

## Year 2 Home Learning – Topic – Down Under – Spring 2

### Learning at School:

For your information, this half term we are teaching the following areas:

#### Week 1

- I can say what I know and what I would like to find about Australia.
- I can locate the equator (invisible line dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres), continents (Asia, Australia, Antarctica, Africa, Europe, North America, South America), and the oceans (Antarctic, Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific) on a world map.
- I can compare the different climates in Australia (coral reef, tropical, desert, sub-tropical) with the UK (temperate).

#### Week 2

- I can explain who Captain Cook is and why he is significant (discovered Australia).
- I can identify and name animals suited to live in Australia (kangaroo, bilby, wallaby, koala, dingo).
- I can understand the purpose and structure of a story.
- I can gather descriptive vocabulary.

#### Week 3

- I can plan, write and edit a story.
- I can gather information about Australian land and water animals (turtle, shark, alligator)

#### Week 4

- I can identify the features and structure of a non-chronological report.
- I can gather vocabulary for a non-chronological report.
- I can plan, write and edit a non-chronological report.

#### Week 5

- I can locate the East Coast of Australia and find out key information about this area (Great Barrier Reef, Fraser Island and the Whitsunday Islands).
- I can gather descriptive vocabulary.
- I can plan, write and edit a setting description.

#### Week 6

- I can locate Sydney on a map and describe the landmarks of Sydney.
- I can explain who the Aborigines are (first inhabitants of Australia) and important events in their history.
- I can explain what dream stories are (Aboriginal understanding of the world, of its creation, and its great stories).
- I can recreate a piece of Aboriginal art.
- I can plan and write a non-chronological report.
- I can present information about Australia.
- I can explain what I have learnt.

Please see the year group blog each Friday for the full learning journey for the following week and a description of what the children have learnt this week.

### Practical projects:

Here are some activities you can do with your children:

- Create your own Aboriginal art at home.
- Paint a picture of your favourite Australian landmark.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation or poster on Australia.
- Colour in the continents you have visited (map attached).

### Reading:

You should be reading **every day** and discussing your book at home. To support your learning in school, please also read about your new topic. See below for some suggested books or visit your local library for more guidance.

*Are We There Yet?: A Journey Around Australia* by Alison Lester.  
*Wombat Stew* by Marcia K. Vaughan  
*The Australian Fact and Picture Book: Fun Facts For Kids About Australia* by Gina McIntyre  
*Australia: A Benjamin Blog and His Inquisitive Dog Guide* by Anita Ganeri

For further reading suggestions, please visit the curriculum blog (100 books to read before leaving primary school).

### Talk Topics:

To support your learning in school, talk to your family about the following topics: How is Australia similar/different to England? (Think back to our topic 'What's in my suitcase?') Which Australian animals do you think could make good pets? Which animals wouldn't make good pets? Why? Discuss what it would be like to be an Aboriginal person. Would you like to visit Australia? Discuss why.

### Spelling and Writing:

To support your learning in school, practice reading and writing the year 2 common exception words, can you practice writing them in sentences about Australia? We have also included the sounds and spelling rules that you will be learning and revising in your phonics groups (see the booklet of suggested activities). We have created some writing activities linked to the topic for you to complete at home (see booklet of suggested activities).

### Topic Vocabulary:

To support your learning in school, please become familiar with these words and find out what they mean. Learn to **read** them and try using them in sentences.

**Topic:** continent, ocean, sea, Australia, land animal, water animal, Sydney, landmark, Aboriginal, dream time.

**English:** persuasive, emotive, explain, heading, sub-heading, introduction, features, diagram.

**Art & Design:** Aboriginal, dream time, symbols, story, teaching.

### Useful websites and further learning opportunities:

To support your learning in school, visit the following websites:

<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/australia-facts.html>

Find out some fun facts about Australia!

[http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/World\\_Continents.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/World_Continents.htm) Test your knowledge of the continents and oceans on this interactive game.

[http://www.ducksters.com/biography/explorers/captain\\_james\\_cook.php](http://www.ducksters.com/biography/explorers/captain_james_cook.php) Find out some facts about Captain James Cook!

<http://dreamtime.net.au/dreaming/story-list/> Read some Aboriginal dream time stories – can you act them out?

Ask your friends and family if they have ever been to Australia. Did they see any landmarks or animals? Do they have any pictures they can show you?