



Reading

- 1  3.41 Read about Australia. Is Australia a continent, a country or an island?
- 2  3.41 Read about Australia again. Answer the questions.
 - 1 Do children go to school in the Outback?
 - 2 What is the official name for 'Ayers Rock'?
 - 3 How many beaches are there in Australia?
 - 4 What can you see from space?
 - 5 What are the 'Three Sisters'?

Your culture

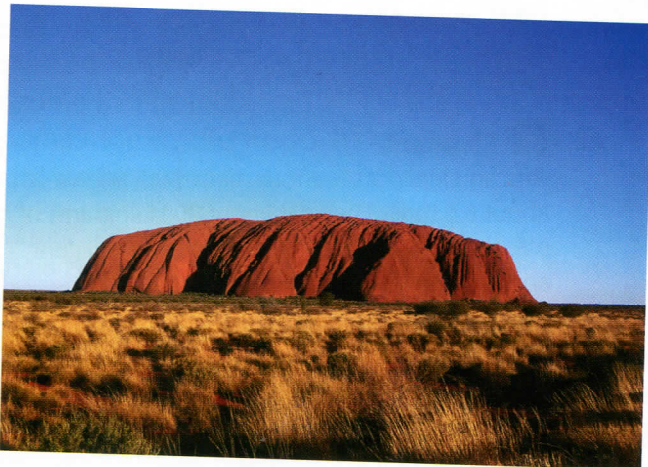
- 3 In pairs, answer the questions.
 - 1 What country and continent do you live in?
 - 2 What is special about the nature in your country?
 - 3 Do you know an old story about your country? Tell your partner.
- 4 Write a short paragraph about the nature in your country. Use your answers to Exercise 3 and the Australia examples to help you.

AUSTRALIA

Australia is a continent, country and an island. It is very famous for its nature. It has 550 national parks and 15 World Heritage Sites. In Australia you can see mountains, salt lakes, deserts, rainforests, coral reefs and amazing beaches!

The Outback

The Outback is part of Australia where few people live. It is often dry like a desert. Many families work on big sheep farms and live hundreds of kilometres away from towns or schools. Children in these families don't go to school. They learn at home and speak to their teachers over the internet! A famous natural beauty in the Outback is 'Ayers Rock'. Its official name is *Uluru*. Almost half a million people visit *Uluru* every year.

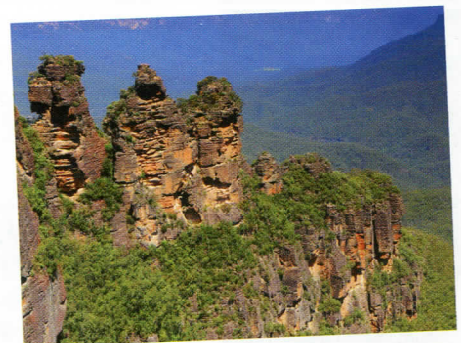


The coast

There are over 10,000 beaches in Australia! The Great Barrier Reef is on the north-east coast of Australia. It is a marine park that is over 3,000 kilometres long! It is longer than the Great Wall of China and you can see it from space. It is very famous for its natural beauty. The Reef has many colourful corals and is home to whales, dolphins, turtles and crocodiles!

Mountains

The Blue Mountains are in the south-east of Australia. In the Blue Mountains, there are three famous rocks called the 'Three Sisters'. The Aborigine people have a very old story about the rocks. The story is about three beautiful women. The women fall in love with three brothers. The brothers are from a different tribe and they can't get married. The brothers try to catch the sisters. A magician wants to protect the sisters and he changes them into rocks!



Culture
3
Australia – Nature

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3 Your culture

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Reading

Extra activity

Books closed. Draw a circle in the centre of the board with a question mark in it. Tell students you are going to give them clues and they have to identify the country. Write the following words on lines running off from the central circle: *desert, rainforest, Uluru, outback, Blue Mountains, Three Sisters, Ayers Rock, The Great Barrier Reef, Aborigine*.

Ask students what the country is. Students open their books, look at the pictures and match words from the board to the photos (*top right – the Great Barrier Reef; bottom left – Uluru / Ayers Rock; bottom right – the Three Sisters in the Blue Mountains*)

Exercise 1 (Track 3.41)

- Students read the text and find out if Australia is a continent, a country or an island.
- If you wish, play the recording for students to listen and read.
- Check the answer as a class.

Answer

Australia is all three – a continent, a country and an island.

Exercise 2 (Track 3.41)

- Students read the text again and answer the questions.
- They then check in pairs before checking answers as a class.
- Check answers by asking pairs of students to read questions and answers.
- Elicit from stronger students or explain yourself the meaning of any new vocabulary, e.g. *World Heritage Sites, dry, beauty, marine, whales, turtles, tribe, magician*.

Answers

- 1 No, they don't. They learn at home and speak to their teachers over the internet!
- 2 The official name is *Uluru*.
- 3 There are over 10,000 beaches in Australia.
- 4 You can see the Great Barrier Reef from space.
- 5 The 'Three Sisters' are three famous rocks in the Blue Mountains.

Your culture

Exercise 3

- Read the questions with the class.
- In pairs, students answer the questions and make notes.
- Monitor and help with vocabulary and feed in ideas if necessary.

Exercise 4

- Individually, students write their paragraph.
- Remind students to check their grammar, spelling and punctuation before they give you their written work.
- After correcting students' paragraphs you could display them on the classroom walls or use them as the basis for further comprehension work with your class.

Answers

Students' own answers