

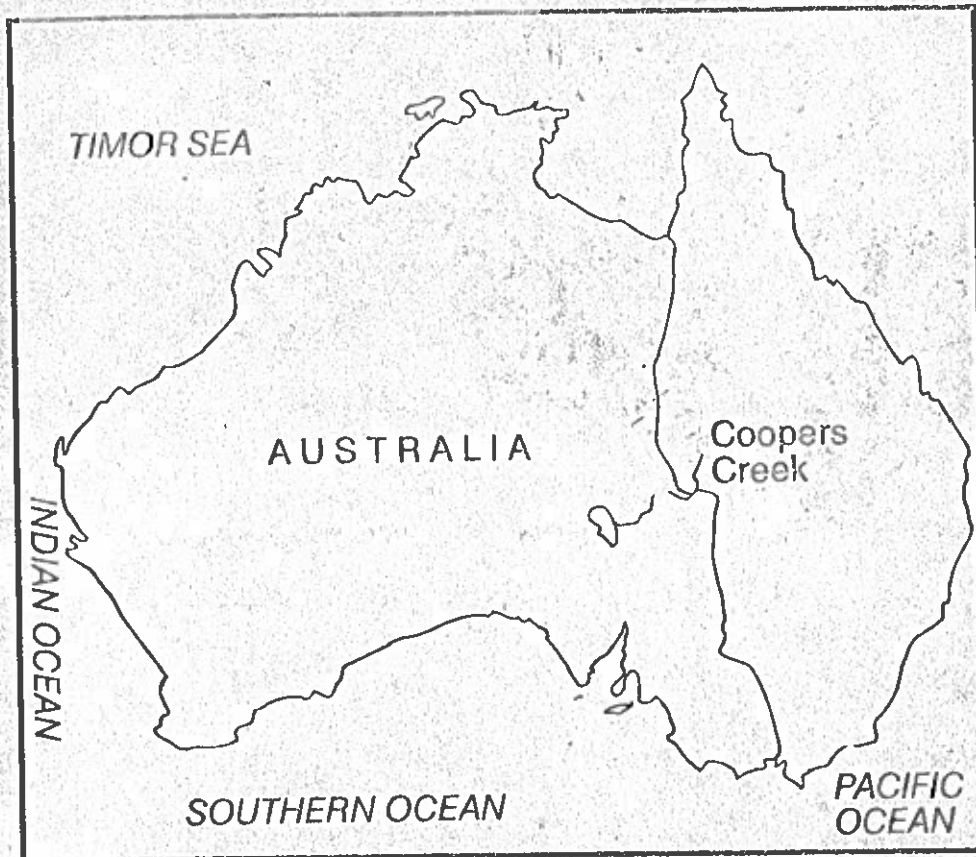


ESOL

Viking Way/Quest Work

March 2-6

Burke and Wills— Across Australia



LESSON

1

Pre-reading Questions

1. Is August summer or winter in Australia?
2. Do camels live in Australia?
3. Is Australia larger or smaller than your country?



1



Burke and Wills— Across Australia

Australia is a **huge** country, and the outback (the Australian word for the **interior** of the country) is desert. In some years, it rains only 8 centimeters in the outback, but in other years, rainstorms **turn** the desert **into** sandy swamps.

very large

inside, away from the coast

change into, become

100 years

Until the eighteenth **century**, only **aborigines** lived in Australia. These are the first people who lived in Australia. When Europeans went there to live, they built town on the coast. However, by the 1850s, people began thinking more about the interior.

In 1860, Robert O'Hara Burke, a police officer from Ireland, was **chosen** to lead an **expedition** across the **continent** from south to north. He took with him William John Wills and eleven other men, camels, horses, and enough **supplies** for a year and a half. They left Melbourne for the Gulf of Carpentaria on August 20, winter in the southern **hemisphere**.

past participle of *choose*

food and other necessary things

half of the earth

The expedition had problems from the beginning. Burke had no **experience** in the outback. The men fought and would not follow orders. Twice they left some of their supplies so they could move faster and later sent one of the men, William Wright, back for them.



Finally, a small group led by Burke moved on ahead of the others to a river named Cooper's Creek and set up their base camp. They were halfway across the continent, but it was summer now, with very hot weather and sandstorms.

They waited a month for Wright, and then Burke decided that four from his small group, with 3 months' supplies, should travel the 1250 kilometers to the north coast as quickly as possible. They told the others to wait for them at Cooper's Creek.

The journey across the desert was very difficult, but at the end of January, they reached the Flinders River near the Gulf of Carpentaria.

They started their return journey, but now it was the rainy season and traveling was slow and even more difficult than on their trip north. They did not have enough food, and the men became hungry and sick. Then one of them died. Some of the camels died or were killed for food.

Finally, on April 21, they arrived back at Cooper's Creek, only to find that no one was there. The rest of the expedition left the day before because they thought Burke must be dead.

The men continued south, but without enough food, both Burke and Wills died. Aborigines helped the last man who was still alive, and a **search party** found him in September 1861. He was half crazy from hunger and loneliness.

There were many reasons that the expedition did not go as it was planned. It had an inexperienced leader, the men made bad **decisions**, some did not follow orders, and they did not **get along**. But they were the first expedition to cross Australia, and Burke and Wills are still known as heroes of **exploration**.

search = look for,
party = a group of people

noun for *decide*
be friendly, not fight

**Vocabulary**

In this book, difficult words are repeated several times in the exercises. These words are also repeated and reviewed in other lessons. It is not necessary to list new English words with their meanings in your own language. You will learn them just by practicing. In each lesson, when you read the text the first time, underline the words that you don't know. Then you can give yourself a test when you finish the lesson. Look at the words you underlined and see if you understand them. If you don't know them yet, this is the time to memorize them.

In the vocabulary exercises in this book, write the correct word in each blank. Use each word only once. Use capital letters where they are necessary.

exploration
continents
aborigines

decision
ahead
gets along

hemisphere
expedition
base

experience
century
heroes

1. Please decide what you want to do. You must make a _____.
2. In baseball, a player hits the ball and runs to first _____.
3. The first Australians are called _____.
4. Do you have any _____ as a secretary, or is this your first job?
5. Kumiko _____ well with everyone. She is always nice and never fights with people.
6. The years 1900–1999 are the twentieth _____.
7. Tom saw some children _____ of him in the street while he was driving home, so he slowed down.
8. Asia is in the northern _____.
9. Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America are the seven _____.
10. People who win in the Olympic Games are _____ in their countries.



B Vocabulary

Do this exercise like Exercise A.

chosen
huge
searching

expedition
interior
supplies

experience
journey
swamps

exploration
party
turned into

1. Burke and Wills led an _____ into the interior of Australia.
2. Christopher Columbus was _____ for a new way to go to India.
3. Canada is a _____ country, one of the biggest in the world.
4. Birds like to live in _____ because there is a lot of water and food.
5. We use one kind of paint for the _____ of a house and another kind for the exterior.
6. It is a long _____ from Melbourne to London.
7. A search _____ was sent to find the Burke and Wills expedition.
8. Most of the earth has been explored. Now we are in the age of space _____, searching for more information about the stars, the moon, and other planets besides Earth.
9. The secretary ordered paper, pens, and other _____ for the office.
10. Carlos started to study hard and _____ a good student.

C True/False

Write **T** if the sentence is true. Write **F** if it is false. If a question is false, change it to make it true, or explain why it is false.

An asterisk (*) before a question means it is either an **inference** or an **opinion** question. You cannot find a sentence in the text with the answer. You have to use the information in the text and things you already know and then decide on the answer.

1. The first Europeans in Australia built villages in the outback because there were too many aborigines on the coast.

D

Answer
an **infe**
text.

1. V
- *2. V
3. V
4. V
5. V
6. N
- *7. I

E

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1. F
2. T
3. F



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- _____ 2. The Burke and Wills expedition crossed Australia from south to north.
- _____ *3. December is a summer month in Australia.
- _____ 4. Much of the interior of Australia is swampy all year long.
- _____ 5. Eleven men crossed Australia with Burke and Wills.
- _____ *6. Burke and Wills did not have enough food for their journey back to Cooper's Creek because the rain slowed them down.
- _____ *7. The aborigines could help the last man still alive because they understood how to live in the desert.
- _____ 8. Burke was a good leader for this expedition.

D Comprehension Questions

Answer these questions in complete sentences. An asterisk (*) means it is either an **inference** or an **opinion** question. You cannot find the exact answer in the text.

1. Where did the first Europeans live when they went to Australia?
- *2. Why were camels good animals for this expedition?
3. Why did the men leave some of their supplies behind them?
4. Why was it difficult to travel in the interior of Australia?
5. What happened to some of the camels?
6. Name two reasons why this expedition had so many problems.
- *7. Do you think Burke and Wills should be called heroes of exploration? Why?

E Main Idea

What is the main idea of paragraph 4 (lines 20–25)?

1. Robert Burke led this expedition.
2. The expedition had many problems.
3. Burke had no experience in the outback.



Two-Word Verbs

English has many two-word verbs. Each of the two words is easy, but when they are put together, they mean something different. There is often no way to guess what they mean. You have to learn each one. Learn these two-word verbs and then fill in the blanks with the right words. Use the correct verb form.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| turn into | — change into, become |
| get along (with) | — not fight, be friendly |
| break down | — to stop going or working (often about a car) |
| call on | — when someone, usually a teacher, asks someone to speak |
| put away | — put something in the place where it belongs |

1. Our washing machine _____ yesterday and I couldn't finish washing my clothes.
2. Tommy and his little brother don't _____ very well. They fight about something almost every day.
3. Ali knew the answer when the teacher _____ him.
4. It was rainy this morning, but now it has _____ a beautiful day.
5. Mary doesn't usually _____ her clothes. She just leaves them on a chair or the bed.

Articles (a, an, the)

There are so many rules about articles that it is easier just to get used to them by practicing than to learn all the rules. However, you will learn a few of the rules later in this book. Here are some sentences or parts of sentences from the text. Put an article in the blank if it is necessary.

1. In other years, rainstorms turn _____ desert into sandy swamps.
2. Until _____ eighteenth century, only aborigines lived in _____ Australia.
3. In 1860, _____ Robert O'Hara Burke, _____ police officer from Ireland, was chosen to lead _____ expedition across _____ continent from south to north.



4. He took with him William John Wills, _____ eleven other men,
_____ camels, _____ horses, and enough supplies for
_____ year and _____ half.
5. _____ expedition had _____ problems from
_____ beginning.
6. _____ men fought and would not follow _____ orders.

HE Guided Writing

Write one of these two short compositions.

1. You are the last person still alive from the Burke and Wills expedition. It is September 1861, and the search party has just found you. Tell them what happened to you.
2. You are the leader of another expedition across Australia. Explain what you will do differently.