

THE SUGAR GLIDER: A Cultural Webquest

NEILSEN, R. *The Sugar Glider*. Cambridge English Readers, Level 5, C.U.P.

CULTURAL APPROACH:

PART 1. Activities for the global researching team: Work in pairs or in small groups.

Australia: Facts and Figures.

1. Is there gold in the Australian Gold Coast? Explain.
2. Put these cities in order according to their population: Brisbane (), Melbourne (), Gold Coast City (), Canberra ().
3. Australia's size compared: Compare two facts about the population, size, etc of Australia and Spain and/or Europe. Are you surprised? Why?

Australia: Fauna and Flora.

1. Agriculture in Australia: Complete this paragraph.
___% of the Australian people are directly employed in the agricultural sector. Most Australian farms are owned and operated by _____, not corporations. In _____ there were 138,657 farms operating across Australia. There are _____ sheep and wool producing farms. Although few people are employed on agriculture, about _____% of Australia's land area is used for farming.
2. What is the Outback? (*The Sugar Glider*, p. 33-34)
3. What has happened to most native Australian "Grassland"? (*The Sugar Glider*, p. 64)
4. The Sugar Glider and the Brumby: Choose the right option/s.
 1. The sugar glider is a _____
a. mammal b. bird c. fish
 2. The sugar glider lives in _____
a. houses b. trees c. bird nests
 3. The sugar glider glides, which means that _____
a. they can "fly" from tree to tree b. they are planes c. they have to move only during daytime
 4. Sugar gliders _____
a. only eat insects b. like sugar c. only eat leaves
 5. The brumbies _____
a. are wild horses b. are being killed illegally c. need more protection

PART 2. Activities for the different researching sections: Work individually or in pairs.

Aborigines: The Murri People.

Choose one of the following options:

1. Their religion: the Dreamtime (*The Sugar Glider*, p. 78).
2. Physical characteristics and economic situation of the aborigines. The aborigines and the law.
Include the following information:
 - a. Present political situation of the aborigines.
 - b. What happened to the Aboriginal children between 1910 and 1970?
 - c. The aboriginal Land (Northern Territory) Act, 1976.
 - d. Australian aborigines and Uranium mines. Do they own them?

Australian Artists: Music and Show business.

In *The Sugar Glider*, there are references to the Australian rock group Midnight Oil (*The Sugar Glider*, p. 37) and to Nicole and Kylie (*The Sugar Glider*, p. 56). Write a biography, make a poster or prepare a speech about one of the following:

1. Midnight Oil
2. Nicole Kidman
3. Kylie Minogue