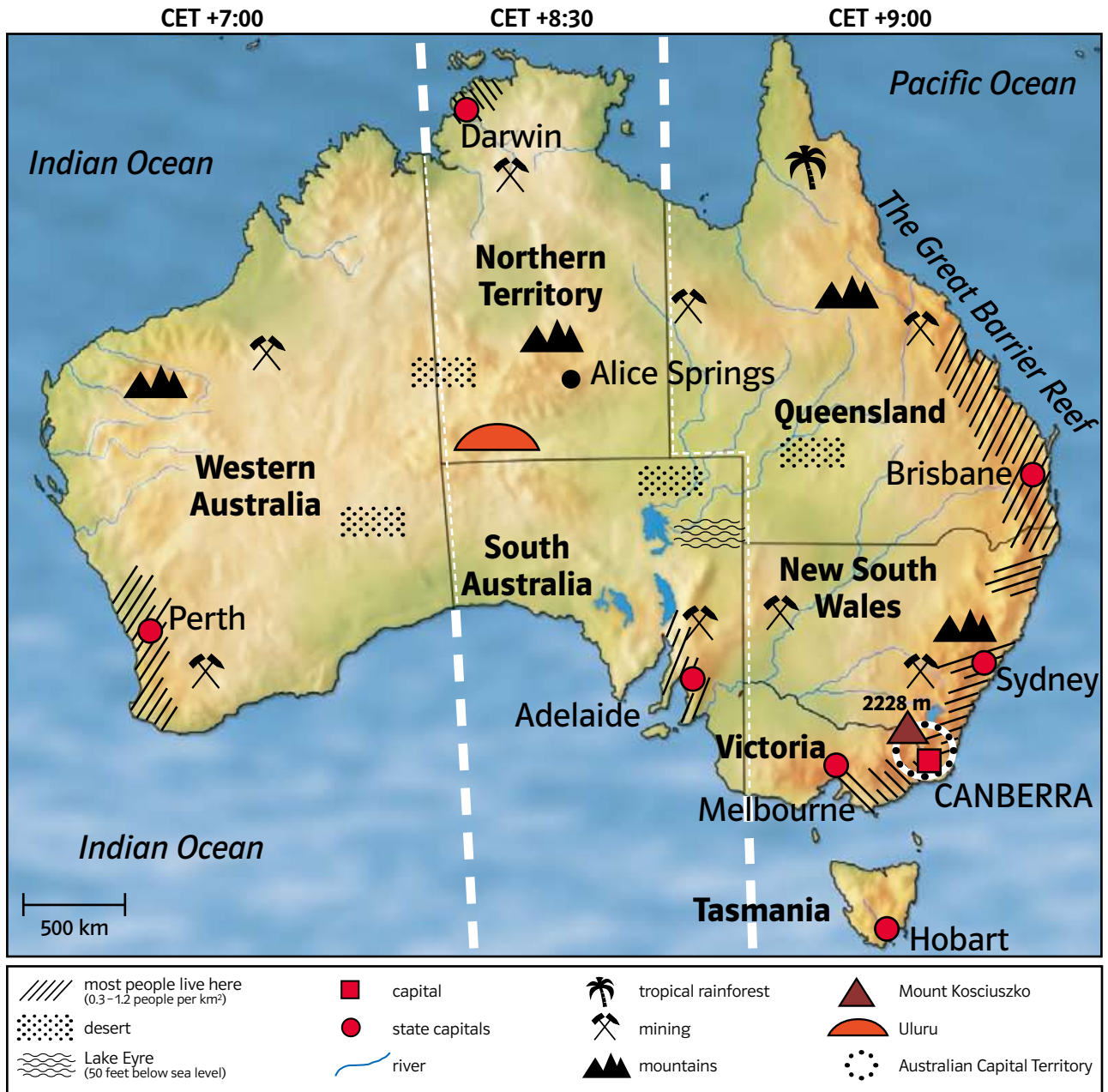


# The land Down Under



## 1 Ask and answer

Work with a partner: One of you has the map, the other asks the questions under A. Then change over and ask and answer the questions under B.

### A

1. What is the capital of Australia?
2. Which town is in the middle of Australia?
3. Which state is a large island?
4. Where are there areas with mountains?
5. It is 9:00 in Perth. What time is it in Sydney?
6. Where do most people in Australia live?

### B

1. Which state or territory is the capital in?
2. In which states and territories are there deserts?
3. What is the capital of Queensland?
4. How high is Mount Kosciuszko?
5. It is 4:30 in Darwin. What time is it in Brisbane?
6. Near which state is the Great Barrier Reef?

Lösungsvorschläge: 1: A 1. Canberra, 2. Alice Springs, 3. Tasmania, 4. west, middle, northeast, southeast, 5. 11:00, Northern Territory, South Australia and Queensland, 6. Queensland  
 6. on the east coast and in the areas around Perth, Darwin and Adelaide; B 1. Australian Capital Territory, 2. Western Australia,

## 2 An unexpected find

- a) Take a few minutes to read the text. Use your atlas to find out where Coober Pedy<sup>1</sup> is and mark it on your map on page 1. Then cover the text and try to tell your partner all you can remember about Coober Pedy. What did you forget?

In 1915 Jim Hutchinson and his son William were prospecting for gold in the north of South Australia. While searching for water, 15-year-old Willie found some pieces of opal<sup>2</sup>, a valuable gemstone<sup>3</sup>, on the ground. Within eight days he and his father claimed the right to look for opal there.

More and more people came to the area, especially men who had worked on the Trans-Continental Railway and soldiers returning from the First World War. These men were used to living in trenches<sup>4</sup>. They also found that this was a good way of avoiding<sup>5</sup> the extreme heat in this hot, dry climate.



Coober Pedy in Australia

The holes they dug<sup>6</sup> are still there and have become a tourist attraction: There's an underground church and an underground hotel. People are still digging out new underground homes, though now they do it with mechanical diggers rather than a spade.

In fact the town that has grown up was named after the men who dug the holes: Coober Pedy, is an English version of the Aboriginal words 'kupa piti', which is supposed to mean 'white man in a hole'.

<sup>1</sup>Coober Pedy [ˌkuːbə ˈpiːdi] • <sup>2</sup>opal [ˈɒpəl] Opal • <sup>3</sup>gemstone [ˈdʒemstəʊn] Edelstein • <sup>4</sup>trench [trenʃ] – Schützengraben  
<sup>5</sup>to avoid [əˈvɔɪd] vermeiden • <sup>6</sup>to dig, dug, dug [dɪg, dʌg, dʌg] graben

- b) Opals are one of the many kinds of gemstones that are found in Australia. Find out about one of these gemstones and prepare a short presentation.

sapphire

jade

emerald

agate

chrysoprase

Think about these questions when you prepare your presentation:

- In which part of Australia is the gemstone found?
- What colour is the gemstone?
- What uses does the gemstone have, other than jewellery?

sapphire [ˈsæfɪə] • jade [dʒeɪd] • emerald [ˈemrɪd] • agate [ˈæɡət] • chrysoprase [ˈkraɪsəpreɪz]