

# The H.O.T. Spot

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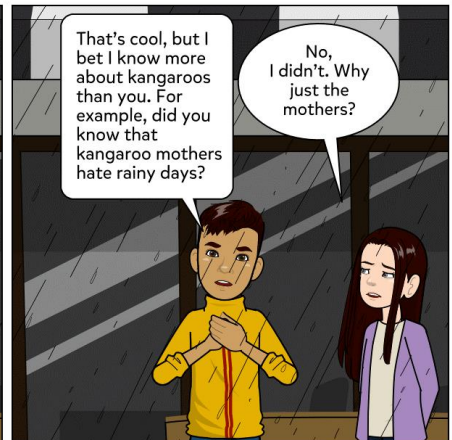
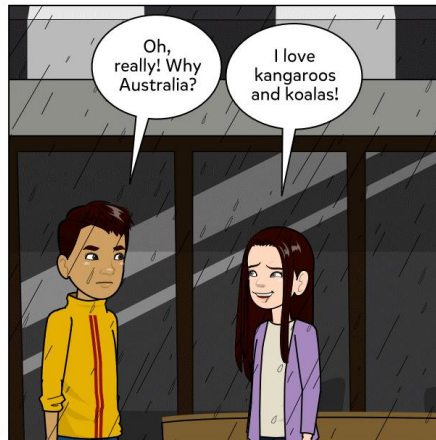
A WEEKLY PUBLICATION FOR CURIOUS KIDS

Issue #8 (August 18, 2020)

**CAUTION:** Participation may lead to a lack of boredom and a tired brain!

FEATURED TOPIC THIS WEEK:

*Australia: The Land Down Under*





# Australia: The Land Down Under

## Did You Know?

Australia is a VERY unique country! Don't believe me? Here are a few interesting facts:

- It is the only country to occupy an entire continent,
- It has three times more sheep than people,
- It began as a prison colony for British criminals, and
- It is the home of the only two mammals in the world that lay eggs  
(Can you name them?)

## Help Wanted

A person who studies the land and the people who inhabit it are called geographers. *Physical geographers* study the land and *human geographers* study the people.

### *Requirements*

- At least a bachelor's degree in geography
- Be proficient in GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

### *Necessary Skills*

- Collect and analyze data and information
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Critical thinking

### *Daily Tasks*

- Collect and analyze data about the land or people
- Write research papers or reports

## Virtual Field Trip

Take a tour of major sites by clicking below:

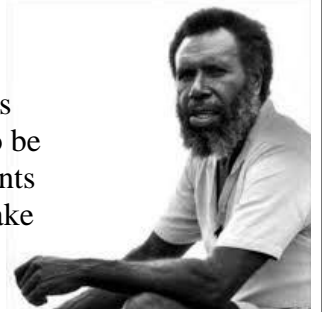
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0PvMmTAUAQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0PvMmTAUAQ)

## Would You Rather

Be chased by a dingo, kicked by a kangaroo, or stung by the Sydney funnel-web spider?

## Bio-Profile

**Eddie Mabo** is an important historical figure in Australia. He fought for the rights of Aborigines (the native people of Australia) to be recognized as the original occupants of the land. He also worked to make sure every Aboriginal student could get an education.



## Mystery Picture of the Week

Can you guess what sport this man is playing? After doing your research, turn your paper upside down to check your answer.



ANSWER: One of the most popular sports in Australia is called cricket. It was first played in 1803. When playing cricket, two teams of 11 people try to hit the ball and / or knock down the wicket depending on who is up to bat. To find out more, click here: <https://kids.kiddle.co/Cricket>



What do you think the featured topic should be next week? Email your teacher with your thoughts.

## Project-Based Bonanza

Choose one or more of the projects below to complete this week.

### **CHOICE A**

The didgeridoo is an instrument made from a Eucalyptus tree that has been hollowed out. Watch the video here and then compare and contrast a didgeridoo with other instruments you have heard before. Can you make your own using a paper towel tube?

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIPxYiuVHcA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIPxYiuVHcA)

### **CHOICE B**

Research the symbolism found in the Australian flag. Why did they choose the colors and shapes you see below?



### **CHOICE C**



The boomerang is a tool that is thrown in the air. Aborigines often decorated them with rows of colorful dots. Cut out a boomerang shape from an old cereal box and add your own dots.

## Cliff Hanger

*I've started the story. You finish it!*

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest reef in the world. It has always been a dream of mine to explore it one day. When the time came, however, I got more than I bargained for. I was in the water no longer than ten minutes when I ran right into...



## Digging Into Depth and Complexity

In past issues, we have learned about the Kaplan Depth and Complexity Model icons *unanswered questions, ethics, change over time, rules, and trends*. A sixth important icon is **multiple perspectives**.



This icon stands for the different ways people think about or view the same information. It is important to consider other people's views in relation to your own because it helps you more fully understand all of the factors at play.

For example, the red sandstone mountain you saw in the *Virtual Field Trip* video earlier is called Uluru. The native peoples of Australia see the mountain as sacred and want it to be left alone. Other people in Australia wish to climb and explore it whenever they wish. Both groups have different perspectives about Uluru. Read the information on the web page linked below and then think about what your perspective might be.

<https://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/symbols-australia/uluru>

## Brain Teaser of the Week

The answer to this math puzzle is equal to the distance a kangaroo can jump in feet. Use the information in the yellow box to help solve it!

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Cup} + \text{Cup} + \text{Cup} = 30 \\
 \text{Burger} + \text{Cup} + \text{Cup} = 9
 \end{array}$$

$$\text{Cup} + \text{Cup} + \text{Burger} = ?$$