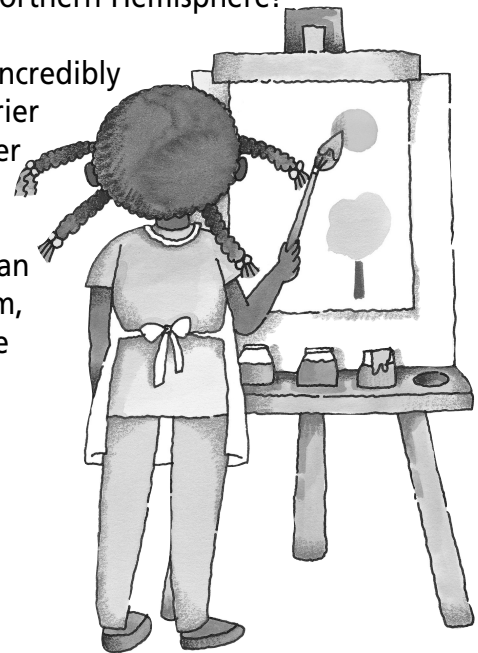


Online Book Club

The Mystery on the Great Barrier Reef

Bring It To Life!

1. Make a marsupial masterpiece! Marsupials are really cool creatures! List three marsupials (of course, you've got to include the kangaroo!). Then, research them on the Internet and make a chart listing their similarities and differences. Draw pictures of them, or find pictures online, print them, and glue them to your chart.
2. Amble across Australia! Ask a volunteer to draw a big map of Australia on a poster board. Use a map of Australia from the encyclopedia to help you locate the places visited by Christina and Grant. Create symbols, and label the map. Don't forget the map key! Trace their journey across the continent "Down Under." Look at the encyclopedia map and find the distance measurement key. About how many miles did the travel? (Australia is a BIG place!)
3. Make a boomerang! You can use poster board, cardboard, or foam core. Research what Aboriginal art looks like, and decorate your boomerang!
4. What time is it, really, and what's the weather? Use Internet tools to help you find out the time difference between your home state and Australia. Then, decide what the weather would be like in Australia today compared to where you live. Remember, Australia's seasons are the opposite of our seasons in the Northern Hemisphere!
5. Color your world! The fish living on the Great Barrier are incredibly colorful and beautiful! Find some photos of the Great Barrier Reef and its fish on the Internet. Then, draw an underwater mural and have fun coloring it!
6. What does that mean? Find the meaning of these Australian words or terms: ant's pants, brekkie, dinkum or fair dinkum, cheerio, hoo-roo, lollies, postie, yahoo. Don't you think the Australian language is fun???



Online Information

The Mystery on the Great Barrier Reef

Fascinating Facts

Australia

- Australia is the driest continent on earth! It is also the only country that occupies an entire continent!
- About 80 percent of Australians live near the coast of the continent.
- Australia is the sixth largest country in the world!
- The koala bear is not a bear at all! It is related to the kangaroo and the wombat with a pouch to rear its young. Koalas live for more than 20 years and sleep up to 19 hours a day! What a life!
- Dingoes may look like dogs, but they don't bark! They make a distinctive howling sound.
- Aborigines make didgeridoos from a hollow piece of timber, usually from a eucalyptus tree. The timber becomes hollow after termites eat the center of the branch or tree!
- The purple wallaby secretes a dye that changes the color of its face and neck. The colors range from light pink to bright purple!
- The Sydney Funnelweb spider is considered the world's most deadly spider! People have died from its bite in less than two hours.



Online Quiz

The Mystery on the Great Barrier Reef

Fact or Fiction?

Write Fact or Fiction next to each question below.

- _____ 1. Dr. Rottneest was a world-famous paleontologist who spent his time searching for dinosaur bones.
- _____ 2. It may not rain in the Australian Outback for years.
- _____ 3. Mimi, Papa, Grant, and Christina rode horses through the Outback.
- _____ 4. Devin and Darla's mother was a park ranger.
- _____ 5. Outback Jack was very mean and threatening when he spoke to the children in the Outback.
- _____ 6. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest reef system in the world.
- _____ 7. Miss Darling worked at the Sydney hotel where the family was staying.
- _____ 8. Grant disappeared while the children were snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef.
- _____ 9. Nate had a tattoo of the Loch Ness Monster on his arm.
- _____ 10. Mimi really liked Dr. Rottneest and wanted to help him solve his mystery.



Online Book Club

The Mystery on the Great Barrier Reef

Talk About It!

1. Australians have a very distinct accent. Do you like to listen to people with different accents? If so, why? Do you ever imitate accents?
2. Grant noticed a tattoo on the right arm of the suspicious man in the café. What are some other important things to notice about someone you want to remember?
3. Grant and Christina were awed by the beauty and size of Ayers Rock. Do you like to visit beautiful and interesting natural places? Where is an interesting place you have visited?
4. You have read about many strange and wonderful animals that live in Australia. What is your favorite animal and why? Would you like to have that animal for a pet?
5. Did you think it was a good idea or a bad idea when Christina and Grant took off with the park ranger's children and left a note for Mimi and Papa on two stones in the middle of the trail? Why or why not?
6. Christina says that geography seems alive to her after traveling with Mimi and Papa to many interesting places. Do you like geography? After reading *The Mystery on the Great Barrier Reef*, can you see why geography can be really cool?
7. The children were offered some interesting food in Australia, including kangaroo, octopus, and lychee nuts. Are you willing to try new foods when you visit different places? What do you think octopus tastes like? How about kangaroo?
8. "Crikey!" is an expression of surprise or an enthusiastic response to something. Can you think of some American words that you might use in place of "Crikey!?"
9. Did you think Christina was brave to do what she did at the end of the book? Would you have been willing to do that?
10. Would you like to visit Australia? If so, what would you like to see?



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