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Cool, interesting, crazy and weird facts and tidbits

from Australia



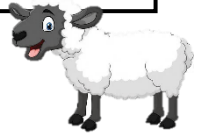
21 of the world's 25 most venomous snakes can be found in Australia.



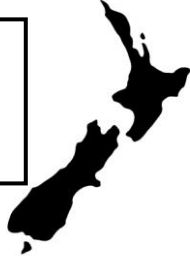
Australia had a war with Emus in 1932, and we actually lost the war!



There are more than 150 million sheep in Australia and only 20 million people. That's 8 sheep for every person.



An Australian man once tried to sell New Zealand on eBay, with a starting price of A\$0.01



Drop bears are an evil species of koala that fall from trees and attack humans. (The evil strain of koala doesn't actually exist. The story was created to fool foreigners!)



Did you know that:

- 33% of Australians were born in another country.
- Over 300 different languages and dialects are spoken in Australia, including 45 indigenous languages.
- In fact, 21% of Australians don't speak English at home!



If you visit one new beach in Australia every day, it would take over 27 years to see them all.

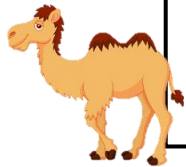
The largest cattle station in the world is located in Australia and it's bigger than Israel.



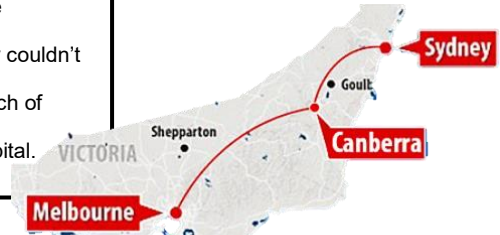
Former Prime Minister Bob Hawke set a world record for sculling (drinking fast) 2.5 pints (1.2 liters) of beer in 11 seconds. Hawke later suggested that this was the reason for his great political success.



There are over 1 million wild camels in Australia, and they actually export camels to the Middle East.



Canberra is the capital city of Australia, only because Melbourne and Sydney couldn't stop arguing about which of them should be the capital.



Australia is home to the longest fence in the world. Originally built to keep dingoes away from fertile land, the fence is now 5,614 km long.

The world's largest rock is not actually Uluru, but Mount Augustus in Western Australia. It's actually twice the size of Uluru!



In 1967, Harold Holt, the Prime Minister of Australia at the time, went for a swim at the beach and was never seen again. Theories about his disappearance include kidnapping by a Russian submarine, eaten by a shark or being carried away by the tide.

Congratulations to Mao, Shiho, Momoka, Tsubasa and Saika from 6年生.
They solved the riddle first! Nice work!
The answer was heroine.

Let's Explore the World!



Did you know?

- Despite being around the same size as Japan, New Zealand is one of the worlds least populated countries, with just over four million people!
- New Zealand is the first country to greet the new day.
- New Zealand loves Rugby, they hosted the first Rugby World Cup in 1987.
- Dairy farmers in New Zealand make 100kg of butter, and 65kg of cheese each year...for each person in NZ!
- If you don't like snakes, New Zealand is the place to be, as they don't have any!
- In 1983, New Zealand was the first country to give women the right to vote.



A brief... history

- The Dutch were the first Europeans to arrive in New Zealand in 1642. However, it was 127 years later that Europeans actually started to visit for trade, and it wasn't until 1840 that the British signed a contract with the Maori people and settled in New Zealand.
- Over the early years of settlement, the North Island blew up in war, however, the South Islands economy boomed, discovering a strong economy in exporting agricultural goods.
- From 1899 to the 1960s, New Zealand served in a number of wars, sending men and women away to fight, but strengthening bonds and alliances with allied countries.
- In 1973, Britain, New Zealand's primary export partner, joined the European Economic Community, meaning NZ lost its primary market. However, New Zealand rolled with the punches and widened its outlook, now exporting to a wide range of countries.
- New Zealand has become a culturally diverse country, particularly from the 1980s, where a wide range of ethnic groups have been encouraged to settle in New Zealand. As a result, 25% of people living in NZ were born abroad, and Hindi is actually the 4th most common language, after English, Maori, and Samoan.



Five things to do in New Zealand

1. Visit Milford Sound and take a cruise at one of the 8th wonders of the world!
2. Go bungee jumping! They love extreme sports in New Zealand. I also recommend white water rafting and canyoning!
3. Swim with the dolphins, Dusky Dolphins to be exact. At the town of Kaikoura, you can swim with these small and energetic dolphins!
4. Go spelunking and explore some amazing caves around New Zealand, and see some stunning glow worms!
5. Go to the snow! Whether you want to ski, snowboard or just make a snowman, New Zealand has some of the best snow in the world.



Four things to see in New Zealand

1. Go and see a traditional Maori Haka, and learn about the amazing Maori culture.
2. See some whales, at the town of Kaikoura, instead of swimming with dolphins, you can join a cruise to see some whales. With a 95% success rate, it should be a fantastic time!
3. Watch the Rugby. Why wouldn't you? Rugby is the number one spectator sport in New Zealand, just being part of the crowd is fun!
4. Go and see Hobbiton, the home of the Hobbits from *The Lord of the Rings*, and learn about the history of the iconic films!

