



Reading Focus: Comprehension/
Vocabulary Development

Materials (per student)

- 1 copy of *Travel Through Australia*
- 1 copy of Australia Study Guide Bookmark (page 17A)
- 1 copy of Australia Vocabulary (page 18A)
- 1 copy of Active-Reading Guide (page 2A)

Preparation

Have each student cut out and prepare the Australia Study Guide Bookmark. Prepare students to look through their copies of *Travel Through Australia*. Make a list on the board of what they should be looking for: titles, headings, subheadings, bold or italicized words, and pictures. Give your students several minutes to discuss what they've already learned by flipping through the pages.

The Active-Reading Guide graphic organizer can be handed out and partially filled out at this time, if desired. It may be completed after the Study Guide Bookmark is filled in or when the reading lesson is over.

Lesson

Explain to students that they will be paying specific attention to different vocabulary words in the text. Have them pay close attention to the words in bold. Review what synonyms (same meaning), antonyms (opposite meanings), homophones (same sound, different meaning), and multi-meaning words are. While reading the book, provide students with opportunities to provide synonyms and antonyms of words in the text.

As a class, find a synonym for *small* (*tiny, minute, miniscule, petite*) as well as an antonym (*large, big, great, colossal, huge, giant, immense*). Then give them a homophone to practice (*sea/see, be/bee*).

Have students fill out the Study Guide Bookmark either while you read together as a group or as an independent activity later on. Have students save the bookmarks for later activities and also as study guides. Afterwards, students can use these bookmarks for compare/contrast information reports or other types of writing activities once they have finished studying all the countries in the *Travel Through* series.

Have students read the book and use the following questions to help guide group discussion. Encourage students to acquire the meaning of new words through context and by reading ahead and looking for key words or phrases that indicate the core meanings of the text. Demonstrate for students how to use the glossary at the back of the book to learn the meaning of and define words they cannot determine from the context. All of the words in **bold** type are included in the glossary.

Guided Questions

Pages 4 and 5

What oceans and seas surround Australia and in what direction? (S—Southern Ocean; SE—Tasman Sea; E—Pacific Ocean; NE—Coral Sea; W—Indian Ocean) How has Tasmania changed over the age? (linked to mainland, but now island off SE coast by Bass Strait, which formed after last Ice Age)

Pages 6 and 7

What are the six regions on mainland Australia besides Australian Capital Territory where the capital is located? (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory) How much of Australia is desert? (two-thirds) What does Australia produce more than any other country? (industrial diamonds and opals) What area was once an inland sea? (the Central Basin)

**Guided Questions** (cont.)**Pages 8 and 9**

What are Australia's hottest months? (December to February) In what city is rainfall the greatest? (Darwin) What city has the hottest temperatures all year? (Darwin)

Pages 10 and 11

What have Australia's plants and animals adapted to? (little rainfall, poor soil) Name some Australian animals and their characteristics. (marsupials—kangaroo, wallaby, koala; redback spider and taipan snake—deadly; web-footed platypus—bill like a duck, tail like a beaver)

Pages 12 and 13

What area does the Flying Doctor service and why? (remote settlements in interior, hospitals are hours away by car) Could one drive from Sydney to Hobart on a national highway? (no, Hobart is in Tasmania)

Pages 14 and 15

What city is akin to Washington D.C. or Ottawa? (Canberra) What river runs through the capital of Western Australia? (Swan River) What is the name of Victoria's capital on the south coast? (Melbourne) What is the name of Queensland's capital on the east coast? (Brisbane)

Pages 16 and 17

What are some places to see in Sydney? (Circular Quay, Royal Botanic Gardens, Opera House, Darling Harbor, Sydney Harbor Bridge)

Pages 18 and 19

What's special about the Great Barrier Reef? (largest coral reef in world, more than 2,000 species of fish)

Pages 20 and 21

Where is the source of the Murray River? (near Mount Kosciusko in Snowy Mountains) Why is the river important? (needed for drinking and irrigation) How did people travel from early settlements? (paddlesteamers)

Pages 22 and 23

Where is the Barossa Valley? (South Australia) What hints that the early immigrants were German? (style of buildings, place names, region's food, music, and festivals)

Pages 24 and 25

When was the first surfaced road built to Alice Springs? (1940s) What is special about Uluru? (appears to change color according to light; returned to Aborigines in 1985; huge)

Pages 26 and 27

Aborigines make up what percent of the population? (1.6%) What were boomerangs used for? (weapons, games, poking fire) What is Dreamtime? (creation myths)

Reading Activity

Pass out the Australia Vocabulary sheets to students. Read the directions with the students and allow them a few minutes to read over the activity before you begin. Help students use a dictionary or thesaurus if they have trouble coming up with their own antonyms and synonyms.

Reflection/Extension

Have students find more words in *Travel Through Australia*, other books in the series, or any other reading material for which they can then think of antonyms and synonyms. Students should have a list of about 10 words. Have students search for two words that could be part of a homophone pair. Have students write a sentence for each homophone to show the different meanings.



Name _____

ACTIVITY

AUSTRALIA VOCABULARY

Directions: The following words were taken from *Travel Through Australia*. Find a synonym and antonym for each word. Use a dictionary or a thesaurus if you need help.

Word	Synonym	Antonym
old		
interior		
average		
important		
traditional		
bustling		
modern		
vast		
original		
unique		

Directions: These words are homophones. Some of the words are found in *Travel Through Australia*. They sound the same but have different meanings. Write a sentence for each homophone to show the different meanings.

rain: _____

reign: _____

principal: _____

principle: _____

there: _____

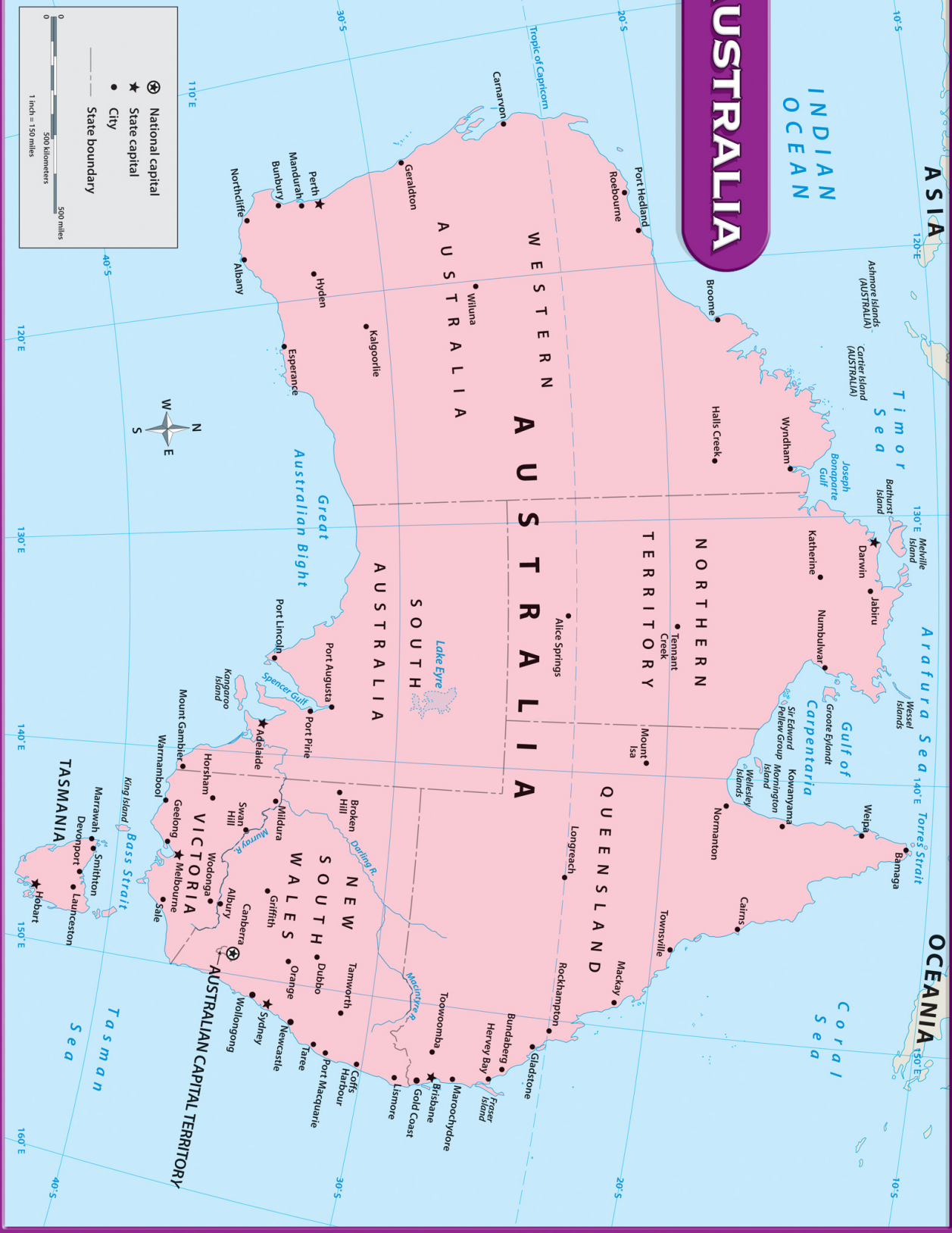
their: _____

they're: _____



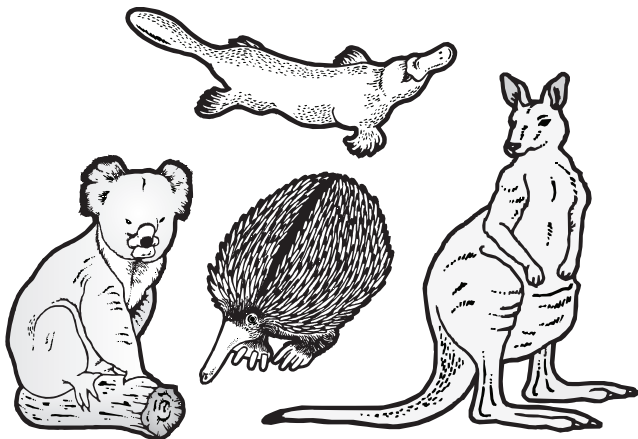
AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA



AMAZING FAUNA

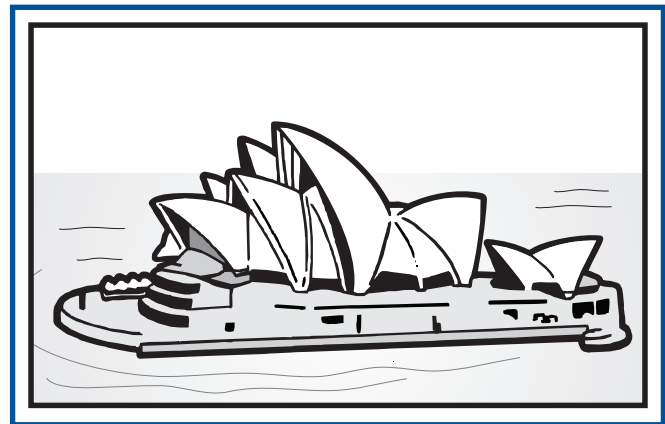
Australia's **fauna** is unique. It has over 170 different species of **marsupials**. Marsupials are special types of mammals. They have pouches that they use for carrying their babies. Kangaroos are marsupials, as are koalas. When a koala is born, it is only three-quarters of an inch (19 millimeters) long! At one-fifth of an ounce (5.7 grams), it weighs less than most small coins! Although the baby koala is blind and cannot hear, it has strong front legs. As soon as the koala is born, it uses its strong legs to crawl into its mother's pouch. It stays in its mother's pouch for six months.



One cannot mention Australia's unique fauna without bringing up the duck-billed platypus and the echidna. These two animals are mammals, yet they lay eggs! They are the only two mammals in the world that lay eggs. The platypus has thick fur, webbed feet like a duck, a tail like a beaver, and a bill that looks like a duck's bill. Platypus eggs have a rubbery shell. The shell bends when it is touched. A platypus usually lays just two eggs, and the eggs are stuck together. Because the eggs are stuck together, they cannot roll around.

WHERE THEY WEAR GRAY

Sydney is a world-famous city. It is the capital of New South Wales. It is known for its Opera House. The opera house is famous for its roof. Its roof is made up of over one million roof tiles. It makes one think of a ship sailing full sail. A Danish **architect** designed the Opera House. The architect's design was chosen in a competition.



A slightly older architectural wonder is the Sydney Harbor Bridge. This bridge was completed in 1932. It is a steel arch bridge. The top of its bridge stands 440 feet (134 meters) above the harbor. Starting in 1998, tourists were allowed to climb the bridge. Today, well over a million people have climbed the bridge. The climb is not for everyone. It involves catwalks, stairs, and ladders. All climbers are required to put on gray suits. Why must the tourists wear gray? It has to do with the view. The gray suits blend in with the gray bridge, making it so that views of the bridge elsewhere are not spoiled.



Name _____

ASSESSMENT

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW!

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Australia's Great Barrier Reef is
 (A) made from the skeletons of marsupials. (B) surrounded by the waters of the Coral Sea.
 (C) the longest structure designed by an architect. (D) off the coast of the Australia Capital Territory.
2. If a tourist is wearing gray, he or she
 (A) cannot climb the Sydney Harbor Bridge.
 (B) is climbing the Sydney Harbor Bridge.
 (C) may be climbing the Sydney Harbor Bridge.
 (D) is not climbing the Sydney Harbor Bridge.
3. What is not true about Canberra?
 (A) It is a state capital. (B) It was designed by an architect.
 (C) It was built from the ground up. (D) It has a lake that divides the city in half.
4. A kangaroo is a marsupial because
 (A) it is a mammal. (B) it lives in Australia.
 (C) its two eggs stick together. (D) it has a pouch for carrying its babies.

Directions: True or false? If false, rewrite the sentence to make it true.

5. There is little vegetation on the Coober Pedy golf course. _____

6. All mammals lay eggs. _____

Directions: Fill in each blank with a "Words to Know" word to correctly complete the sentences.

7. At the Olympic Games, there is fierce _____ between teams from different countries.
8. My mother has _____ plants in her office, so she doesn't have to water them.

Directions: Use complete sentences to answer each question.

9. Discuss how living in the outback might be different from living in Sydney.

10. Explain how the Great Barrier Reef was made. _____

