

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Animals: Spiders (Alex)

- Australia has more than 2,000 species of spiders
- more than 90 percent are likely harmless
- 2 types of spiders are venomous enough to kill humans

It's true that Australia has some of the most venomous spiders in the world – but it isn't as bad as you'd think: One death in April 2016 was the country's first recorded spider-caused death since 1981. There are more deaths from allergic reactions to bees.

Antivenom for two of the more dangerous spiders, the funnel-web spider and the redback spider has been available since the 1950s and 1981, respectively.

It is only administered when the envenomation is really severe, which is rarely the case.

Spider venom contains a cocktail of chemicals, some of which can be harmful to humans – but humans are not really the intended victims. Spider venom is designed for small prey and delivered in small quantities that, while often fatal to tiny creatures, can be handled by bigger organisms.

## Animals: Snakes (Alex)

- Australia has more 170 species of snakes
- most are likely harmless
- 12 types of snakes are venomous enough to kill humans
- 100 snake bite cases in Australia each year require antivenom
- with an average of two human deaths
- in contrast to India, for example, where bites may reach one million a year, with over 50,000 deaths
- most snakes would rather slither away from humans than fight them
- snakes don't see humans as food and they don't aggressively bite things without a reason

Most dangerous Snakes in Australia:

1. Eastern brown snake
2. Western brown snake
3. Mainland tiger snake
4. Inland taipan
5. Coastal taipan

More about the Eastern brown snake

Fast-moving, aggressive and known for their bad temper, eastern brown snakes, together with other browns are responsible for more deaths every year in Australia than any other group of snakes. Not only is their venom ranked as the second most toxic of any land snake in the world (based on tests on mice), they thrive in populated areas, particularly on farms in rural areas with mice.

If disturbed, the eastern brown raises its body off the ground, winding into an 'S' shape, mouth gaping open and ready to strike. Its venom causes progressive paralysis and stops the blood from clotting, which may take many doses of antivenom to reverse. Victims may collapse within a few minutes.

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Animals: Dingoes (Bo Yang)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Male:
- Weight: 15,8kg
- Size: 60cm
- Long 125cm
  
- Female:
- Weight: 14,1
- Size: 55cm
- Long 122cm
  
- Average life span 3-5 years normally no longer than 7 years
- You can only find it in Australia
- They lived in Australia for around 3450 years

### BODY

- Adapted for speed, agility and stamina so they can move quickly
- Three main colors reddishorange, black or white. Reddishorange is more common than black or white - those are more rare

### FOOD

- They eat meat
- including kangaroos ,birds, fish, reptiles, frogs and insects.

### BREEDING / OFFSPRING

- Breed ones at year between march and June producing between 4-6 pups

### BEHAVIOUR

- Shy animals, usually don't attack humans
- Family pack animals (hunt and travel together)
- A pack has usually 10 members
- A dominant female and her mate lead the pack

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Animals: Dromedaries (Bo Yang)

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT DROMEDARIES

#### MALE

- Weight: 400-600kg
- Size: 1,80-2m tall

#### FEMALE

- Weight: 300-540kg
- Size: 1,7-1,9m tall
- Average life span is between 40-50 years
- originally from North Africa and the Middle East they were imported into Australia
- They lived in Australia for around 3450 years
- They live in deserts close to water
- The dromedaries are mainly active during daylight hours

### BODY

- Adapted to tolerate losing more than 30% of its total water content
- The camel has thick, double layered eyelashes and bushy eyebrows
- Their thick lips allows them to eat things that most other animals couldn't, like thorny plants
- The dromedary is a one-humped camel
- Tallest of the three camel species

### FOOD

- They only eat vegetable
- Food in the desert is limited so they not exactly pick
- Favorite food : grass

### AUSTRALIA & THE CAMEL

Australian camels are feral populations of dromedaries .

Imported into Australia from British India and Afghanistan during the 19th century for transport and construction during the colonisation of the central and western parts of Australia, many were released into the wild after motorised transport replaced the use of camels in the early 20th century, resulting in a fast-growing feral population.

By 2008, it was feared that Central Australia's feral camel population had grown to about one million and was projected to double every 8 to 10 years. Camels are known to cause serious degradation of local environmental and cultural sites, particularly during dry conditions. An AU\$19 million management program was funded in 2009, and, upon completion in 2013, the feral population was estimated to have been reduced to around 300,000.

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Animals: Tasmanian Devil (Moritz)

- Scientific name: *Sarcophilus harrisii*
  - Typ: Mammals
  - Diet: Carnivore
- Color scheme: brown or black, white strip near the throat
- Mass:
    - Male: 8 kg (adult)
    - Female: 6 kg (adult)
  - Length:
    - Male: 65 cm
    - Female: 57 cm
  - Top Speed: 13 km/h
  - Average life span in the wild: up to 5 years
  - Offspring: up to 50 babies, but only 4 survive because the female have only 4 teats

### *Wortschatzhilfe:*

*Scientific name=Wissenschaftlicher Name*

*Mammal=Säugetiere*

*Diet=Ernährung*

*Carnivore=Fleischfresser*

*Adult=Erwachsen*

*Herbivore=Pflanzenfresser*

*inches=1 inch=2,54 cm*

*Pound= 1 pound= 0,454 kg*

*marsupials=Beuteltier*

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Animals: Koala (Moritz)

- Scientific name: Phascolarctos cinereus
- Typ: Mammals\* -> marsupials\*
- Diet: Herbivore\*
- Color scheme: gray, white body
- Mass: 4-15 kg (Adult)
- Size: 23.5-33.5 inches\* (59,69-85,09 cm)
- Lifespan: 13-20 years in the wild
- food source: eucalyptus leaves

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# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Animals: Platypus (Viki)

### Length and weight:

- Males are 400-630mm long (800-3000g)
- Females are 370-550mm long (600-1700g)

### Seperate order of mammals:

- They are known, together with the echidnas, as monotremes, because they lay eggs

### Venom gland:

- They have a venom gland in the upper leg
- They are one of the few venomous mammals

### Distinguishing features:

- The skeleton is heavy and has several similarities to that of fossil and modern reptiles
- Streamlined body with a bill and broad flat tail
- Short limbs with webbed feet
- Dense dark brown to reddish brown fur with light brown/silver underfur

### Activity:

- They are active all year around, but mostly during twilight and in the night

### Feeding and diet:

- Mainly benthic invertebrates
- Also shrimps, swimming beetles, water bugs and tadpoles
- Sometimes worms, freshwater pea mussels and snails

## Animals: Whale (Viki)

Over 50% of the world's cetaceans are found in Australian waters. At least 45 species visit or live permanently in Australia, including nine baleen whales and 36 toothed whales species.

### Distribution:

- Some species, like the orca, are wide spread and found in all waters
- Other species such as some beaked whales are much more exclusive

### Aboriginals and whales:

- Aboriginals along the coast have a long association with whales
- Rock engravings and contemporary stories show the strong relationship (some of them are 1000 years old)
- They considered stranded whales an important resource
- They used the fat to varnish their spears, boomerangs and tools

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Animals: Sharks (Jasmin)

- Sharks are mostly hunted for of their fins.
- They are actually not as aggressive as most people think: before attacking they will check their victims to make sure they won't get hurt themselves
- Each year about 150 humans die because of sharks, while 100 milion sharks die because of humans.
- Unlike the most fish, sharks have a „social-life“ like dolphins. Sometimes sharks will stay with other sharks for years.
- They have a pretty strong jaw.
- The largest individuals can exert a massive 1,8 tons with their jaw.
- Sharks usually eat fish and other sea animals.
- They have the ability to grow back their teeth after they lose them.
- A shark grow up to 30000 teeth during their whole live.
- They also can dive up to 1200 m deep.

- There are 3 different kinds of sharks that live in Australia:

One of them is the most known and most feared shark. The great **White Shark**, which is also known as „human shark“. The reason for its name is its light colored stomach. Males can reach a size off 3,4-4,1m and females can reach 4,5-6,4m. This shark can reach a weight about 520-1100kg. This shark is in great danger.

The next shark is the **Bull Shark** witch is also known as „Ground shark“. It can reach a size about 3,5-4m and a weight about 95-130kg. This kind is in danger, too.

The last shark is the **White Tip Reef Shark**. It can reach a size of 1,5 m and a weight of 10kg. And it is also in great danger.

Rays are related to sharks. The Manta also lives in Australia and can reach a size of 5-9 m and a weight of 1500 kg. These giants only eat plankton and eat daily 14% of their own weight. Unlike other Rays, the Manta is friendly towards humans, curious and not poisonous. They can jump about 1,5m.

The Freshwater crocodile is from north Australia. They are also known as Johan stones crocodiles or Freshie.

They can reach a length of about 3m and a weight of 90kg. They only bite in self defense and are not known as „man eater“.

They even have a stronger jaw than the shark. There jaw is able to produce about 500 pounds of pressure per square centimeter. Freshies eats shrimps, cray fish, spiders, frogs lizards, snakes, birds and mammals.

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Geography: Bondi Beach (Erika)

Location	Sydney
State	New South Wales
Area	1,22 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	11.656
Founded	1851
Founder	Edward Smith Hall & Francis O'Brien
Reality Show	Bondi Rescue
Number of visitors	30.000-40.000 (on sunny days)
How many visitors does Bondi Beach get a year?	about 2,6 million
Which Ocean does Bondi Belong to?	Beach Pacific Ocean
Dangerous animals	stingrays, sharks, jellyfish, octopus, portuguese galley, cone snail, stone fish
Events in Bondi Beach	Flickerfest (short film festival) Miss Bondi Beauty Pageant City-to-Surf-Marathon Sculpture by the Sea
Is Bondi Beach the most dangerous beach in Australia?	No, it's Fraser Island on the coast of Queensland.
How did Bondi Beach get it's name?	- An Aboriginal word that means :“water breaking over rocks” - for boondi sticks
What can you do at Bondi Beach?	10 things to do in Bondi Beach:  - Watch the sun rise over Bondi Beach. - Breakfast at Porch and Parlour. - Explore Bondi's weekend markets. - Surf,swim or sun-bake at Bondi Beach - Swim at Bondi Icebergs Club Pool area. - Lunch at Icebergs Dining Room & Bar. - Do the Bondi to Bronte walk. - A spot of shopping. - A cheeky afternoon cocktail at the Bucket List. - Dinner at Blanca Bar Dining.

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Geography: Canberra (Adrian)

### About Canberra

- located in the south east of Australia
- capital city of Australia
- founded in 1913
- area: 814,2 sq km
- population: 426 704

### Tourist Attractions

- Lake Burley Griffin:
  - in the middle of the city
  - six islands lie at its centre (Aspen Island is the largest one)
  - north side of the lake: Commonwealth Park
- Anglican Church of St John the Baptist:
  - the oldest building of Canberra
  - consecrated to John the Baptist by William Broughton in 1845
  - built in 1841 and opened in 1845(St John's school was situated next to it and opened in the same year of 1845  
(it is a museum since 1968))
- hot air balloon ride
- National zoo and aquarium
- Mount Ainslie (from top you can see the whole city and other attractions)

### First Inhabitants:

- Indigenous Australians  
(first people of Australia before the British colonializations include the Aborigines and the Torres Strait Islanders)
- Artefacts suggest early human activity even to 21000 years previously

### Sports in Canberra:

- Rugby (main sports of Canberra)
- Soccer
- Cricket
- Basketball
- Baseball

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Geography: Melbourne (Felix)

### Facts

Area: 9,992 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 4.936 million

Language: English

### Sightseeing

*Federation Square* is an assembly for... arts, culture and public events;  
opened: 2002; visitors: about 8.5 million visitors yearly

*Flinders Street Railway Station* opened in 1910;  
passengers: each year about 28.320 million people pass through;  
it was built from 1837-1841

### Costs of living

monthly for a family :3.305\$

monthly for a single person :926\$

26% lower as in New York

### Natural sights

Yarra River; 242 km long; Area: 4000km<sup>2</sup>

### History

- Melbourne was founded on the Yarra River in 1835.
- In 1803 a settlement was founded at Port Phillip Bay near Sorrento; this would later become Melbourne
- The Port Phillip District gained independence from New South Wales in 1850.
- Melbourne boomed in the 1850's as a result of the gold rush in the region up north.

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Culture: Flying Doctor Service (Emma)

### THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE OF AUSTRALIA

- It's one of the largest aeromedical organizations in the world!
- For people who live in remote areas.\*
- Was founded in 1928 by John Flynn.
- They have 63 planes and 21 bases in Australia.
- Emergency calls are received by phone or two-way radio communication
- The plane and its crew need maximum 2 hours to fly to a patient.
- Financed by federal grants from the government, the Northern Territory and from donations
- The base in Alice Springs is one of the most famous stations, because tourists can visit it.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE RFDS HAS AN AREA OF 7 MILLIONS SQUARE KILOMETERS?  
THIS IS TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL AREA OF AUSTRALIA!

\* *Remote areas: are far away from cities and places where most people live, and are therefore difficult to get to.*

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Culture: Aboriginal Culture I (Maryam)

### Origins

- Aboriginal Australians could be the oldest population of humans living outside of Africa, where one theory says they migrated from in boats 70,000 years ago
- With more than 500 different groups and 200 languages

### European invasion

- In 1788 the Island continent was invaded by the Europeans
- The land was considered to be terra nullius (“no ones land”)
- The land was discovered in 1770 by Lt. James Cook during his voyage
- He declared it Australia to be and claimed it as a British terretory
- The process of colonisation began in 1788

### Diseases and Devastation

- Diseases were brought by the Europeans
- Up to 70% of Aboriginal people died due to the diseases brought by the Europeans
- Aboriginal people didn't have any immunity against those diseases

### Stolen generations

- Aboriginal children were removed from their families by Australian federal, state government agencies and church missions under the act of their perspective parliament

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Culture: Aboriginal Culture II (Theda)

### OVERVIEW

Aboriginal culture dates back as far as between 60.000 to 80.000 years. This is when Aborigine's first settled in Australia. The first evidence of Aboriginal ethos or philosophy is evident in the still visible rock art which dates back more than 20.000 years.

### PAINTING

Although Australian Aboriginals have been using ochres as body paint on bark and rocks for tens of thousands of years it was not until the 1930's that the first paintings were found. Art is part of the main rituals in Aboriginal culture it marks territories, records history, supports and transmits narratives about the dreamtime.

### BELIEFS AND LEGENDS

The Rainbow Serpent or Rainbow snake is a common deity often seen as a creator god, known by numerous names in different Australian Aboriginal languages, and a common motif in the art and religion of Aboriginal Australia.

The Butchulla people Of Fraser Island tell the story of how a pair of greedy men –Weeri and Walawidbit-Stole some precious water from the arid desert than chased across the countryside by warriors. Little did they know their tanks were leaking, spilling water all over the landscape to form lifegiving rivers, billabongs and watering holes.

### SCULPTURE

Aboriginal Sculpture originated in Yirrkala and the Tiwi islands. Some early Sculpture can be very collectable. Aboriginal art is one of the "The oldest continuous art traditions in the world". It is created by indigenous Australians, the Aborigines, and covers a period from 40.000 years old rock paintings to modern art based on their traditional culture. Mostly figurative representations of the animal world and people were used for both educational and ceremonial purposes.

### MUSIC

Music song and dance was and is still today a very important part of the Aboriginal life.

They had songs for every occasion : huntings songs, funeral songs, etc...

Aboriginal melodies sound monotonous to a European.

This is mainly due to their instruments. The only wind instrument is the Didgeridoo.

The didgeridoo consists of a eucalyptus trunk hollowed out by termites. The musicians spend a lot of time and effort on the decoration and painting. The didgeridoo creates hollow, long tones.

The player varies this though his breathing technique and his lip movement. The rhythm instruments are sticks that are struck against each other or against the didgeridoo.

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Culture: Sports (Mohammed)

### 1. SWIMMING

- most popular sport
- 3.1 million people participate this sport
- because it is hot
- the first national swimming championships were in 1894
- the first represented at the Paris Olympic in 1900 was Frederic lane who won two individual gold medals
- the national team have approximately 100,000 registered members in 1100 clubs across the country

### 2. CYCLING

- one of the most popular sport
- cycling arrived in Australia in 1860's
- between 1990 and 1992 Australia become the first country to make wearing helmets
- children start to learn to ride bike at a very young age
- over 2.4 million participating in this sport
- 3.6 million (17%) people ride a bike in Australia each week.
- 55% of households have at least one bike in working order.
- this is in Australia a genuine way of travel

### 3. SOCCER

- has been played since 1800
- soccer is the most played outdoor team sport in Australia
- over 2 million people played this sport
- ranks in the top ten for television audience.
- this sport is popular as swimming in the age between 6-13 and has a participating of 48.7 %

### 4. AFL (AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE)

- the first game of American football in Australia was during world war II
- This sport has been played in six Australian states and territories across the country since World War II
- only had regular league play since 1983
- over 1.5 million people participating this sport
- one of the most watched sports particularly in Victoria and South Australia
- American Football (AFL) is the most popular national sport and is significantly more popular than any other sport in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.
- The Australia national America football team was founded 1996 and his first game was 1999 against Sweden

### 5. BASKETBALL

- The first game was played on Tuesday 23 February 1897.
- over 1.08 million men, women, boys, girls participating this sport
- the first national basketball team (Boomers) appearances in the FIBA world cup in 1947
- they appearances 14 times in the Olympic games and 12 times in the FIBA world cup. They won 0 time, but they have won 19 FIBA Oceania Championships.

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

- The National Basketball League (NBL) began in 1979 and is the top-level men's basketball competition in Australia.

## **6. NETBALL**

- the first game of netball in Australia was played in 1897
- Netball is the most popular women's team participation sport in Australia.
- this sport has been played since 1897
- it is playing by woman and children of all age
- this sport is played currently at approximately 503.000 children and 343.000 adult
- the Diamonds, the Australia's international team have won 10 of the 14-netball world tournaments since 1963

# AUSTRALIA – HANDOUTS der 9B – WINTER 2020

## Culture: SCHOOL OF THE AIR (Nancy)

### SCHOOL OF THE AIR

- The school of air is a distance school for students who live in remote places.\*
- There are 16 schools of the air in Australia.
- The first school of air was built in Alice Springs.
- Their school subjects are: Maths, English, PE, Music, Geography, Technology, Art, Social studies, Natural science and Foreign Language.
- Each student spends one hour per day receiving group or individual lessons from the teacher
- Students get their books and school stuff from the post office
- Once a year the teachers and students meet at a school camp for a week.
  
- Studies have shown that such education has the same effect than traditional methods of schooling!

*\*remote places: are far away from cities and places where most people live, and are therefore difficult to get to.*