



Australian Challenge Game - Answers and Further Information



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StampIT is the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies youth programme where children can discover a world of stamps through interactive games and activities.

StampIT provides a number of ideas for teachers to use stamps across the curriculum. Stamps are a great medium for learning about a wide range of subjects including arts, music, history, geography, science, sport, culture and languages.

The Australian Challenge game is more a fact finding set of challenges rather than a board game. The gameboard shows a distribution map of some Australian wildlife. Use this map along with the challenge cards to 'travel' around Australia finding out about the amazing wildlife portrayed on the stamps.

Many other games and activities, including language based games can be found at StampIT **scottishphilately.co.uk/moodle**

To find out more about collecting Australia stamps **australiapostcollectables.com.au**

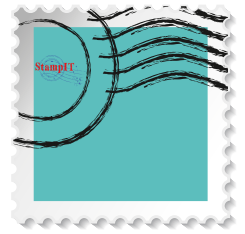
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This is New South Wales. Within this state lies the Australian Capital Territory containing the Australian capital city of Canberra and some surrounding towns.

The New South Wales state capital is **Sydney**.



What does the word invertebrate mean?

An invertebrate is an animal without a backbone. There are many invertebrates. Some examples are insects, arachnids, crustaceans, snails, squids, earthworms, jellyfish, sea anemones and corals.

Additional information:

- Butterflies are in the group of insects.
- A vertebrate animal has a backbone. The vertebrates are divided into 5 groups: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish.



What do crepuscular and nocturnal mean?

Crepuscular means the animal is active mainly at dawn and dusk. Nocturnal means the animal is active at night.

Wombats are crepuscular and nocturnal. In winter, wombats are usually crepuscular, coming out of their burrows early morning and late afternoon. In summer, they usually only come out at night.

Additional information:

- A diurnal animal is active during the day.



What is meant by opposable thumbs?

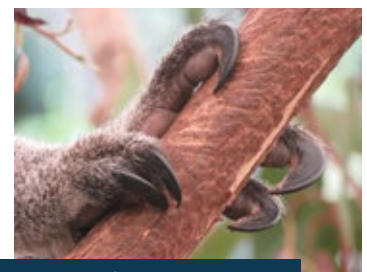
An opposable thumb is a thumb that can move about to touch the other fingers. This helps with gripping.

Koala's have two opposable thumbs on their front paws.

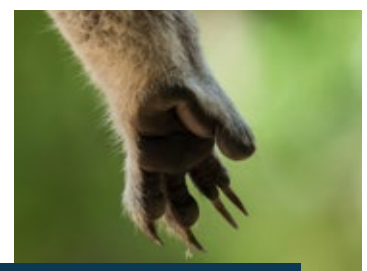
On their back paws, the thumb is opposable but it is broad and has no claw. The second and third fingers are fused together to make a double clawed finger. This is used for grooming.

Additional information:

- Koala's eat eucalyptus leaves, up to 1kg each night.
- Koala's sleep for about 20 hours in a day.



koala front paw



koala back paw



This is Victoria. It is famous for the Great Ocean Road which winds along the Southern Ocean.

The state capital is **Melbourne**.



Why is the bird called the laughing kookaburra?

The name kookaburra comes from the Wiradjuri word guuguubarra which sounds like the laughing call of the bird.

Additional information:

- Wiradjuri is one of the Australian Aboriginal languages.

What is meant by 'the bush' in Australia?

When people talk about 'the bush' in Australia they usually mean a natural environment which has not been developed by humans. Usually an area with trees, small bushes, plants and native animals.

There is also a mystery and romance around the bush which relates to folklore and traditions.

Additional information:

- Sometimes areas that have people living and working in them are called 'the bush' if they are outside of the main cities and towns.
- The outback is the large inland area of Australia. It is more remote than areas called 'the bush'.

Name another species of kookaburra that is found in Australia.

There are 4 species of kookaburra but only two that live in Australia. The laughing kookaburra and the blue winged kookaburra.

It is easy to spot the difference when you look at the wings and tail.

Additional information:

- The other two species of kookaburra are found in New Guinea – the spangled kookaburra and the rufous bellied kookaburra.



laughing kookaburra

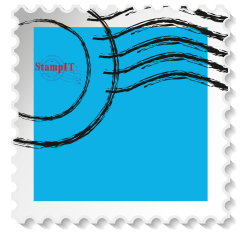


blue winged kookaburra



This is Tasmania. The state is made up from the main island of Tasmania and 33 surrounding islands.

The state capital is **Hobart**.



Why is this animal called the devil?

The first European settlers called this animal 'the devil' because of its red ears, large teeth and unearthly screams.

Additional information:

- The Tasmanian devils only grow inside mum for about 3 weeks. The mum gives birth to about 20 or 30 very tiny young, each about the size of a raisin. These tiny babies have to race to find mum's pouch as there are only 4 teats in the pouch so only four will survive.

What is meant by marsupial carnivore?

Carnivores are animals that eat other animals.

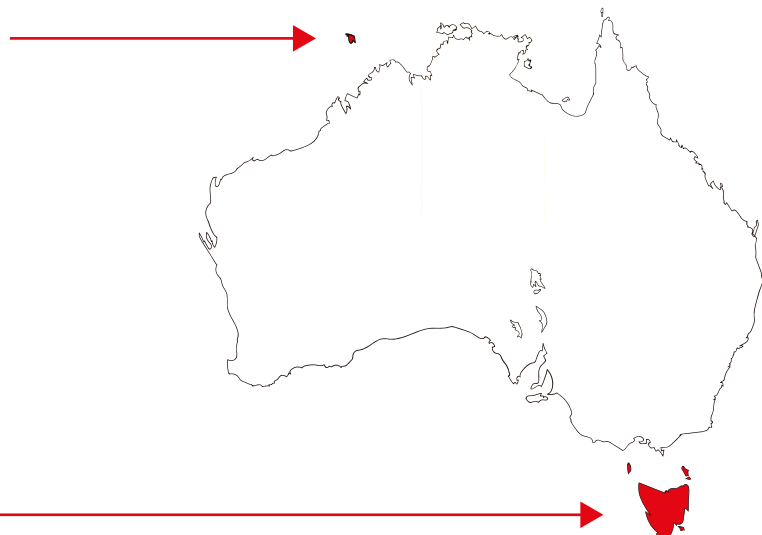
Marsupials are a type of mammal where babies are born before they are fully developed. Usually only growing inside mum's womb for a very short time and then continuing to develop inside mum's pouch.

The Tasmanian devil is a marsupial and usually likes to scavenge for food. They will also hunt and eat other small mammals, frogs, birds, fish, and insects.

Name the largest and smallest of Australia's islands.

Australia has 8,222 islands.

The smallest are the Ashmore and **Cartier Islands Territory**, north of Western Australia.

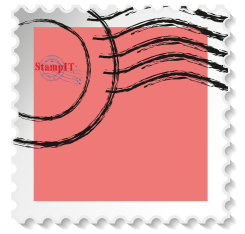


The largest is **Tasmania**



This is South Australia. It includes Kangaroo Island and the island is famous for being a wildlife haven with many protected sites.

The state capital is **Adelaide**.



Why is the eastern brown snake dangerous?

The eastern brown snake is known as the second most venomous land snake in the world. This snake is responsible for the most deaths from snakebite in Australia.

The most venomous land snake is the inland taipan found in central east Australia. Although the venom is more poisonous than the eastern brown snake, few people have been bitten by the species.

eastern brown snake



inland taipan



Additional information:

- The eastern brown snake is about 1.8 metres long.
- The eastern brown snake's fangs are only about 3mm long and this is small compared to other venomous snakes.



Name some of the other species of dunnart.

There are 19 species of dunnart:

1. *Butler's dunnart*
2. *chestnut dunnart*
3. *common dunnart*
4. *fat-tailed dunnart*
5. *Gilbert's dunnart*
6. *grey bellied dunnart*
7. *hairy footed dunnart*
8. *Julia Creek dunnart*
9. *Kakadu dunnart*
10. *Kangaroo Island dunnart*
11. *lesser hairy footed dunnart*
12. *little long tailed dunnart*
13. *long tailed dunnart*
14. *Ooldea dunnart*
15. *red cheeked dunnart*
16. *sandhill dunnart*
17. *stripe faced dunnart*
18. *white footed dunnart*
19. *white tailed dunnart*

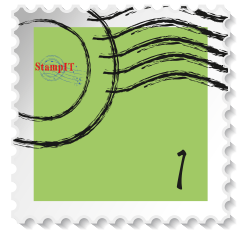
Additional information:

- Dunnarts are small and mouse-like but they are marsupials.
- They have large ears, large eyes and sharp teeth.
- They eat beetles, crickets, spiders, small reptiles, amphibians and other small mammals.
- The dunnart only grows inside mum for about 11 days. The mum gives birth to about 5 to 10 really tiny babies, each about the size of a grain of rice!
- Mum has no pouch but has folds of skin over the teats.



This is Western Australia. It is Australia's biggest state.

The state capital is **Perth**.



What does Critically Endangered mean?

The western swamp tortoise is critically endangered which means that they are at an extremely high risk of becoming extinct in the immediate future.

Additional information:

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) uses a scale to provide information on endangered species.
Near Threatened: species has a risk of extinction in the future.
Vulnerable: species has a **high risk** of extinction in the future.
Endangered: species has a **very high risk** of extinction in the **near future**.
Critically Endangered: species has an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the **immediate future**.
Extinct in the Wild: there are no more of the species in the wild but the species still exists in zoos.
Extinct: there are no more of the species.
- The western swamp tortoise is Australia's most endangered reptile.
- The western swamp tortoise is only about 15cm long



What is the difference between the toes on a tree frog and a ground frog?

The toes on a tree frog usually have round sticky pads to help climb the trees. Look at the photos to see the difference between the toes of the magnificent tree frog and the ground mottled barred frog.



magnificent tree frog



mottled barred frog

Additional information:

- The magnificent tree frog is only found in the northern part of Western Australia. Although the magnificent tree frog is a tree frog, it is often found around rocks and caves.



Names at least 5 other species of Australian parrots.

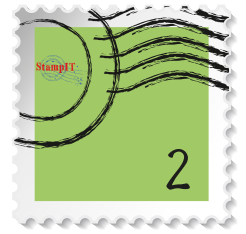
There are 56 species of parrot found in Australia, including cockatoos, lorikeets, rosellas, ringnecks and budgies.

The following is a list of some Australian species:

superb parrot; princess parrot; red winged parrot; golden shouldered parrot; blue winged parrot; orange bellied parrot; night parrot; double-eyed fig parrot; Australian king parrot; rainbow lorikeet; crimson rosella; Australian ringneck; sulphur crested cockatoo; galah.



Western Australia Challenge Card 2



Name another large flightless bird found in Australia.

The southern cassowary is another large flightless bird found in Australia.

The Australian bustard is also a large ground bird at around a metre in height.

The cassowary can range from 1.4-1.8m and the emu about 1.5-1.9m. Although the emu is usually taller than the cassowary, they are lighter birds. The emu weighs between 26-45kg and the cassowary can be up to 65kg.

Additional information:

- The cassowary's head is brightly coloured and has a large casque on top.
- Both the cassowary and emu have three toes but the innermost toes of the cassowary have long dagger-like claws.



What does the word marsupial mean?

Marsupials are a type of mammal where babies are born before they are fully developed. Usually only growing inside mum's womb for a very short time and then continuing to develop inside mum's pouch.

Additional information:

- The numbat only grows inside mum for about 14 days and mum has no pouch. The new-born baby clings on to mum's teat and is covered with folds of skin and long thick hair.
- The numbat has a long sticky tongue to eat termites which is why it is also known as the banded anteater.



Name another mammal that also lays eggs.

The echidna is a monotreme, a mammal that lays eggs. Another mammal that lays eggs is the platypus.

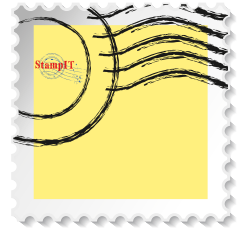
Additional information:

- The short nosed echidna is found in Australia. Three species of the long nosed echidna are found in New Guinea.
- The echidna usually lays one egg which hatches after 10 days.



This is the Northern Territory. It is where you will find the famous Uluru, a large red sandstone rock.

The territory capital is **Darwin**.



What size is a new-born kangaroo?

A new-born baby kangaroo, often called a joey, is only about 2.5cm. The baby is blind, hairless and looks a bit like a jellybean. The front legs are a little developed so that it can cling on to mum and climb into her pouch. The joey will then attach to a teat to feed on mum's milk.

For the red kangaroo, it will be about 6 months before the joey will come out for short trips. At about 8 months old, it will leave the pouch.



Additional information:

- The baby kangaroo only grows in mum's womb for about a month before being born.
- A kangaroo mum can have three very young babies at different stages: a joey at mum's side that still pops in and out of the pouch for some milk; a tiny joey attached to one of the teats in the pouch and a baby growing in her womb.



Find out why the bird is called galah.



Galah is an Australian slang word meaning a silly person and it is thought the name was given to the rose crested cockatoo because of the silly antics of the birds. They are often found hanging upside down, sliding and tumbling around. However the cockatoo is actually very intelligent.

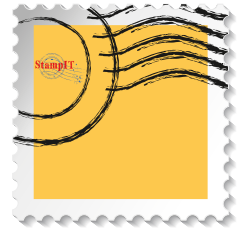
Additional information:

- Galah comes from a Yuwaalaraay word. Yuwaalaraay is one of the Australian Aboriginal languages.
- The galah can do amazing acrobatics.



This is Queensland. It is the most tropical part of Australia. The Great Barrier Reef lies off the coast of Queensland. This reef system is the largest in the world.

The state capital is **Brisbane**.



What does the word habitat mean? Name some Australian habitats.

A habitat is the natural home of an animal.



tropical rainforest



eucalyptus forest



mangrove forest



savannah



desert

There are many habitats found in Australia including tropical rainforests, eucalyptus forests, mangrove forests, woodlands, savannah, shrublands, grasslands, deserts, rivers & lakes.

Additional information:

- The blue tongued lizard is mainly found in open forests, woodlands and grasslands.
- As the name suggests, the lizard has an amazing large blue tongue.



Find out about the common behaviour between the bee and the bird.

The female cuckoo bird lays her eggs in the nests of other birds. The neon cuckoo bee get its name because the female bee lays her eggs in the nests of other bees.



Why is the animal called a nailtail wallaby?

The nailtail wallabies all have a nail-like spur at the end of their tail. The bridled nailtail also has a white line that runs along the neck and around the shoulders.



What is a monotreme?

A monotreme is a mammal that lays eggs. Monotremes are covered in hair and the young feed from mum's milk.

The platypus usually lays 2-3 eggs and they hatch after about 10 days.

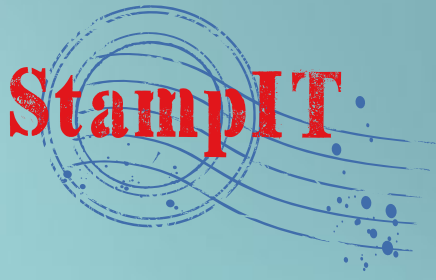
Additional information:

- When a skin of a platypus was first sent to the UK in 1798, people didn't believe it could be a real animal. They thought a duck's beak and feet had been sewn on to the fur of some other mammal!

Stamp Information

Stamps used in the Australian Challenge Game appear in bold.

Year of issue	Set	Notes
1986	Australian Wildlife (1 st series)	5 stamps – 36c red kangaroo ; 36c emu ; 36c koala; 36c laughing kookaburra; 36c platypus .
1999	Small Pond Life (Stamp Collecting Month)	6 stamps – 45c magnificent tree frog ; 45c sacred kingfisher; 45c Roth's tree frog; 45c dragonfly; 50c javelin frog; 50c northern dwarf tree frog;
2005	Australian Parrots	5 stamps – 50c princess parrot; 50c rainbow lorikeet; 50c green rosella; 50c red capped parrot ; 50c purple crowned lorikeet.
2005	Bush Wildlife (International stamps)	4 stamps - \$1 superb lyrebird; \$1.10 laughing kookaburra ; \$1.20 koala; \$1.80 red kangaroo.
2006	Dangerous Australians (Stamp Collecting Month)	6 stamps – 50c white shark; 50c eastern brown snake ; 50c box jellyfish; 50c saltwater crocodile; 50c blue ringed octopus; \$1 yellow bellied sea snake (special imperforated edition replaces \$1 sea snake with \$1 red back spider).
2009	Species at Risk (Joint Territories Issue)	5 stamps – 55c bridled nailtail wallaby ; 55c Norfolk Island green parrot -Norfolk Island; 55c subantarctic fur seal -Australia Antarctic Territory; 55c Christmas Island blue-tailed skink -Christmas Island; 55c green turtle -Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
2015	Native Animals	6 stamps – 70c echidna ; 70c common wombat; 70c eastern grey kangaroo; 70c koala; \$1.40 numbat ; \$1.40 Tasmanian devil .
2016	Endangered Wildlife (Stamp Collecting Month)	7 stamps – 50c orange bellied parrot (Australia); 50c northern quoll (Australia); \$1 southern corroboree frog (Australia); \$1 Asian elephant (southeast Asia); \$1 western lowland gorilla (western Africa); \$1 western swamp tortoise (Australia) ; \$1 snow leopard (central & south Asia).
2019	Australian Fauna	4 stamps - \$1 galah ; \$1 red kangaroo; \$1 Tasmanian devil; \$1 blue-tongue lizard .
2019	Australian Fauna II	4 stamps - \$1.10 koala; \$1.10 wombat ; \$2.20 echidna; \$3.30 sugar glider
2019	Native Bees	4 stamps - \$1 resin bee; \$1 green and gold Nomia bee; \$1 wasp-mimic bee; \$1 neon cuckoo bee .
2020	Wildlife Recovery (Stamp Collecting Month)	6 stamps - \$1.10 koala ; \$1.10 Bathurst copper butterfly ; \$1.10 Davies' tree frog; \$1.10 Kangaroo Island dunnart ; \$1.10 regent honeyeater; \$1.10 blue mountains water skink.



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