

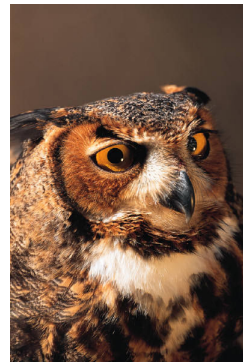


Educational Exploration

Owls - Predator of the Night

Owls are divided into two families. They are categorized by the structure of their bodies. They are classed as either Tytonidae or Strigidae. Their eyes do not move and they have large heads. Their eyes are fixed like binoculars and they have excellent depth perception which helps them hunt. In order to see to the side they must turn their entire head. Their feathers are big and fluffy, which muffles the sound when they fly. This enables them to swoop silently in on their prey. Some owls have feathered tufts of feathers that resemble ears, but

these are only part of the owls camouflage. Most Owls are nocturnal, hunting at night and resting during the day. They have hooked bills and claws. Owls eat rodents, birds, reptiles, fish, and large insects. Some cultures believe that owls are connected with the spirit world, connected with dread, or a sign of death. Others believe that the owl is a symbol of wisdom and knowledge. Owls live worldwide and have a very large range of habitats from rainforests to grasslands to wooded areas to tundra. A baby owl is called an owlet.



Abraham Lincoln (Simple and Complex)

Lincoln was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Kentucky, later moved with his family to Indiana. He struggled for an education, but learned to read, write, and to cipher (math). He worked on the farm, splitting rails for fences and later as a store clerk in Illinois. He became a captain in the Black Hawk War, spent eight years in

the legislature, and rode the circuit of courts for years. Lincoln married Mary Todd and they had 4 sons. One son lived to maturity. Nominated for President, he was in office at the time of the Civil War. He was torn by the division of the country. The South was defeated and Lincoln won reelection. The President en-

couraged Southerners to lay down their arms and join in reunion. On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington by John Wilkes Booth, an actor. After Lincoln's death his son Robert would testify in court that his mother was deranged. Mary Todd Lincoln would be committed to an asylum for the insane.

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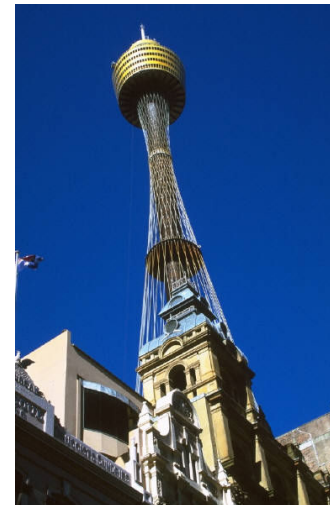
Australia



Australia is located on what is called Oceania, which is the continent located between the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean. It is 7,686,850 square kilometers total area. Australia's neighboring countries are Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and New Zealand.

Australia was uninhabited until the aborigines settled the continent 40,000 years ago. Europeans arrived in the 17th century. Explorers from Portugal, Spain, Denmark, and England all were interested in the continent, but Captain James Cook claimed it for Great Britain and in 1770 established 6 colonies there. Later in 1788 Captain Arthur Phillip landed at Sydney. His passengers were mostly convicts, but not all. The ones that were convicts had been charged with what would now be recognized as petty crimes and only trivial. In 1851 gold was discovered and due to this the population would increase tremendously. Eventually in 1901 Australia became known to the world as the Commonwealth of Australia. It has a democratic government patterned a lot like that of Great Britain. During World I and World War II, Australia made great contributions to Great Britain towards the war effort.

Australia is also home to one of the world's most beautiful natural wonders - the Great Barrier Reef. A reef is a submerged ridge of rock or coral near the surface of the water. A coral is a tiny marine polyp. It is a living creature. The white coral is made up of the tiny bodies of coral that have died and the colorful part is living coral. The Great Barrier Reef is home to 1500 species of fish, 400 plus types of mollusks, 215 species of birds, 500 species of seaweed, 16 species of sea snakes, 6 species of sea turtles, and whales in the winter. The reef system consists of 3000 reefs and is scattered with beautiful islands and coral cays (low islands of coral debris built on the reef itself). It all covers over 300,000 square kilometers.



Recipe Corner: Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 2/3 cups **butter** or margarine
- 1/3 cup **shortening**
- 1 cup **brown sugar** firm packed
- 1/2 cup **sugar**
- 1 each **egg**
- 1 teaspoon **vanilla extract**
- 2 cups **flour**
- 1 teaspoon **baking soda**
- 1 teaspoon **salt**
- 1 pk **chocolate chips (semisweet)**

1 cup **walnuts** chopped

Directions:

In large **bow**, cream butter, shortening and sugars Beat in egg and **vanilla**. Combine flour, **baking soda** and salt; stir into **butter** mixture, mixing well. Stir in **chocolate** chips and nuts. Drop by teaspoonfuls, 2 inches apart, onto greased **baking sheets**. Bake in 350° F. oven 8-10 minutes, just until edges are golden (centers will still be soft).

Remove to wire racks to cool.

Makes about 3 dozen cookies.



Charles Joseph Messier 1730-1817

Charles Messier was born in Lorraine (France) on the 26th day of June in 1730. His interest in astronomy started in his early teens and stayed with him for the rest of his life.

One of his main interests in astronomy was hunting down comets. It was whilst he was looking for the predicted return of Halley's comet in 1758 that he noticed what might appear as a comet but did not move like a comet should. What he was in fact seeing was the Crab Nebula in the constellation Taurus. He decided to chart these and similar objects as he came across them. He did this so he and his fellow comet hunters would not waste time studying them only to find out they were not what they were looking for. He gave these objects the letter M and numbered them from one onwards. So the Crab nebula became the first on the list, M1 and so the Messier catalogue was started. He continued adding to this catalogue from his own observations and also from other astronomers notably his compatriot Pierre Méchain.

Charles Messier died on the 12th day of April 1817 but he left behind a great legacy of some of the best D.S.O's (Deep Sky Objects), the final totals of "M" objects are 110.

Every year there is a short period usually at the end of March when it is possible to view all the Messier objects at one observing session (dusk-to-dawn) weather and viewing conditions being favorable and this has been named by astronomers the Messier Marathon.

As with most things like the Messier catalogue there is controversy attached to it. Questions have been raised about positions of M objects and even if the same object has two different "M" numbers. This should not detract from the fact the Messier log contains some of the most magnificent Galaxies, Star Clusters and Nebulosity that can be seen in the night sky.

German Baptists - A Plain, but Interesting People

The Anabaptist Church started in Switzerland in the 1500's. The movement spread through German speaking lands and was persecuted by Catholic and Protestant. Anabaptists believed that a person must believe in the Lord and his teachings and be baptized with water, were not supposed to use force when defending or protecting their beliefs, and believed that all property would belong to the community as a whole, not to the individual. Today most Anabaptists do not hold to the community of goods belief. One group that has been influenced by the Anabaptists is the German Baptists. There are several sects of the German Baptists. The **Old German Baptist Brethren** drive cars, but are quite conservative. **Old Brethren** drive cars but not quite as conservative. **Old Order German Baptist Brethren**, drive horse and buggies and do not use electricity. **Old Brethren German Baptist** drive horse and buggies, don't use electric, and have no telephones. Their churches are plain. Men and women use different entrance doors and sit on opposite sides of the church. Benches are plain and hard wood, normally with polished wood floors. In winter they are heated with woodstoves and in summer cooled by fans.





If you, your children, or friends would like to submit articles of interest, recipes, or poetry, please do so. Submissions can be emailed to info@abc-learningfun4.com. We welcome all submissions of interest to the general public.



Everything Stands for Something

A rose is a symbol of love so true
Red with a passion's fire
And the daisy stands for a love that's pure
Infused with a hidden desire

And the heart it bears it all in stride
Capable of more than we know
And the spirit it lives for the day that it gives
More than it ever will show!



We wonder why kids have problems learning the English language:

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does are present.
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
17. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
18. After a number of injections my jaw got number.
19. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
20. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
21. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

