

Books that go far beyond the pages

Travelling Australia's Outback



Section 2: Printable Resource
Tips, Learn & Journal LC.2



Printable Resource

Print double sided, A5 or A4 size, LANDSCAPE

Travelling Australia Outback: (8+ LC.2)

Cover	Page 1
Table of Contents & Terms of Use.....	Page 2
Itinerary	Page 3
Travel Tips	Page 7
Disaster Scenario.....	Page 17
Travel Teasers.....	Page 23
Simply Awesome Travelling Games.....	Page 27
Questions for Travellers.....	Page 31
Journal pages,(print freely).....	Pages 35+36

PDF Reference: Travelling Australia's Outback Section 2 printable resource.
Resource accompanies, Roadschoo Activity 1 and Uluru Wild Life Craft Game.

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Addy Marie McVay Founder "Worldschoo Tribe"

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An Outback Adventure: 8 Days Exploring Uluru (8+ LC.2)

The Australian Outback, a vast and captivating landscape, beckons adventurers with its rugged beauty and ancient stories. Uluru, the iconic sandstone monolith, stands as the heart of this magnificent region, offering an incredible experience for kids aged 8 and up. This 8-day itinerary combines thrilling adventures, cultural immersion, and awe-inspiring natural wonders, making it an unforgettable journey for the whole family.

Day 1: Arrival in Alice Springs and Outback Orientation

Touch down in Alice Springs, your gateway to the Outback. Check into your accommodation – choose from hotels, motels, or even unique glamping options.

Afternoon: Start your Outback adventure with a visit to the Alice Springs Desert Park, a haven for native wildlife. Witness the fascinating adaptations of animals like kangaroos, dingoes, and reptiles.

Evening: Enjoy a delicious dinner at a local restaurant, savoring the flavours of the Outback.

Day 2: Uluru Base Walk and Cultural Insights

After a hearty breakfast, embark on the iconic Uluru Base Walk, circumnavigating the sacred monolith. This 10.6km walk is perfect for keen hikers, offering stunning views and unique rock formations.

Afternoon: Immerse yourselves in Aboriginal culture at the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre. Learn about the Anangu people, their ancestral stories, and the profound connection they have with this sacred site.

Evening: Attend the Uluru Sounds of Silence dinner, a truly unforgettable experience under the vast Outback sky.

Day 3: Exploring Kata Tjuta and Sunset Views

Today, head to Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), a cluster of massive domes equally impressive as Uluru.

Morning: Choose from various walking trails within the Kata Tjuta National Park, offering breathtaking views of the rock formations and surrounding desert.

Afternoon: Visit the Walpa Gorge, a secluded valley between two massive domes.

Evening: Witness the breathtaking sunset over Uluru, a spectacle that illuminates the monolith in a kaleidoscope of colours.

Day 4: Wildlife Encounters and Outback Fun

Embark on a thrilling Outback adventure with a 4WD tour. Explore remote canyons, ancient rock art sites, and encounter unique wildlife like kangaroos, emus, and dingoes.

Afternoon: Visit the Kings Canyon, a remarkable gorge with towering sandstone walls and lush vegetation. Kids can enjoy a refreshing dip in the natural pool at the base of the canyon.

Evening: Enjoy a relaxing evening at your accommodation, reminiscing about the day's adventures.

Day 5: Road Trip to Alice Springs and a Glimpse of the Past

After breakfast, head back to Alice Springs, enjoying the scenic Outback drive.

Afternoon: Explore the Alice Springs Historical Society Museum, delving into the fascinating history of the region and its diverse cultures.

Evening: Relax and enjoy dinner at one of Alice Springs' vibrant restaurants.

Day 6: Discovering the Red Centre's Secrets

Embark on a day trip to the Simpson Gap, a dramatic gorge offering panoramic views of the MacDonnell Ranges.

Afternoon: Visit the Alice Springs School of the Air, a unique institution that provides education to children living in remote areas of the Outback.

Evening: Enjoy a delicious dinner at a local restaurant, savoring the flavours of the Outback.

Day 7: Alice Springs Town Exploration and Local Markets

Take a leisurely stroll through Alice Springs, discovering its charming streets and diverse art galleries.

Morning: Visit the Alice Springs Art Centre, showcasing the vibrant art of the Central Australian Aboriginal artists.

Afternoon: Explore the bustling Alice Springs Market, browsing local crafts, souvenirs, and fresh produce.

Evening: Enjoy a relaxing dinner at a restaurant with a view of the town.

Day 8: A Touch of History and Outback Charm

Visit the Royal Flying Doctor Service Visitor Centre, learning about the remarkable role of this organization in providing medical care to remote communities.

Afternoon: Enjoy a unique experience at the Alice Springs Reptile Park, where you can encounter fascinating reptiles from across Australia.

Evening: Relax and enjoy dinner at your accommodation.

Tips for Travelling with Kids:

1. Pack comfortable clothing and sturdy walking shoes.
2. Bring plenty of water and snacks.
3. Use sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses to protect from the sun.
4. Be mindful of the heat and humidity.
5. Encourage kids to engage with the local culture and learn about the history of the region.

Journal:

Before embarking, next step is to prepare:

Use the tips as a way to better understand how to prepare for a outback adventure.

Notes:



67 Tips for Travelling Australia's Outback

Venturing into the vast expanse of Australia's Outback can be an unforgettable experience. Whether you choose to explore by car or train, careful planning and preparation are essential. Here are 67 tips to ensure a safe and memorable journey:

Before You Set Off:

1. Choose the right time of year: Avoid the scorching summer months unless you're prepared for extreme heat. Consider the shoulder seasons (April-May, September-October) for milder temperatures.
2. Plan your route carefully: Research potential destinations, accommodations, and fuel stops. Consider using a navigation app or purchasing a detailed road atlas.
3. Book accommodations in advance: Especially during peak season, secure reservations for hotels, campgrounds, or farm stays to avoid disappointment.
4. Inform someone of your itinerary: Let friends or family know your estimated departure and arrival times, and share your route with them.
5. Pack plenty of water: Dehydration is a serious risk in the Outback. Carry ample bottled water in your vehicle and on your person.
6. Stock up on essential supplies: Non-perishable food, a first-aid kit, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat, and sunglasses are vital items.
7. Carry a satellite phone: Cell phone service is often unreliable in the Outback. Consider renting a satellite phone for emergencies.
8. Check your vehicle thoroughly: Ensure your car is in good mechanical condition, with adequate spare parts, tires, and a towrope.
9. Learn basic car maintenance: Familiarise yourself with simple repairs, such as changing a tire or jump-starting your battery, (if your car allows jump starting).
10. Consider a 4WD vehicle: If you plan off-road adventures, a four-wheel drive (4WD) is essential for tackling rough terrain.



11. Stay alert: Long distances and monotonous scenery can lead to fatigue. Take regular breaks and stay hydrated.
12. Be prepared for road closures: Extreme weather conditions or roadworks can disrupt travel. Monitor road closures and alternate routes.
13. Drive during daylight hours: Night driving in the Outback is hazardous due to wildlife and reduced visibility.
14. Watch out for wildlife: Kangaroos, emus, and other animals can cross the road unexpectedly. Slow down and be vigilant.
15. Respect the environment: Avoid driving off-road or camping in restricted areas. Dispose of waste responsibly.
16. Be cautious of animals at night: Wild animals, such as kangaroos, are more active at night and can be difficult to see.
17. Pull over for oncoming vehicles: In narrow Outback roads, pull over to the side to allow oncoming traffic to pass.
18. Share the road with cyclists: Respect cyclists by giving them plenty of space when passing.
19. Allow plenty of time: Travel in the Outback can take longer than expected due to vast distances and road conditions.
20. Be patient: Road works, delays, and unexpected events are part of the Outback experience. Stay calm and adjust your plans accordingly.

Travelling by Train:



21. Book your tickets in advance: Train tickets for popular routes can sell out quickly, especially during peak season.
22. Choose the right class: Different train classes offer varying levels of comfort and amenities. Select a class that suits your budget and preferences.
23. Pack light: Train luggage compartments are typically small. Pack only essential items and consider using compression bags.
24. Bring entertainment: Long train journeys can be monotonous. Bring books, games, movies, or other entertainment to pass the time.
25. Take advantage of dining options: On-board dining services offer a range of meals and beverages. Make reservations in advance for popular times.
26. Move around frequently: Prolonged sitting can lead to discomfort. Get up and walk around the train regularly to stretch your legs.
27. Be respectful of fellow passengers: Maintain a respectful noise level and avoid disturbing others.
28. Admire the scenery: Train journeys through the Outback offer stunning views of the Australian landscape. Take the time to appreciate the passing scenery.
29. Allow for delays: Train schedules can be affected by factors such as weather and mechanical issues. Be prepared for potential delays and allow plenty of time for connections.
30. Enjoy the experience: Train travel in the Outback is a unique and relaxing way to explore the vastness of Australia.

Camping and Accommodations:



31. Book campgrounds ahead: Especially during peak season, reserve campsites in advance to avoid disappointment.
32. Choose the right campground: Research different campgrounds to find one that meets your needs, such as powered sites, amenities, and access to activities.
33. Arrive before nightfall: It's safer and easier to set up camp before it gets dark. Allow ample time to find a suitable spot and set up your tent.
34. Pack a tent with rain protection: Even during the dry season, sudden rain showers can occur. Ensure your tent is waterproof or bring a tarp for shelter.
35. Secure your food and rubbish: Wildlife can be attracted to food and waste. Store your food securely in sealed containers and dispose of rubbish in designated bins.
36. Follow fire regulations: Campfires are often prohibited or restricted. Check local regulations and be prepared to use a gas stove or portable barbecue.
37. Respect other campers: Be mindful of your neighbours.
38. Be aware of your surroundings: Keep an eye out for wildlife and insects. Close zips and screens to prevent unwanted visitors.
39. Leave no trace: Clean up your campsite thoroughly before leaving. Remove all trash and burn or bury any remaining food scraps.
40. Consider farm stays: Farm stays offer a unique opportunity to experience rural life in the Outback. Book in advance and inquire about amenities.

Food and Drink:



41. Bring non-perishable food: Pack snacks and meals that won't spoil easily, such as granola bars, crackers, and canned goods.
42. Purchase fresh produce along the way: Visit local markets or roadside stalls for fresh fruit, vegetables, and other local delicacies.
43. Drink plenty of fluids: Dehydration can be a serious risk in the Outback. Drink plenty of water and electrolyte solutions.
44. Avoid alcohol: Alcohol dehydrates the body and impairs judgment. Limit alcohol consumption or avoid it altogether.
45. Purchase local delicacies: Support local businesses by trying regional specialties, such as damper bread, billy tea, or kangaroo meat.
46. Be prepared for dining out: Outback towns often have limited dining options. Research and make reservations where possible.
47. Pack your own cutlery: Bring reusable cutlery to reduce waste and avoid using disposable plastics.
48. Respect wildlife: Do not feed or approach wild animals. Secure food and trash to prevent attracting them.
49. Dispose of waste responsibly: Look for designated bins or pack out your trash to avoid littering.
50. Practice campfire cooking: Learn the art of campfire cooking to prepare simple meals over an open fire, where possible.

Security and Safety:



Safety and Security:

51. Stay informed about weather conditions: Monitor weather forecasts and be prepared for sudden changes.
52. Be aware of road hazards: Watch out for animals, road debris, and rough road surfaces.
53. Lock your vehicle and valuables: Keep your car locked when unattended and secure valuables out of sight.
54. Be cautious of strangers: Be wary of approaching strangers and avoid walking alone at night.
55. Trust your instincts: If something feels wrong, trust your gut and remove yourself from the situation.
56. Don't overextend yourself: Avoid driving long distances at night or when feeling tired. Take breaks and rest when needed.
57. Inform others of your whereabouts: Let someone know your destination and estimated return time.
58. Carry a whistle or alarm: In case of an emergency or attack, a whistle or alarm can attract attention.
59. Protect yourself from the sun: Wear lotion, hats, and sunglasses to avoid sunburn and heatstroke.
60. Respect Indigenous culture: Be respectful of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and traditions.

Exploring and Activities



61. Visit national parks: Explore the rugged landscapes and diverse wildlife of Australia's vast national parks, such as Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Kakadu National Park.
62. Hike or walk: Discover the Outback's hidden trails and enjoy scenic walks or hikes amidst stunning rock formations and ancient landscapes.
63. Attend a rodeo or outback event: Experience the unique culture of the Outback by attending a rodeo, cattle station tour, or other local events.
64. Go stargazing: Far from light pollution, the Outback offers incredible stargazing opportunities. Find a secluded spot and marvel at the night sky.
65. Discover Indigenous rock art: Explore ancient Aboriginal rock art sites to learn about the history and culture of the region.
66. Visit historic towns: Delve into the rich history of the Outback by exploring historic towns such as Broken Hill, Oodnadatta, and Alice Springs.
67. Take a scenic flight: Gain a different perspective on the Outback's vast landscapes by taking a scenic flight over Uluru or Kakadu National Park.

Disaster Scenario:

Use the scenario as a way to better understand how to prepare for an evacuation.

Notes:

Disaster Scenario:



Disaster Scenario: Travelling the Outback of Australia at Uluru

Age Level: 8+ years

Life Cycle:2 (LC.2)

Setting:Uluru (Ayers Rock), Northern Territory, Australia

Disaster: Extreme Wildfire

Scenario:

It's a sweltering summer day in the remote Australian Outback. Annabel and her family are visiting Uluru, the iconic red rock formation that has stood tall for centuries. They're having an adventure of a lifetime, hiking through the rugged landscape, discovering ancient rock art, and admiring the breathtaking views.

Suddenly, a distant orange glow appears on the horizon. A bush fire. It's moving fast, fanned by strong winds and the dry conditions. Within minutes, the fire has engulfed the surrounding vegetation, creating a wall of flames that cuts off the family's path.

Disaster Scenario:



Disaster Scenario: Travelling the Outback of Australia at Uluru

Scenario continued:

Panic sets in as the fire rages uncontrolled. Smoke billows into the air, choking the atmosphere. The family knows they need to evacuate immediately.

Response:

With their hearts pounding in their chests, Annabel and her family follow the emergency evacuation plan that they learned earlier. They grab their backpacks, which they have packed with essential supplies like water, food, a first aid kit, and a map.

They head towards the designated evacuation point, a large open area cleared of vegetation. However, the fire is moving faster than they can run. As they approach the evacuation point, flames begin to lick the tree branches near their camp. The evacuation point was only a hundreds or so meters from them, so they could see the devastation up close.

Thinking quickly moments before the evacuation, Annabel's father pulled down the tent and packed it in the car, Then drove the car into a cave close by. He then douses the car and the entry to the cave with water from their bottles, creating a temporary barrier in the hope to keep the flames away.

Disaster Scenario:



Evacuation:

As they reach the evacuation point, they find it swarming with other tourists and locals who have also been caught in the fire. Helicopters are circling overhead, transporting people to safety.

Sarah's family boards a helicopter that whisks them away from the inferno. As they fly over the devastated landscape, they see the charred remains of trees and the still-smoldering bush fire.

Aftermath:

The family is relieved to have escaped unharmed. They spend the next few days at a nearby town, waiting for news of their beloved Uluru. When they finally return, they are heartbroken to see the once-vibrant landscape reduced to ashes.

Learning Points:

1. Always be aware of your surroundings and potential hazards when travelling in remote areas.
2. Educate yourself about emergency evacuation plans and procedures.
3. Pack essential supplies in a backpack that you can carry easily.
4. Stay calm and follow instructions in the event of an emergency.
5. Be prepared to make quick decisions and think creatively to ensure your safety.

Activity: Consider the scenario, and think about what more you could have done to better your chances "if" a similar scenario was to occur. While we hope and plan for safe and drama free experiences, planning ahead for situations like these, provides the best chances to be better equipped should an emergency occur.

Use your journal to write your ideas, thoughts and strategies - moving forward.



Outback Travel Teasers for Fun & Learning:

Embark on an outback adventure with these mind-bending brain teasers that will test your kids' travel knowledge and sharpen their problem-solving skills.

Car Travel Teasers:

1. The Road Puzzle:

Three cars are traveling on a long road. The first car is red, the second car is blue, and the third car is black. What color is the road?

2. The Gas Station Riddle:

A man drives 100 miles to a gas station, turns right, and drives another 100 miles. He then makes another right turn and drives 100 miles before making a final right turn. When he gets back to where he started, all four of his tires are flat. How is that possible?

3. The Traffic Jam:

There is a traffic jam on a highway with cars lined up bumper-to-bumper. The last car in the line is honking its horn. How can the first car in the line hear it?

Answers:

Car Travel:

1. Black (it's a chalkboard)
2. He's driving a unicycle
3. The windows are down



Train Travel Teasers:

1. The Train Riddle:

A train leaves Sydney at 10:00 AM and travels at a speed of 120 miles per hour. Another train leaves Melbourne at 11:00 AM and travels at a speed of 140 miles per hour. If the two trains are traveling towards each other on the same track, at what time will they meet?

2. The Ticket Puzzle:

Three passengers are on a train. The first passenger has a ticket for a seat in car A, the second passenger has a ticket for car B, and the third passenger has a ticket for car C. By mistake, each passenger gets on the wrong car. When the conductor comes by, he realizes the mistake and asks each passenger to move to their correct seat. However, only one of the passengers follows the conductor's instructions. Which passenger is it?

3. The Train Crossing:

There is a train crossing with a train approaching. A car is stuck on the tracks but the driver cannot move. What should the driver do to avoid getting hit by the train?

Answers:

Train Travel:

1. They will never meet (they are traveling towards each other on the same track)
2. The passenger with the ticket for car B (because the conductor asked everyone to move to their correct seat)
3. Get out of the car



Simply Awesome Travelling Games

Awesome Travelling Games to Play While Driving the Outback of Australia

To keep everyone entertained and engaged during those long drives, check out these awesome travelling games that are perfect for aged 8 and above:

1. I Spy with My Little Eye

This classic game never gets old! One player starts by saying, 'I spy with my little eye something that begins with the letter...' The other players then take turns guessing the object. The player who guesses correctly gets to start the next round.

2. Number Plate Bingo

This game combines observation skills with a bit of luck. Before you start driving, create a bingo card with different number plate combinations. As you drive, players can keep an eye out for number plates that match the ones on their cards. The first player to complete a row, column, or diagonal line gets a point.

3. Outback Charades

This is a fun twist on the classic game. Instead of using words, players must act out specific objects, animals, or activities related to the outback. For example, they could imitate a kangaroo hopping, a willy-willy blowing, or a sunset over Uluru.

4. Road Trip Scavenger Hunt

Prepare a list of items or landmarks that players need to spot along the way. The first player to find all the items on their list wins. This game encourages travellers to pay attention to their surroundings and learn about landmarks along the way.



Simply Awesome Travelling Games

5. 20 Questions

One player thinks of a person, place, or thing. The other players then take turns asking questions to try and identify what it is. The player who guesses correctly gets to choose the next item.

6. Two Truths and a Lie

This game tests players' ability to tell the truth from a lie. One player makes three statements, two of which are true and one of which is false. The other players then take turns trying to guess which statement is the lie.

7. Outback Trivia

Prepare a list of trivia questions about the outback, including its history, geography, wildlife, and Aboriginal culture. Players can take turns answering the questions and learn some fascinating facts along the way. (see pg 33 for questions)

8. Car Bingo

Create a bingo card with squares containing different objects or events that might be seen during the drive. As players spot the items, they can mark off the corresponding squares. The first player to complete a row, column, or diagonal line gets a point.

By incorporating these fun and engaging games into your outback road trip, you'll keep entertained, stimulated, and eager to learn more about this incredible region of Australia.

Add more games to your journal.

Journal:

50 Questions for Young Explorers Venturing into Australia's Outback



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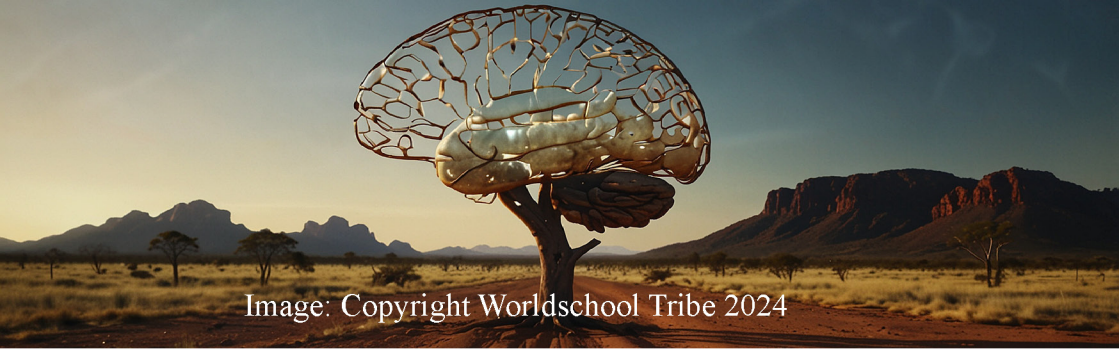


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50 Questions for Young Explorers Venturing into Australia's Outback

For adventurers aged 8 and up, the vast and captivating Australian outback holds a treasure trove of wonders to discover. Embark on a journey of exploration with these 50 fascinating questions and develop more know-how for Worldschoolling:

Geography and Nature

1. How big is the Australian outback, and what percentage of Australia does it cover?
2. What's the difference between a desert, grassland, and a savanna?
3. Name two of the major rivers that flow through the outback.
4. What is the highest mountain in the outback?
5. What are some of the unique plant species found in the outback, and how do they survive in such a harsh environment?
6. Which animals are nocturnal (active at night) in the outback?
7. What role do termites play in the ecosystem of the outback?
8. How does the weather in the outback differ from that in coastal areas?
9. What safety precautions should you take when exploring the outback?

History and Culture

10. How do the Aboriginal people survive in the outback?
11. What is the history of the cattle industry in the outback?
12. Who are some of the Aboriginal legends associated with the outback?
13. What is the significance of Uluru (Ayers Rock) to the Aboriginal people?
14. What is the Royal Flying Doctor Service?
15. How does the Royal Flying Doctor, service the communities of the outback?
16. What are some of the challenges facing the outback today?

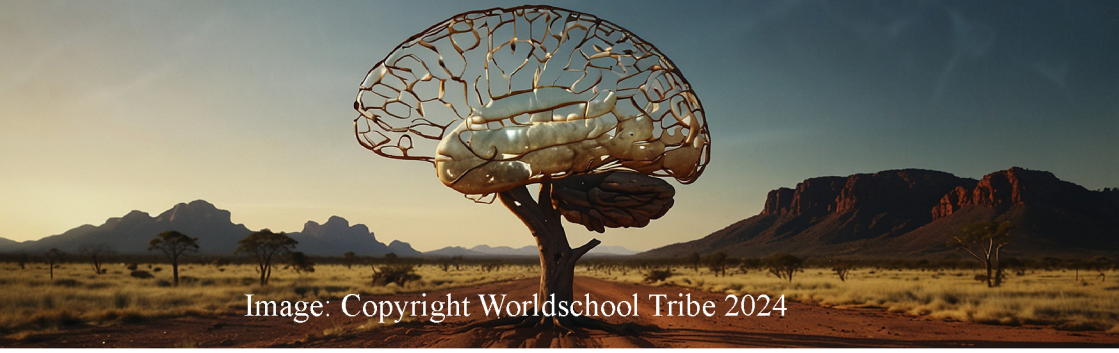


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Practical Considerations

17. What are some essential items to pack when traveling in the outback?
18. How can you find clean water in the outback?
19. What should you do if you get lost or have car trouble in the outback?
20. How do you stay safe from poisonous snakes and spiders?
21. What are some of the best places to camp in the outback?
22. What is the best time of year to visit the outback?
23. How much does it cost to travel in the outback?
24. What are some ways to respect the environment while exploring the outback?

Wildlife and Conservation

25. What is the apex predator of the Australian outback?
26. How do kangaroos and emus survive in the harsh conditions of the outback?
27. What are the threats facing native wildlife in the outback?
28. What is being done to protect endangered species in the outback?
29. What role do national parks play in preserving the outback?
30. How can you observe wildlife in the outback without disturbing them?

Indigenous Culture

31. What are some of the traditional skills and knowledge possessed by Aboriginal people?
32. How do Aboriginal people use the resources of the outback for survival?
33. What are some of the cultural practices and customs observed by Aboriginal people in the outback?
34. How can you learn about and appreciate Aboriginal culture while visiting the outback?
35. What is the importance of bush tucker (traditional Aboriginal food) in outback communities?

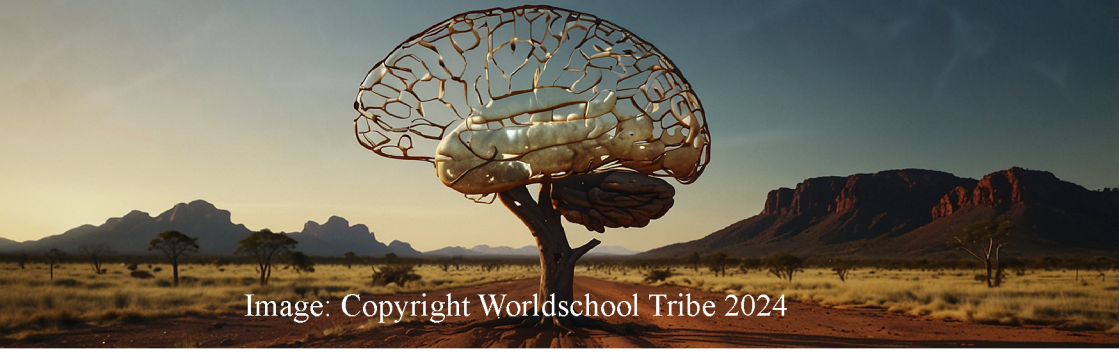


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50 Questions for Young Explorers Venturing into Australia's Outback

Adventure and Exploration

36. What are some of the best hiking trails in the outback?
37. What is it like to take a hot air balloon ride over the outback?
38. What should you know about driving off-road in the outback?
39. How can you find hidden water sources in the outback?
40. What are some tips for observing wildlife at a distance?
41. How can you make a fire safely in the outback?

Wonders and Surprises

42. What is the significance of the Painted Desert?
43. Where can you see the Southern Cross constellation clearly at night?
44. What is the story behind the magnetic termite mounds?
45. Have any UFO sightings been reported in the outback?
46. What are some of the optical illusions that can be seen in the outback due to extreme heat?
47. How do the colors of the outback change throughout the year?

Reflection and Appreciation

48. What have you learned about yourself from exploring the outback?
49. How has your understanding of Australia's natural and cultural heritage changed?
50. What is the most unforgettable experience you have had in the outback, and why?

When answering the questions in your journal, numbering them and continue.

