractions. Visitors can enjoy a lot of different activities, for instance snorkeling, helicopter tours, sailing trips, trips on glass-bottom boats and diving courses.

The Great Barrier Reef is larger than the Great Wall of China and it is one of the seven wonders of the natural world. It is also one of a few living structures that is visible from space. Today, the reef is in danger because of tourism, the climate change and the powers of wind and water. This is why the protection of the reef has a huge priority for the Australian government which invests approximately 200 million dollars annually in the reef's health. One project controls the quality of water which runs into the reef from the farms. It tries to reduce the amount of chemicals which enter the reef. Recovery plans try to stop the extinction of unique and threatened species such as the Marine turtle by providing regularly updated information about their population. Even though recovery and protection plans do exist, the Great Barrier Reef is still under threat. Experts worry about the reef because it might not remain for future generations. So, it is very important to be aware of our individual and ecological footprint and to stop climate change.

Task 2

Your father would like to fly to Australia next year. He loves to swim and to dive and he saw the text about the great barrier reef in your room. So, he asked you to write down all the important information about the great barrier reef because he couldn't understand everything and he would like to read it during his break at work.

Start with: Hi Papa, du hattest mich gefragt, ob ich dir die wichtigsten Informationen über das "Great Barrier Reef" zusammenfassen könnte. „Das Great Barrier Reef“ ...



Tips:

- You do not have to translate the text word by word. Just mention the most important facts.
- Use your own words and be careful with the word order, false friends and the tenses.
- If you do not know a word try to paraphrase it.