

The Land Down Under (cont.)

ACTIVITY 115 Context Clues

Name: _____

Date: _____

Choose a word or phrase from the Word Bank to replace the word in boldface in each sentence. Look for context clues to help you choose the right word.

WORD BANK

green

middle

separates

dry

scary

mild

1. Australia is shaped like a bowl with mountains around the rim and a vast desert in the **interior**. _____
2. Most Australians live along the coast where the weather is **temperate**.

3. The Great Dividing Range **isolates** the coast from the desert. _____
4. The northern coast gets plenty of rain, so it is humid and **lush**. _____
5. The southern part of the continent is much more flat and **arid**. _____
6. Most visitors find the interior **intimidating** and stick to the cities. _____

ACTIVITY 116 Cause and Effect

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read the paragraph, and then draw a line from the cause on the left to the effect on the right.

A very strange town in Australia is Coober Pedy. It is in the western desert, and about 75% of its buildings are underground. This is because the climate is very hot, with temperatures often as high as 120° F. The underground houses stay comfortably cool. The reason Coober Pedy exists at all is because there are opals in the area. In fact, most of the opals in the world come from around Coober Pedy. The first opals were discovered in 1915. Soldiers from World War I, who had lived in dugouts on the battlefields, made similar “digs” for themselves when they went opal prospecting. The name of the town comes from the aboriginal words *kupa piti*, which means “white men’s burrow.” Coober Pedy looks so strange that several science fiction movies have been filmed there.



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| 1. It is very hot in Western Australia. | a. Most of the world’s opals come from there. |
| 2. In 1915, opals were discovered. | b. This is where the town got its name. |
| 3. World War I soldiers lived in dugouts. | c. Sci-fi movies have been made there. |
| 4. There are many opals in Coober Pedy. | d. Most of Coober Pedy is underground. |
| 5. <i>Kupa piti</i> means “white men’s burrow.” | e. The town of Coober Pedy was started. |
| 6. Coober Pedy looks very odd. | f. They made similar shelters in Coober Pedy. |