



Izzie's most unusual places

Hi, I'm Izzie and this is my blog about the most unusual places in the world. Today I'm writing about Australia!

Australia is a continent and it's also an English-speaking country. Its capital is Canberra and three of its largest cities are Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Australia is the sixth largest country in the world, but only about twenty-five million people live there. Desert covers most of the land, so about eighty percent of the people live on the coast. The climate is better there. But some people live in unusual places. One of them is a small town called Coober Pedy.

Coober Pedy is in the South Australian desert. On summer days, it can be as hot as 47°C! For this reason, more than half the people live under the ground. The temperature is always comfortable there. Underground homes have kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms and living rooms. Everyday life in Coober Pedy is not very different from any other town. People go to work or school, do their household chores, watch TV and spend time with friends and family.

Coober Pedy has lots of visitors every year. People come to stay in the underground hotels. There are also underground shops, cafés and museums. On summer nights, when it isn't too hot, people can go above the ground and play golf in the world's only golf course without grass. It's not easy to lose golf balls because they are glow-in-the-dark!



1 Read the text about Australia quickly. What do these numbers refer to?

6 25 80 47

2 1.33 Listen and read. Circle the correct words.

- The capital city of Australia is Sydney / Canberra.
- There are big / aren't any deserts in Australia.
- Coober Pedy is on the coast / in the desert.
- All / Some of the people in Coober Pedy live under the ground.
- Not many / A lot of people go to see Coober Pedy every year.
- There are / aren't any underground hotels in Coober Pedy.

3 1.34 Listen to two people talking about cities in Australia. Find the cities on the map in Izzie's blog. Then complete the factfiles.

Darwin

- In the ¹ rainy season, there are storms and it's very hot.
- Swimming in the sea is dangerous because there are ² _____ in the water.
- You can buy ³ _____ from all over the world at the Mindil Beach Sunset Market.

Sydney

- Sydney has more than ⁴ _____ beaches.
- Bondi Beach is the most ⁵ _____ beach.
- Australians love doing ⁶ _____.
- Sydney has a lot of parks and a ⁷ _____.

4 Which place in Australia would you most like to visit? Give your reasons.

The Arctic

BBC



A **7** Watch the video and answer the presenter's question. How do people get around in the Arctic in winter?

B **7** Watch the video again. Circle T (true) or F (false).

- 1 The Canadian flag is red and yellow. T / F
- 2 Vancouver is a city in Canada. T / F
- 3 Fifty percent of Canada is in the Arctic. T / F
- 4 People sometimes build igloos in the Arctic. T / F
- 5 Winter in the Arctic can last from October to March. T / F
- 6 In the summer, there are days when it doesn't get light. T / F

C Imagine you are living in the Arctic. It's late November. What can you do at the weekend? Discuss your answers as a class.

PROJECT

- Work in groups. Design a town or a city which is in a very unusual place. Think of a name and location. Use these words or your own ideas.

in a rain forest on a different planet
on top of a mountain under the sea

- Write a tourist guide about your town/city for a travel magazine. Use these questions to help you.

Where is the town/city?
What can you see there? (e.g. buildings, parks, hotels, museums, zoos)
What kind of homes do people have?
What can you do there?

My unusual town

... is in the north/south/east/west/centre of the country / in the rain forest / under the sea.

About / More than ... people live there.

There's ... / There are ...

... is one of the most famous buildings in ...

- Find photos or draw some pictures. Put the text and pictures together.
- Present your guide to the class. Vote for the most unusual town or city.