

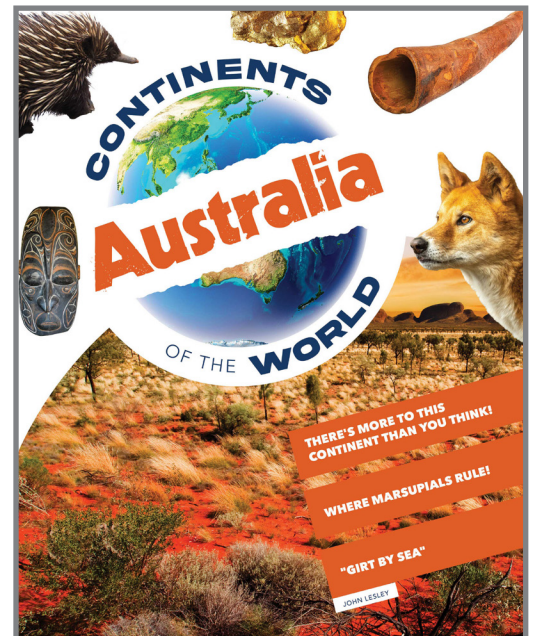
# Continents of the World: Australia

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



## SYNOPSIS

What is a continent, and are there seven or five? Some continents are surrounded by water, but others have borders with each other that are often difficult to define. Did you know that the continents can move? How does this happen and what does it mean for the future of the continent you live on? Find out all about Earth's continents, how they are similar and how they differ, as well as the effect people have had on the landscapes where they live.

The continent of Australia is not the same as the nation of Australia, which is only a part of the whole continent. In this book, travel across all these places, and on the way, find out about ancient rocks, erupting volcanoes and unique animals.

## STUDY NOTES

- Using a simplified map of the world, ask students to colour in each continent in a different colour. Refer them to the world map on the endpapers of *Continents of the World: Australia* for a guide.
- Using maps that show sea depths (such as Google maps) find the parts of the nation of Australia that were once possibly dry land.
- Discuss how modern Australia is now a separate, independent country, but was once joined to lands further north. Consider how the nation of Australia might have developed if it had never separated from New Guinea to the north.
  - In answering this question, students can practise map-reading. They can locate those countries that have land borders with other continents and compare them with the Australian continent's borders.
  - Once they have investigated the map, ask them to answer the following question: do the Australian anthem words 'girt by sea' describe both the Australian continent and the nation or not?
- Look at a satellite map of the whole island of New Guinea. Try to follow the sea depths around it that show it is part of the Australian continental landmass. The very dark blue lines in the ocean on Google satellite maps usually show where there is a tectonic plate boundary. Discuss as a class.
- Some people think that New Zealand is a part of the Australian continent. After looking at a map of the tectonic plate boundaries near New Zealand, think about whether New Zealand and Australia should be considered as one continent or not.