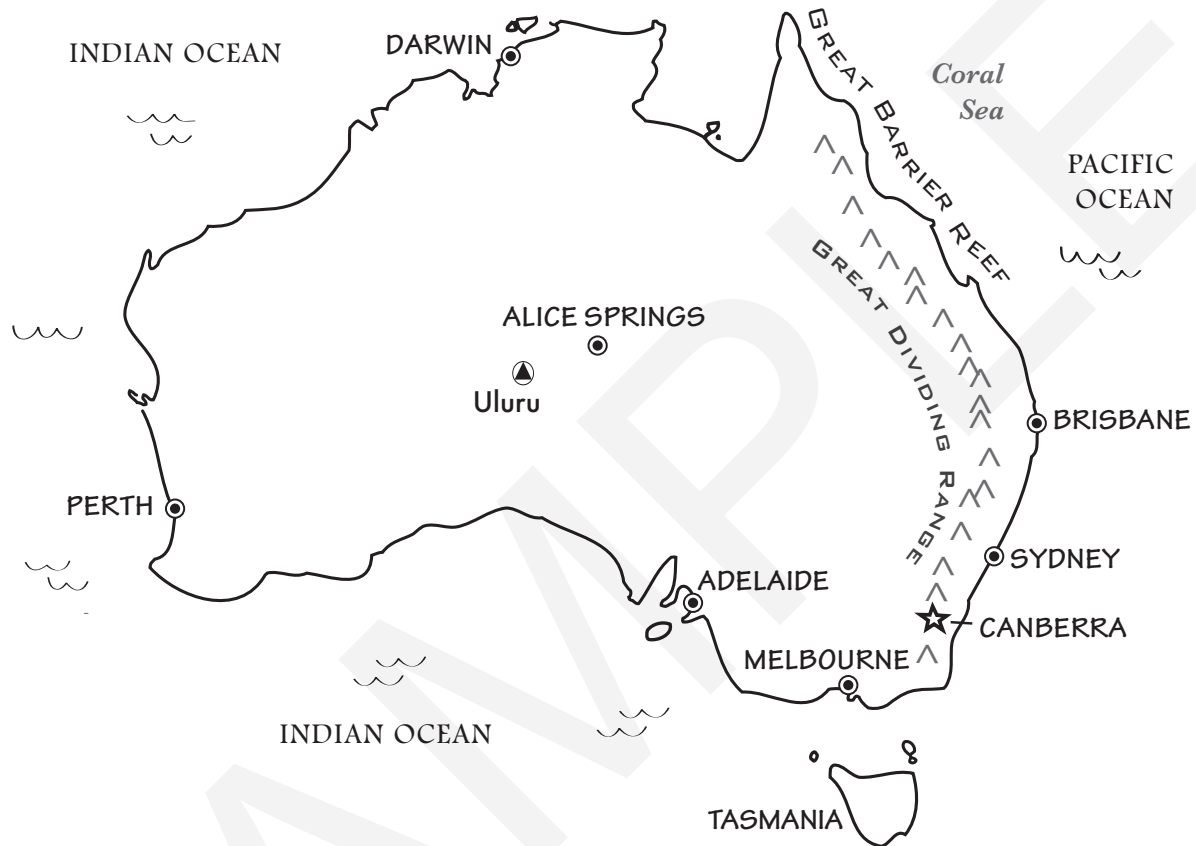


A is for Australia



Our **A** is **Australia**
or "**OZ**" as it's known.

Aboriginal nations
first called this land home.



Aboriginal Dancer Performing

They've lived here at least

45,000 years

In a land filled with sights

you can only find here:



Dingo

Teddy bears called **KOALAS**
and red *kangaroos*,
whirling **boomerangs**, **DINGOES**
and **didgeridoos!**



Kangaroo

It is here you can see
playful *platypus* swim,
a **KOOKABURRA** laugh
and a **crocodile** grin!

Aboriginal Man
Playing a Didgeridoo

Kookaburra

Though you better **BEWARE**
of the salties' **SHARP TEETH**,
you can swim with the fish
on the **GREAT BARRIER REEF**.

The Aussies are friendly
and so they will greet you,
"G'day mate!" How ARE ya?"
if ever they meet you.

"A Salty"
Saltwater Crocodile

Great Barrier Reef

They're so easygoing
and rarely uptight,
their motto's **"NO WORRIES!"**
or "Mate, she'll be right."





Convict Chains

In 1770,
Australia was claimed
By **Captain James Cook**
for the British domain.



Captain Cook

It became a new colony
named "New South Wales"
Where British sent **CONVICTS**
instead of to jails.



Sheep

And then came the **GOLDRUSH**
that doubled their number.
Men came here for riches,
then settled Down Under.



Gold

Australians today
are outnumbered by **SHEEP**.
Try to count all their flocks
and you'll fall right to sleep!



Outback

The capital's Canberra, [CAN-ber-rah]
the opera's in Sydney,
The **OUTBACK** is inland,
away from the cities.



Sydney Opera House

From Melbourne to Brisbane,
from Darwin to Perth
Aussies live on the coast
where they **SWIM** and they **SURF**.



Beach Christmas

They love food from the **BARBIE**
and **VEGEMITE** toast,
A "brekkie" non-Aussies
will likely think **GROSS**.



Vegemite Toast

They have **CHRISTMAS** in summer
and wintry Julys.

They have **WOMBATS** and **EMUS**
and trillions of **FLIES!**



Emu



Wombat



This continent's filled
with unique sights and wonders,
our A is **AUSTRALIA**,
the ace land Down Under!



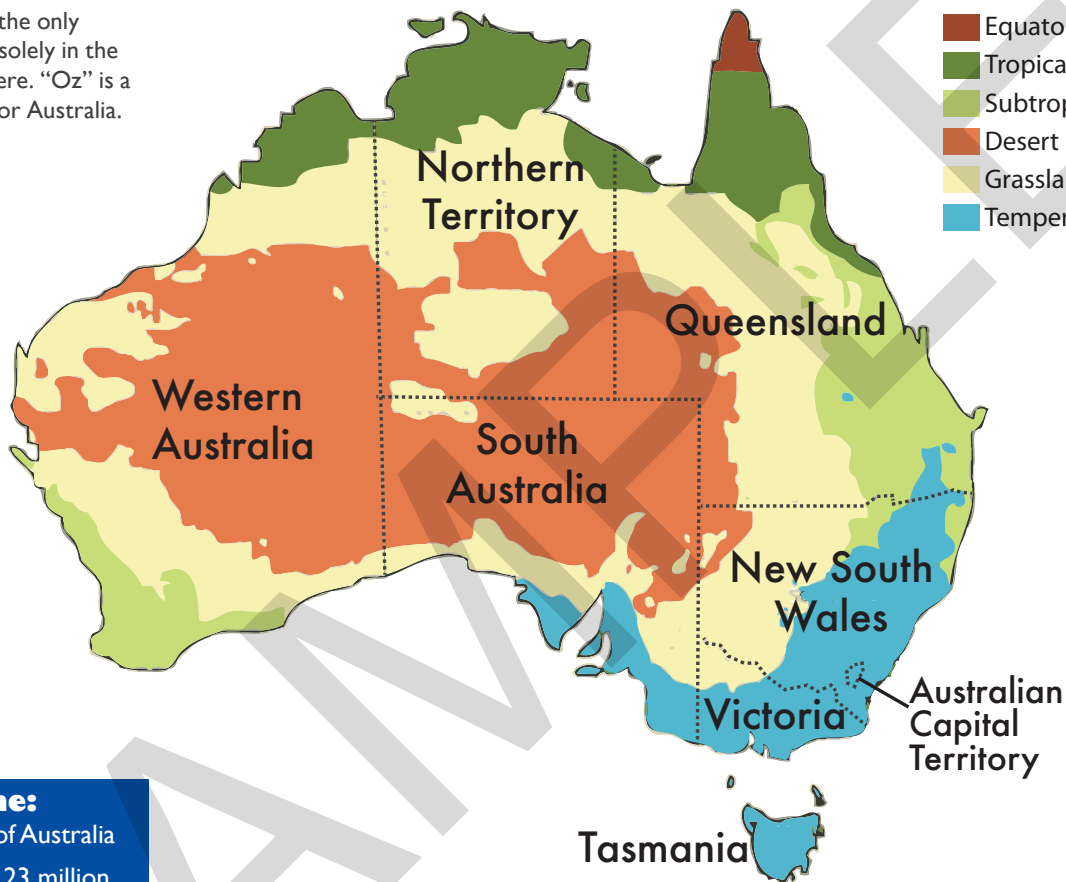
G'day
mate!



← The **Australian Flag** has three features:

1. The **Southern Cross** on the right half is a constellation visible only in the Southern Hemisphere.
2. The **Commonwealth Star** (left) is the seven-pointed star for Australia's original states plus its territories.
3. The **Union Jack** (top left) is the flag of the United Kingdom. Australia was a British colony that became independent in 1901. Though Australia now has its own government, they still accept the British king or queen as their monarch.

The name **AUSTRALIA** comes from the Latin word *australis*, which means "southern." Australia and Antarctica are the only continents located solely in the Southern Hemisphere. "Oz" is a popular nickname for Australia.



Official Name:

Commonwealth of Australia

Population: 23 million

Capital: Canberra

Largest Cities: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane

Comparative Size:

Slightly smaller than the contiguous United States, the 6th-largest country, the smallest continent

Language: English

(18% of Australians speak another language at home.)

Religion: Christian 67%,

Buddhist 2.7%, Muslim 2.4%, Hindu 1.4%, unaffiliated 22%

Currency:

Australian dollar

Key Industry: Mining

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES

☉ Australia is the **second driest continent** after Antarctica. Much of the interior of the country, the **OUTBACK**, is desert, and very few people live there.

☉ Australia has **six states** (Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania) and **two territories** (the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory).



Where in the world is Australia?



Aboriginal Dancer

David Worrpanda is a famous former → Australia Rules Football player of Aboriginal descent. See more about Australia Rules Football or "Footy" on pages 13 & 16.



← **Aboriginal** peoples have lived in Australia for over 45,000 years and now make up about 2.5% of the population. There are many different Aboriginal nations and cultures and over 200 different languages.



Kangaroo



Koala

↑ **Kangaroos** and **koalas** are ↑ both *marsupials*, which means they carry their babies in a pouch on their body. Australia is home to many marsupials and animals not found anywhere else in the world.

The duck-billed, beaver-tailed **platypus** may be one of the oddest Australian animals. It is a *monotreme*, a mammal that lays eggs, and the males have a spur on their back feet that is venomous. ↓



Playing a Didgeridoo

← A **didgeridoo** is an Aboriginal musical instrument also known as a "drone pipe." It was created over 1,500 years ago and its droning buzz is one of the best known sounds of Australia. →



Didgeridoo



Dingo

↑ **Dingos** are wild dogs that roam the Australian outback hunting for food. They eat rabbits, possums, wombats, sheep and even kangaroos.



Platypus



"Salty"

↑ **Saltwater Crocodiles** or "salties" are the world's largest living reptile and can grow to more than 18 feet in length. Found only in Northern Australia and Southeast Asia, they are fierce, intelligent predators and can attack humans.



Kookaburra

← The **kookaburra** is a large kingfisher bird that is famous for its laughter-like call.



Clownfish & Surgeonfish



Boomerang

↓ **Boomerangs** are Aboriginal throwing sticks that have been used for both hunting and games for over 10,000 years. Not all boomerangs are designed to be "returning;" those used for hunting must fly straight.



Great Barrier Reef

← ↑ The **Great Barrier Reef** is the world's largest coral reef. Coral reefs are the "rainforest of the ocean" containing 25% of all marine species, including tropical fish, like clownfish. Off the coast of Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef is one of Australia's top tourist destinations.



← **"No worries"** has been described as Australia's national motto. Similar to the American "no problem," it can mean "don't worry about that," "you're welcome," or "sure thing." It expresses feelings of friendliness, ease and optimism.

Captain James → Cook claimed Australia for the British Empire in 1770. A **penal colony** for convicts was founded in what is now Sydney on January 26, 1788. January 26 is now celebrated as **Australia Day**.



Leg Shackles for Convicts



← Until the United States declared its independence in 1776, the British used their American colonies as **penal colonies**, sending British citizens convicted of small crimes to be sold there as indentured servants. Five years after America won its independence (1783) and stopped accepting convicts, Australia's penal colony was founded to relieve Britain's overcrowded jails. These convicts became unpaid laborers working to build the new colony.



↑ An Australian five-dollar bill or “fiver” with the face of their queen, Elizabeth II.



Sheep

↑ There are about 120 million **sheep** in Australia, about five times the number of people. Australia is the leading producer of wool worldwide.



Gold

↑ **Gold** rushes in the 1850s more than doubled Australia's population. Mining gold and other minerals continues to be one of Australia's most important industries.



Outback

↑ The **Outback** is any remote, dry part of Australia. The Outback tends to be in the interior of the country where there are several deserts. It is also known as the “bush” or the “never-never.”

Uluru or Ayer's Rock is the world's second largest rock. A sacred site for the local Aboriginal people, the *Anangu*, Uluru is one large sandstone that is over five miles around and 100 feet high. Uluru is Australia's most famous natural landmark. ↓



Uluru



Sydney Opera House

↑ Designed to look like a ship in full sail, **Sydney Opera House** is one of the most recognized symbols of Australia. Completed in 1973, it is considered an architectural feat of the 20th century.



↑ Did you know that 12% of Australians have **Asian ancestry**? Australia is a nation of immigrants and 45% of Australians today are either immigrants or the children of immigrants. Many new immigrants to Australia are from Asian countries including India, China, the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia.



Barron Falls



Great Dividing Range

↑ Although a large part of Australia is both dry and flat, there are tropical rainforests in the far north and the **Great Dividing Range** runs down the eastern side of the country. The mountains actually contribute to the dryness of the interior. They stop moist air coming in from the ocean and keep most of the rain on the coast, where the majority of Australians live.



Swimmers

← **Swimming** and **surfing** → are very popular sports in Australia, and Australians are some of the top competitive surfers and swimmers in the world.



Surfing

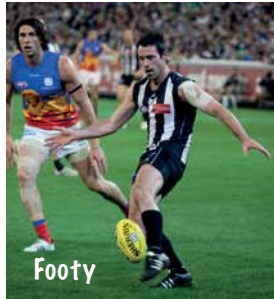
Australians → love to cook out with friends and have a "**barbie**." Sausages, also called "**snags**," are very popular to grill up, as well as steaks and shrimp.



Snags on the "Barbie"



Australia Rules → **Football** or "footy" is played on an oval field with four goal posts at each end. Two teams of eight players each compete to make goals. They can advance the ball using any part of their body, though they cannot throw the ball or hold it. Cricket, swimming and footy are the most popular sports in Australia.



Footy

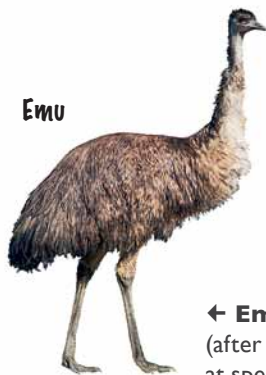


← **Vegemite** is a salty spread made of brewer's yeast that is rich in vitamin B. Vegemite sandwiches are as popular in Australia as peanut butter and jelly are in the United States. ↓



Wombat

↑ The **wombat** is a marsupial native to southeast Australia and Tasmania. Wombats burrow underground and have a backward-facing pouch so dirt won't get in when they are digging.



Emu

← **Emus** are the second largest birds in the world (after ostriches). Emus cannot fly but they can run at speeds of up to 30 mph (50 km/h).



Vegemite Toast



Flies

In the summer, there are ↑ so many **flies** in parts of Australia that waving them away from one's face is jokingly known as the "Australian national salute." Early British settlers developed the ← cork hat to keep flies away from their faces. The swinging movement of the corks naturally shoos flies. Cork hats are rarely used today, but they remain a symbol of Australia.



Cork Hat



Gold Coast

↑ Gold Coast, Queensland, typifies the Australian ideal of a **city on the beach**. Most Australians live in cities along the coastline, and very few live "outback" in the interior.



Christmas

↑ As Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere, their summer is December to February. This makes the weather quite warm at **Christmas**, when many families choose to celebrate at the beach.

SPEAK AUSSIE! or "Strine"

Mate: friend

Barbie: barbecue

Brekkie: breakfast

Sarvo: this afternoon

Mate, can you come to the barbie sarvo?

No worries: No problem, you're welcome, that's okay.

She'll be right: Don't worry, everything will be alright.

She's apples: All is well.

Ace: splendid, excellent



Listen to the SOUNDS of AUSTRALIA

Listen to a:

Didgeridoo The droning buzz of the didgeridoo is a sound distinctive to Australia. Didgeridoo players can hold notes for longer than 40 minutes through a technique called “circular breathing” (breathing in through the nose while blowing out through the mouth.) Online, you can also learn how to make and play your own didgeridoo with just PVC pipe and beeswax. **YOUTUBE SEARCH:** didgeridoo, “How to make a didgeridoo”

Learn how to sing:

Waltzing Matilda “Waltzing Matilda” is a traditional bush ballad that is so beloved in Australia that some consider it their unofficial national anthem. Filled with slang from Australia's Outback, it takes some time for non-Aussies to translate the story, but the catchy chorus and melody will keep you singing, even if you can't remember the meaning of all of the “Strine.” Waltzing Matilda was written in 1895 by Banjo Peterson. **YOUTUBE SEARCH:** Waltzing Matilda lyrics

Other Song Recommendations:

“G'day, G'day” by Slim Dusty
“Kookaburra Sits in an Old Gum Tree,” a traditional song



SPEAK STRINE!

Strine is a shortening of the word “Australian” and means Australian English. Many of their colorful expressions use both abbreviation and

rhyming slang. **Rhyming slang** refers to something by another common word that rhymes with it. For instance, “Let's take a *Captain Cook*” means “Let's take a *look*.” Here are a few other examples of Strine:

Noah: Shark. Sharks used to be called “Noah's Arks” but have since been shortened to just “noahs”

Esky: Cooler. Food and drink coolers used to be called “Eskimos” after a brand name until it was shortened. “Esky ladder” is slang for a boogie board.

Steak and Kidney: Sydney, Australia's largest city.

Pat Malone: Alone. He's sitting on his Pat Malone.

Bag of Fruit: Men's suit. *He's got on his new bag of fruit.*

China Plate: Mate, sometimes shortened just to *China*.

Frog and Toad: Road. *China, let's hit the frog 'n toad.*

He's got tickets on himself. He's opinionated and conceited. *Don't listen to him mate, he's got tickets on himself.*

VISIT this fabulous website created by the National Museum of Australia for comic lessons in Strine:
www.nma.gov.au/kidz/aussie_english_for_the_beginner



BAKE AUSTRALIAN ANZAC BISCUITS

ANZAC biscuits were developed during World War I (1914–1918) as a treat to send troops stationed abroad. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. As there was an egg shortage during the war, the recipe uses no eggs, and the biscuits (that Americans would call cookies) kept well for long naval transportation. ANZAC biscuits are still very popular in Australia, particularly around ANZAC Day, a national holiday on April 25 that is similar to Memorial Day or Veteran's Day in the United States.

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup dry oatmeal
- 1 cup dried shredded coconut
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 heaping* tablespoons golden syrup**
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 heaping* tablespoons water

*Australian tablespoons are slightly larger than American.

**If you can't find golden syrup, use either honey or corn syrup.



1. Combine flour, oatmeal, coconut and sugar in a bowl.
2. Melt the butter and syrup over low heat in a sauce pan.
3. Mix the baking soda with water and add to butter and syrup.
4. Mix wet and dry ingredients.
5. Drop spoonfuls of the dough onto a greased cookie sheet.
Allow room for cookies to spread during baking.
6. Bake at 350°F for 15–20 minutes.



MAKE YOUR OWN BOOMERANG!

Needed:

1 piece white paper

Cardboard from cereal box or similar

Scissors

Pencil/Pen

Clear tape (optional)



1. Trace boomerang pattern outline below on white paper (or photocopy).
2. Cut out and place on top of cardboard.
3. Tape paper pattern to cardboard, or outline shape on cardboard.
4. Cut out the shape from cardboard.
5. Bend each blade lightly along a line running down the middle (see pattern) so that the edges face down and the middle tents up slightly. ^
6. Place the boomerang down on the table so that all the blade edges are touching the table.
7. Put a finger on the center of the boomerang, holding it down. Then gently pull up on the end of each blade so that the blade ends are raised slightly above the boomerang's center.
8. Your boomerang is ready to throw!

How to Throw Your Boomerang

1. OVERHAND: Hold your boomerang vertically, pinching a blade between your thumb and your first finger. Bend your elbow in front of you so the boomerang is roughly at ear height. The center should be curved away from you, with the points of the tented blades facing toward you.

2. SLIGHTLY TILTED:

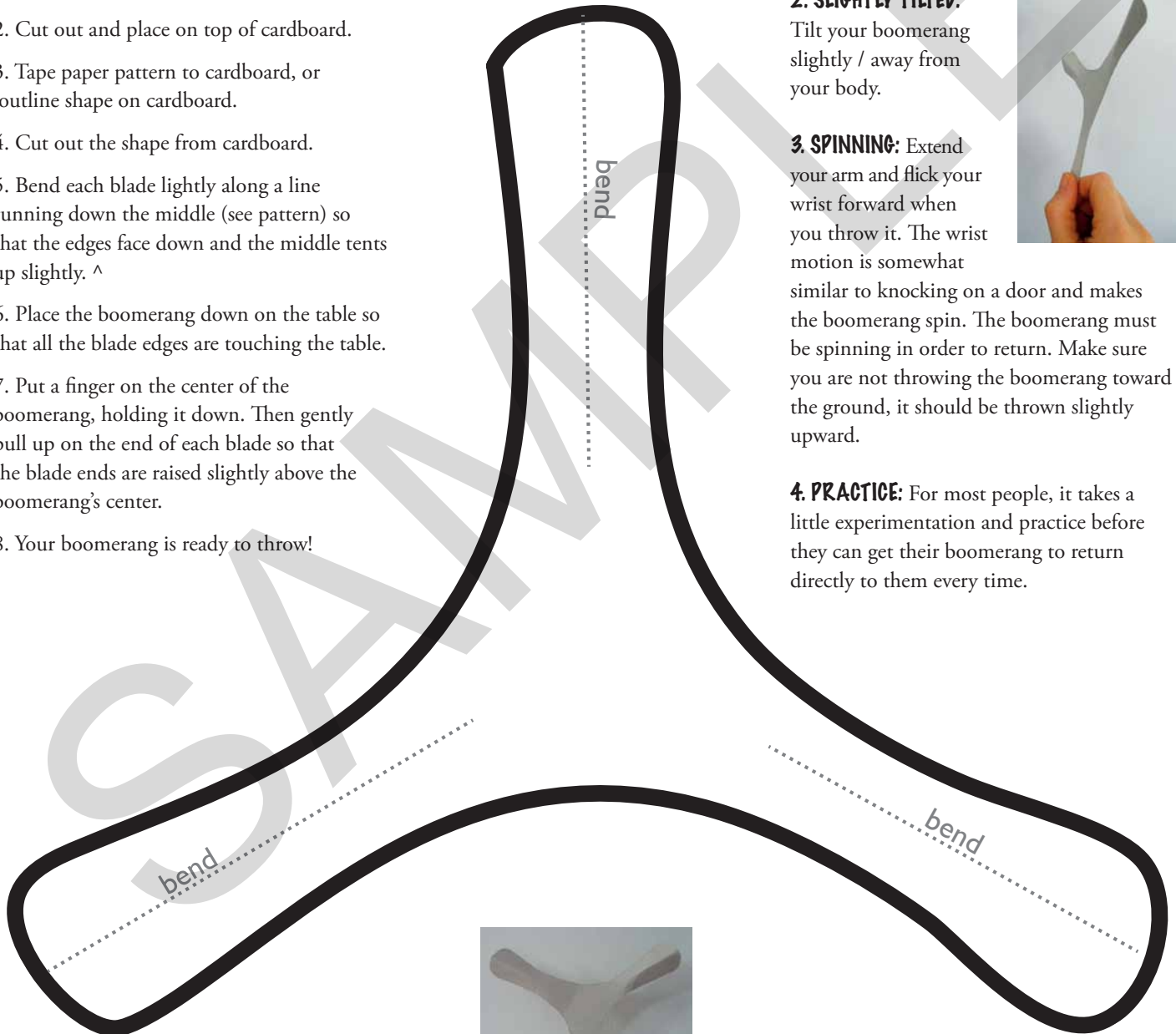
Tilt your boomerang slightly / away from your body.



3. SPINNING:

Extend your arm and flick your wrist forward when you throw it. The wrist motion is somewhat similar to knocking on a door and makes the boomerang spin. The boomerang must be spinning in order to return. Make sure you are not throwing the boomerang toward the ground, it should be thrown slightly upward.

4. PRACTICE: For most people, it takes a little experimentation and practice before they can get their boomerang to return directly to them every time.



← Once you've made your boomerang and learned how to use it, you can decorate it with markers!



RESEARCH:

How to Avoid Being Eaten by a Saltwater Crocodile!

Saltwater crocodiles are incredibly good hunters and their attacks on humans, though relatively rare, are a fact of life in Northern Australia. On average, a person is killed by a saltwater crocodile once every two years in Australia. Look online to find all the things you can do to avoid becoming a salty's meal.



Differences between Australia and New Zealand

Though both countries are located "Down Under," Aussies and Kiwis (New Zealanders) have very distinct histories, climates, wildlife and cultures. Create a chart comparing their similarities and differences. Label one column "Australia" and another "New Zealand." Then list categories like: original inhabitants, flag, colonized by, population, nickname, climate, favorite foods, size, language and national symbols.



READ:

Possum Magic by Mem Fox. A culinary and geographical journey around Australia in search of magic. Ages 4 & up.

The Biggest Toad in Australia by Susan Roth. A story from the Aboriginal Dreamtime. Ages 5 & up.

Sun Mother Wakes the World: An Australian Creation Story by Diane Wolkstein. A beautiful retelling of an Aboriginal creation story. Ages 5 & up.

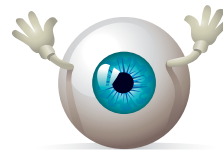
Stories from the Billabong by James Vance Marshall. Ten ancient Aboriginal legends from the Dreamtime, retold, explained and illustrated with Aboriginal Art. Ages 7 & up.

Mystery on the Great Barrier Reef by Carole Marsh. From "Around the World in 80 Mysteries." Ages 8 & up.

You Wouldn't Want to Be an 18th Century British Convict: A Trip to Australia You'd Rather Not Take by Meredith Costain. A fun non-fiction book about the life of British citizens convicted of minor crimes who were transported to Australia. Ages 8 & up.

Toad Rage by Morris Gleitzman. A comic Australian series about a toad campaigning to decrease roadkill. Ages 8 & up.

Not for Parents Australia: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know by Lonely Planet. Endless fun facts about the land down under. Ages 8 & up.



DON'T MISS WATCHING (online)

Australian Rules Football or "footy."

Imagine American football on an oval field with some hand dribbling, kicking to score, no throwing allowed and no protective equipment...you can't? You'll have to see it!

YOUTUBE SEARCH: Australian Rules Football



Australia's Natural Wonders See amazing videos about the Great Barrier Reef and Uluru. Lonely Planet and BBC have both on YouTube. **YOUTUBE SEARCH:** Uluru Lonely Planet, Great Barrier Reef Lonely Planet

Aboriginal Culture Learn about ancient Aboriginal beliefs in the "Dreamtime," when all the world was created through song. **YOUTUBE SEARCH:** Aboriginal Dreamtime

Australia's Deadly Animals Australia has a surprising number of deadly species as mentioned in this comic song by "Scared Weird Little Guys."

YOUTUBE SEARCH: deadly animals come Australia

Aussie Jingle Bells Don't miss funny Australian versions of Christmas carols like "Jingle Bells."

"Dashing though the bush, in a rusty Holden ute (truck), kicking up the dust, esky (cooler) in the boot (trunk). Kelpie (sheep dog) by my side, singin' Christmas songs, it's summertime and I am in my singlet (tank top), shorts and thongs (flip flops)! Oh jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way! Christmas in Australia on a scorching summer day!"

YOUTUBE SEARCH: Aussie Jingle Bells

Australian Films Here are some Australia films that give a window to life Down Under:

Rabbit-Proof Fence (2003) PG: Aboriginal children try to make their way back to the family they were taken from

Storm Boy (1976) NR: Kid's film about a boy and a pelican

Crocodile Dundee (1986) PG-13: Stereotypical but fun

Australia (2008) PG-13: An Australian historical epic

Gallipoli (1981) PG: A classic about the tragic World War I battle that is commemorated on ANZAC Day



How to Make Aboriginal Dot Paintings

Dot painting is fun. With a little patience, anyone can create beautiful art

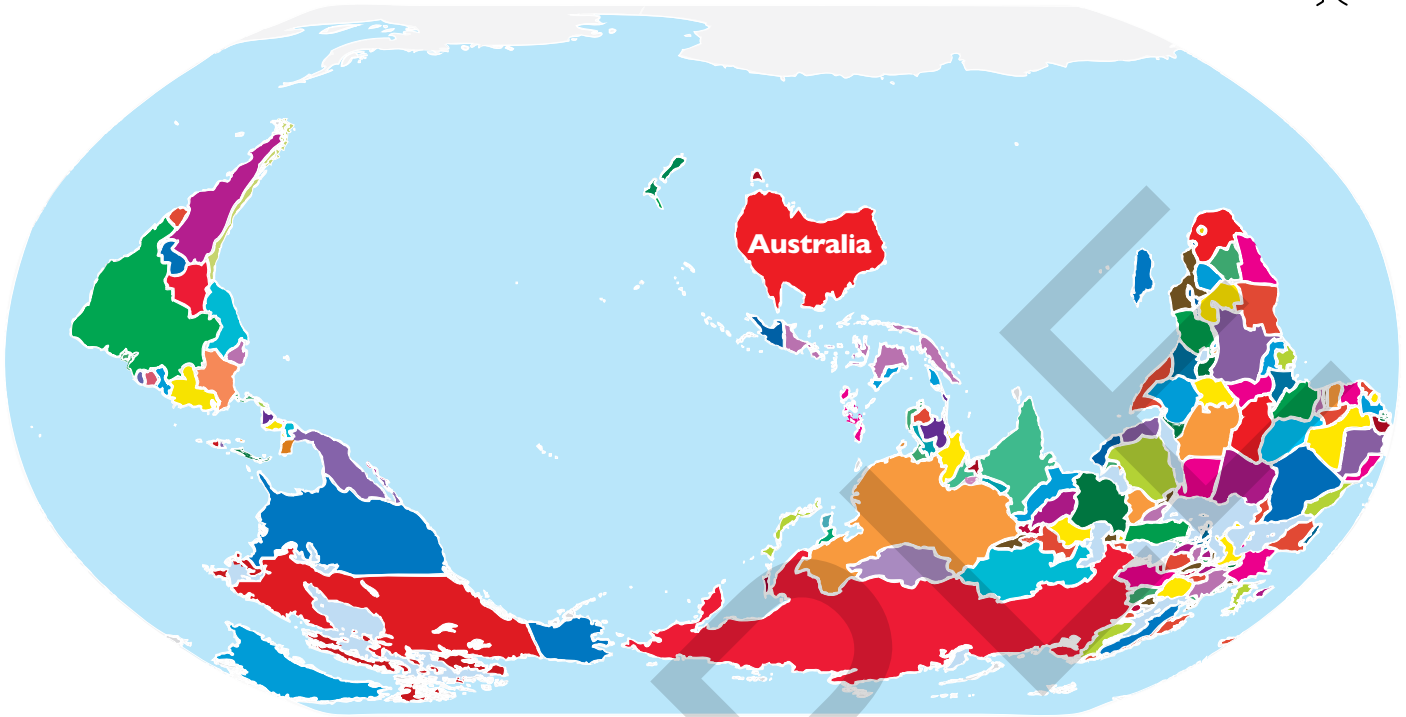
with just paint, a pencil eraser and paper. Videos quickly teach the technique and may inspire you to create your own design.

YOUTUBE SEARCH: How to teach dot painting





EXPLORE A DOWN UNDER MAP OF THE WORLD!



Who says NORTH is UP and SOUTH is DOWN?

Why should Europe and Africa be in the center of a world map?

A world map is equally correct with the Southern Hemisphere on top and Australia in the middle.

Explore Map perspectives with these activities:

1. Try turning your own world map south side up and see how many places you can identify! Can you find your country? What about the bodies of water nearest to you?
2. Now try to identify the continents, oceans, Australia and its nearest neighbors. How many countries of the world can you recognize?
3. Take a map of your own country and turn it south side up. What cities can you identify from that new viewpoint? How would you describe the shape of the country from that perspective? What about the shape of your state?

Did you know, historically maps were neither north or south side up?

Instead, the east was on top. Thus people would *orient* themselves to face the orient or east when reading a map. Facing the east is easy when the sun is visible as it rises in the east and sets in the west. So people can face toward or away from the sun to point themselves in the right direction.

Can you imagine our world map today with the east on top? What country would you place at the top of the map? What would be at the center of your map and why?



MAKE

your own world or country map that uses a direction other than north as up! Print out blank "outline maps" from either [wikimedia commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/) or [worldatlas.com](https://www.worldatlas.com/). Choose the cardinal direction you want to be at the top and then label your map with cities, rivers, mountains or whatever points of interest you choose.

Making a world map, you can also choose what place is at the center of your map. Print out a blank world map, cut out the continents and arrange them (as accurately as you can) to suit your chosen center and cardinal direction.

This world map dating from 1300 puts the east on top and Jerusalem in the middle. The top half of the map is Asia, the bottom right is Africa and the bottom left is Europe. The black in the center is the Mediterranean (running vertically) and other seas. Why aren't the Americas and Australia on this map? →



Hereford Mappa Mundi