

W/b 13/07/20 – Lesson 1 – All over the World – Australia. LO: To find and retrieve information from a text

Australia - Australia has some of the most diverse landscapes in the world. One of Australia's most famous and recognisable landmarks is Uluru which is located in the Northern Territory. Read the following text on Uluru and then complete the activities.

Uluru - Location and Description. Uluru is one of Australia's most iconic landmarks. It is located in the 'Red Centre' in the Northern Territory, Australia. Uluru is located in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, in the middle of a typical Australian landscape of red dirt, plants and animals. Uluru is one of the greatest rock formations in the world. It is 1.6 kilometres high and 1.9 kilometres wide. It is nearly as high as the Empire State Building! Uluru's total area covers almost 3.33 square kilometres. Uluru is naturally comprised of sandstone. Its colour usually appears dusty red but it can vary with the ever-changing angle of the sunlight shining on it. This aspect makes Uluru a popular tourist site at dusk. Although Uluru's surface is covered in crevices, caves and valleys, it is straight and smooth enough that, in the past, tourists attempted to climb to the top. However, there has since been a ban on this out of respect for the local Indigenous Australians.

Animals - Animals play a significant role in Aboriginal culture. Being in a national park, many native animals can be found near Uluru. Countless birds, reptiles and mammals call Uluru home. Examples of these are bats, frogs, kangaroos, wallabies, goannas, dingoes and emus. Perhaps one of the most common animals found at Uluru are red kangaroos or 'malu'. The male red kangaroo grows to 1.6-2.4 metres high and weighs between 22-85 kilograms. The female red kangaroo grows to 1.3-2 metres high and can weigh between 17-35 kilograms. They can survive in many climates and are very adaptable. Their strong legs and tails make them powerful hunters. Red kangaroos are quicker when they hop on their two hind legs but can also walk and crawl on all fours. They are hunted by the Anangu people for their meat to eat and skin to wear.

Plants

There are countless plants growing near Uluru - 400 different species to be exact! These plants are an important part of the life of the local people as they are used for food, clothing, shelter, medicine and weapons. One of these plants is called the 'Kalinykalinypa' or 'Honey Grevillea'. It blossoms very bright green, orange and yellow flowers that look like spikes. These flowers contain a very sweet honey-like nectar which is eaten by the Aboriginal Australian children. It is also soaked in water to make a sweet drink.

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Indigenous Australians - Uluru is a site of great spirituality to Indigenous Australians. It is over 600 million years old and is a significant aspect of the Aboriginal land, culture and history. Pitjantjatjara Anangu is the tribe of the area Uluru is found in. They have many Dreaming stories about the rock and live by these teachings daily. After many years of tourists being able to climb Uluru, there was finally a ban put in place, due to the sacred nature and importance of the site for the local Indigenous Australians. Indigenous Australians believe Uluru was created during the Dreaming. The Dreaming is the Aboriginal creation period, during which the spirits of the Aboriginal ancestors returned to earth to create the animals, land and relationships. Due to its size, several Dreaming stories tell the story of Uluru.

Indigenous Australians believe that many of Uluru's features were created in the Dreaming. A long and narrow stone, and a smaller stone nearby on the land around Uluru was a Kunia woman and her children. The deep ridges on the sides of Uluru were once tracks made by snake people as they went to and from the watering hole. The indented gutter-like ridges on the side of Uluru were once the beards of old men. There are caves in the cliff face which represent where the Kunia people camped and lived.

Activity 1. Using a dictionary or wordhippo.com find and explain the meaning of these words.

- a) landmarks
- b) comprised
- c) aspect
- d) crevices
- e) indigenous
- f) native
- g) common
- h) spirituality

Activity 2. Find the answers to the following questions in the text.

1. Where in Australia is Uluru located?
2. Describe a typical Australian landscape.
3. What material is Uluru made from?
4. Why has climbing Uluru been banned?
5. What animals can you find near Uluru?
6. Explain what the Dreaming is.
7. Explain how indigenous people think the following features of Uluru were made:
 - a) the deep ridges on the side
 - b) the gutter like ridges on the side