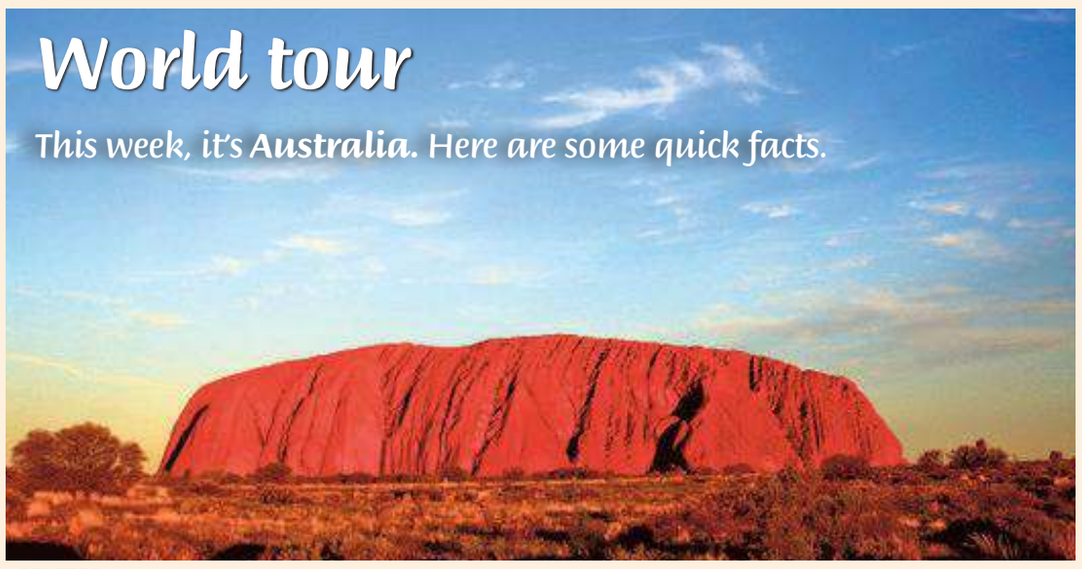
THE HINDU
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878
IN SCHOOL

30-MINUTE ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN - 10

CONTACT US school@thehindu.co.in

World tour

This week, it's **Australia.** Here are some quick facts.



REUTERS

• Australia comprises the mainland Australia, the island state of Tasmania, and about 8,221 smaller islands. It is surrounded by the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

• Two thirds of the country consist of desert landscape, which is referred to as 'outback'.

• The country's first inhabitants, the Aboriginal people, make up 3 % of its population today.

• **System of government:** Australia is a federation, a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. Australia has a queen (Elizabeth II), who resides in the United Kingdom and is represented in Australia by a Governor-General. And the country is governed by a ministry headed by the Prime Minister Scott Morrison. Australia remains part of the Commonwealth, a political association of 54 member states, which were former territories of the British Empire.

• Australia has a rich and unique biodiversity. It is home to about 10% of all species on Earth. The Great Barrier Reef, and native species such as the koala, kangaroo and eucalyptus are central to Australia's identities.

Find out:

1. What is the name of this (see pic) iconic sandstone rock formation located in Australia outback?
   - a) Ayers Rock
   - b) Aphrodite's RocK
   - c) Old Harry Rock
2. Who discovered Australia?
   - a) Vasco da Gama
   - b) James Cook
   - c) Christopher Columbus

Answers: 1. a) Ayers Rock, 2. b) James Cook

Heritage trail

Read the clues and guess the name of this UNESCO Heritage Site

1. It is one of a series of natural rock shelters in the foothills of the Vindhya range in Madhya Pradesh.
2. Over 700 of these shelters were discovered in 1957.
3. They are the largest repositories of prehistoric art in India.
4. Besides cave paintings, archaeologists have found many artefacts in and around the caves, the oldest of which are the Achulean stone tool assemblages.
5. The shelters were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003.

FILE PHOTO

Answer: Bhimbetka rock shelters

Capital power

Match the countries with their latest capitals (earlier ones in bracket)

1. Brazil – a. Islamabad (Karachi).
2. Myanmar – b. Moscow (St. Petersburg).
3. Nigeria – c. Brasilia (Rio de Janeiro).
4. Pakistan – d. Naypyidaw (Yangon).
5. Russia – e. Abuja (Lagos).

REUTERS

Answers: 1. c. 2. d. 3. e. 4. a. 5. b.

Fun facts

1. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Ostriches are huge, flightless birds, native to Africa. They are also the fastest running bird in the world. They have the largest eyes in the whole animal kingdom. In fact, an ostrich's eye, which is almost the size of a billiard ball, is bigger than its brain. Its eyes take up much of the space in its skull.

Q: Why do you think ostriches have large eyes?

_____

A: Ostriches are known for their keen vision. Their large eyes with huge photoreceptors help them spot predators quickly.

2. A snail can sleep for up to three years.

What is the reason for their extended nap? Snails need moisture to survive and they go into hibernation or aestivation to escape unfavourable weather. While hibernating, they secrete a thin layer of mucus which seals them in and prevents them from drying out.

Q: How can you find out if a snail is asleep?

_____

A: If its shell hangs slightly away from its body and tentacles look withdrawn inside its shell.

Bits & bytes

This tech giant's nickname was Trey when he was a child.

Thirty-two years after he dropped out of Harvard to puruse his dream of coding software, he received an honorary degree from the university in 2007.

In 2010, this giant, along with his friends, the Facebook founder, and Warren Buffet promised to give half their wealth to charity.

What is the name of this tech giant and who is the founder of Facebook?

1. _____
2. _____

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Answers: 1. Bill Gates, 2. Mark Zuckerberg

Word of the day

Inflation

In economics, inflation refers to the rise in the prices of most goods and services of everyday use such as food, clothing, transport and other essentials. Inflation is indicative of the purchasing power of a unit of a country's currency. As goods and services get costlier, the purchasing power of a unit of currency decreases. The measure of inflation over a period of time is known as inflation rate, which many refer to as cost of living. When the cost of living is high, it slows down economic growth.

ACTIVITY

Use the word of the day in a sentence

_____

_____

Backstory

From the Orwell Prize to the Booker, here are some interesting tidbits on literary awards

** On April 9, the Orwell Prize longlist was announced. Named after author George Orwell, it rewards political writing. But did you know its twin, Orwell Youth Prize is given to young writers?

** The Man Booker Prize is among the richest literary prizes. In 2019, Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo became its first joint-winners.

** Rabindranath Tagore became the first Indian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for his collection of poems "Gitanjali."

** The Agatha Awards and the Edgars commemorate mystery writers Agatha Christie and Edgar Allan Poe.

** In 2019, Amitav Ghosh became the first writer in English to win the Jnanpith, one of the highest literary honours in India.

Can you guess:

1. Who set up the Nobel Prizes?
2. What is the Caldecott medal given for?

_____

_____

Answers: 1. Alfred Nobel, 2. Children's picture books.

PHOTO AP

The W corner

WHEN was this picture taken? Take a look closely. The athletes in the picture, their places in the podium and the background setting will all point you to the answer as to when this event took place...

Answer: _____

FILE PHOTO: AP

Answer: 2008 Beijing Olympics. You can see the Olympic rings in the background and the blurred text reading "Beijing 2008" and the Olympic emblem used in that edition above it. The three athletes in the picture are China's Zhu Qinan, India's Abhinav Bindra and Finland's Henri Hakkinen (left to right).

Remember that the winner of the event stands in the middle during the podium ceremony. This picture was taken when the flags were raised before India's national anthem was played during the medal ceremony.

Abhinav Bindra was the first, and so far only, Indian to win gold in an individual event (men's 10m air rifle) and become an individual Olympic champion.

Journal Writing

Look out of the window, and write about what you see and hear. Remember, you can turn even the most mundane of things into something wow-worthy with your imagination.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

You may even type a note and mail it to us at **school@thehindu.co.in.** We will select a few for publication when we resume printing In School broadsheet.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., and Printed by D. Rajkumar at Plot B-6 & B-7, CMDA Industrial Complex, Maraimalai Nagar, Chengleput Taluk, Kancheepuram Dist., Pin: 603209. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. TN/ARD/17/2012-2014 • RNI No. 1001/1957 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 143 • No. 88