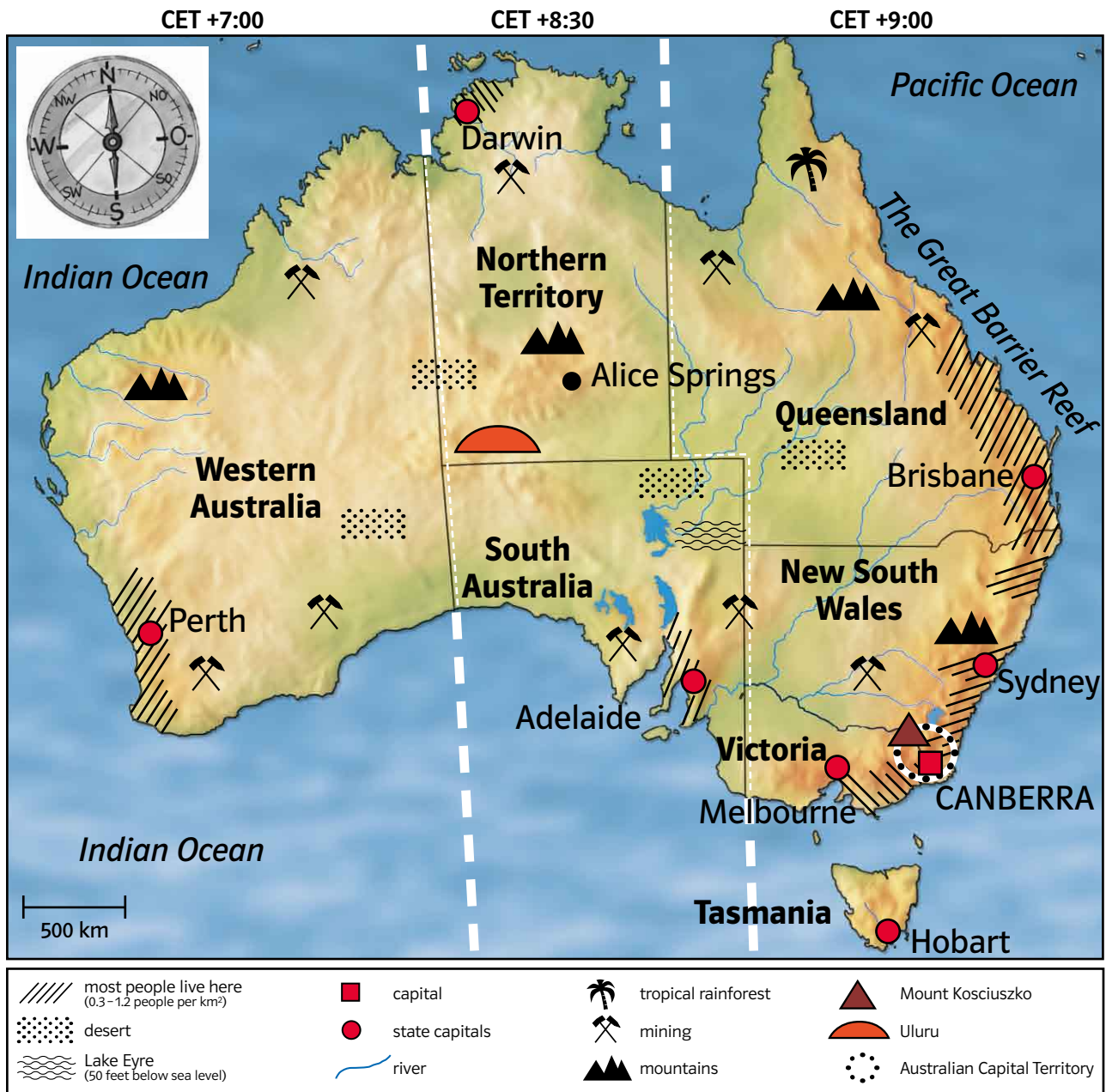


The land Down Under



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. Where do most people in Australia live?
2. What is the capital of Australia?
3. How many states and territories are there in Australia?
4. Where are there areas with mountains in Australia?
5. It is 9 a.m. in Perth. What time is it in Sydney?
6. Which town is in the middle of Australia?

B

1. Where are most of the deserts?
2. What are the capitals of the states and territories?
3. Which state is the capital in?
4. Mount Kosciuszko is the highest mountain in Australia. Where is it?
5. It is 4:30 in Darwin. What time is it in Brisbane?
6. Near which coast is the Great Barrier Reef?

Lösungsvorschläge: Ex: 1. A 1. on the coast, 2. Canberra, 3. eighth, 4. northwest, middle, northeast, southeast, 5. 11 a.m., 6. Alice Springs; B 1. south and middle, 2. Perth, Darwin, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane, Hobart, 3. Australian Capital Territory, 4. New South Wales, 5. 5 o'clock, 6. Queensland

2 Mining in Australia

Read more about mining in Australia. Then put the symbols for the different minerals into the correct mining area on the map on page 1.

The continent of Australia is very rich in minerals. Coal is mined in every Australian state and territory and 75% of Australian coal is exported. Most of it and most of the coal that stays in Australia is used in power plants.

Other useful minerals are also found in many parts of the continent, for instance iron ore on the north-west coast of Western Australia and further south in the same state.

In 2007 Australia produced one-third of the world's supply of bauxite, the ore¹ from which aluminium is extracted. Bauxite is strip-mined, that is, taken from the surface without underground tunnels. Much of Australian bauxite comes from the mining area to the south of Perth.

Copper is also strip-mined in some places, e. g. New South Wales. On the other hand, copper is also mined underground. One of the larger mines is at Olympic Dam, north-west of Adelaide in South Australia, where uranium is also found. Copper is mined in










northwest Queensland, too, together with zinc and lead². The mines nearer the coast of Queensland produce mostly coal. The same picture may be found in New South Wales with the coastal areas producing mostly coal, the north west of the state being rich in copper, lead and zinc.

All these minerals are mined for practical, industrial purposes. In some cases, though, a mineral has a dual purpose³: It can be used practically in engineering or medicine, and also decoratively, for example, in jewellery. Such is the case with gold and silver and with the hardest gemstone, the diamond. Gold has been found in all the states of Australia and there are gold mines from Darwin to Adelaide and Sydney to Perth. Silver is found in northern Queensland, in the north and south of Western Australia and in Western New South Wales. Diamonds are mined only in the Northern Territory.

(⇒ See map under http://www.ga.gov.au/image_cache/GA11430.pdf)

¹ore [ɔ:] – Erz; ²lead [led] – Blei (Be careful! There is also a verb *to lead* [li:d], past tense *led* [led], which means 'führen');

³purpose [ˈpɜ:pəs] – Zweck

bauxite		Al	coal		C	copper		Cu
iron		Fe	lead		Pb	zinc		Zn
uranium		U	silver		Ag	diamonds		C

3 Some mining words

Find words in the text to match these meanings.

- to dig out of the ground _____
- to sell abroad _____
- precious rocks _____
- to take out of _____
- to take from the surface _____
- below the surface _____
- to have a lot of _____
- to be used for two things _____

7. to be rich in, 8. to have a dual purpose
Lösungsvorschläge: Ex. 3: 1. to mine, 2. to export, 3. minerals, 4. to extract, 5. to strip-mine, 6. underground,

4 An unexpected find

Take one minute to read the text. Use your atlas to find out where Coober Pedy 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 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 and dugouts. They also found that this was a good way of avoiding the extreme heat in this hot, dry climate.



Coober Pedy in Australia

The holes they dug 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'.

5 Gemstones

Opals are gemstones. What other gemstones are found in Australia? Use the Internet if you need help.

Lösungsvorschläge: E.x. 5: sapphire, jade, emerald, agate, pearl, diamond, chrysoptase