

UNIT 2

ICONIC ATTRACTIONS



Whatever makes an impression
on the heart seems lovely in
the eye.

—Saadi

In this unit, you will

- 1 read about iconic attractions in different places.
- 2 hear and talk about what best represents a place.
- 3 write a description of an iconic animal.
- 4 learn more about iconic attractions in a city or town.

Look and discuss

- 1 What do you know about the place in the photo?
- 2 What are your impressions of this place?
- 3 Do you know of any other iconic attractions in the world?

Experience the iconic features of Australia

1 Work in groups and discuss the questions.

- 1 What is the first thing you think of when you think about Australia?
- 2 What is your impression of Australia based on your experience and/or what you have seen in the media?

2 Skim the text. Match the blog entries to the subheadings. Write the blog entry numbers in the blanks. Two are extra.

_____ The foundation of Australia
_____ Reflections on multiculturalism
_____ Political divisions

_____ First impressions
_____ Preparing to travel
_____ Aborigines and the didgeridoo

25 Sep

Next week I'm travelling to Australia to visit a friend there over the school holidays. I plan to keep this blog to record my experiences and what I learn. I have already done some research on the country. Located to the south of the **equator**, below many other countries on the globe, it's often informally referred to as "down under".

I have also read about some iconic sites, such as the Sydney Opera House and the Great Ocean Road, and animals like the cute koalas and kangaroos. I can't wait to see all of them! However, as I major in social studies, I'm more interested in meeting people in Australia and experiencing their culture, food, and way of life.

1 Oct

I'm here in Sydney! Since I arrived, my friend has brought me to my first open-air **barbecue** and has also shared many different but yummy meals with me, so my first impressions of Australia have been all about food! A lot of typical Australian food, such as the Sunday roast, is originally British. **Bakeries**, fast-food **joints**, **butcher** shops, cafes, and restaurants everywhere provide some of the **premier** food experiences in the world. The influence of Asian cultures, on the other hand, led to the introduction of bean curd and Asian **herbs**, along with Australian versions of foods like the Chinese-inspired dim sim.



dim sim

3 Oct

My friend and I have arrived in Katherine, a town in Australia's Northern Territory. We're here to learn about the life and customs of the Aborigines, who are native to Australia. The Aboriginal population might be small, but its influence is still visible. For example, "Bondi" in "Bondi Beach" is an Aboriginal word meaning "water breaking over rocks".

To survive in this vast land on the ocean, the Aborigines had to be in close contact with nature. This shows in their music, too, which celebrates the natural world and the

spiritual world around them. Most of their musical instruments are really just sticks found on the ground, among which there is an amazing instrument called the didgeridoo.

The didgeridoo is made from a tree branch which is hollow. To play the didgeridoo, you put your mouth on

one end and blow while vibrating your lips. Unlike a horn, there are no finger holes. The didgeridoo player has to change the shape of his mouth in order to change pitch. A skilled player can play for a long time without stopping to breathe. He does this by continually breathing in through his nose while breathing out through his mouth and into the didgeridoo. I tried to learn how to play it, but after trying for hours, I was convinced that I could never make a musical sound with this instrument!



6 Oct

It's almost time for me to say goodbye to Australia. I've enjoyed my time here very much. After being here for a while, my biggest impression is the complicated mix of peoples and cultures that make up the nation. Although the main cultural influence since 1788 has been Western culture, minority cultures have also played a part in shaping the unique Australian culture, with many of the new cultural influences contributed by immigrants. It is said that now nearly half of all Australian citizens were either born overseas or have parents who were born overseas.

Personally speaking, what I like most about Australia is the people themselves. They have a **straightforward** and free-and-easy attitude towards life, and their friendliness and warmth made me feel at home wherever I went.

After experiencing Australia, I have to say that I agree with the tourism slogan: "There's nothing like Australia."



Take notes

When you read a passage, sometimes it helps to take notes so that you can better remember and understand what you have learnt. When you take notes, it is good to write down the important facts just using key words and ignore many of the small words. You can also use abbreviations, such as "Aus" for "Australia" and "N" for "north", and use symbols such as "&" for "and".

3 Read the text again and take notes. Then use your notes to answer the following questions.

- 1 What does "down under" mean?
- 2 How has Australian cuisine been influenced by different cultures? Give two examples.
- 3 What is the main theme reflected in Aboriginal music and why?
- 4 What are the writer's first and biggest impressions of Australia? Why?

4 Did you find your notes helpful? Discuss how your notes can be improved.

5 Work in groups. Discuss what iconic Chinese attractions you would like to introduce to a foreigner and explain why.

Build up your vocabulary

1 Write down the word that matches each definition. Make a sentence with each word.

- 1 _____ an imaginary line around the earth at an equal distance from the North and South Poles
- 2 _____ an outdoor meal with food cooked on a metal frame over a fire
- 3 _____ a plant that is used to improve the taste of food, or to make medicine
- 4 _____ someone who owns or works in a shop that sells meat
- 5 _____ the establishing of a new institution or organisation

2 Read the following pairs of sentences and find out which underlined word has the same meaning as the one used in the reading text.

- 1 A The partners agreed to make a joint effort to meet the project deadlines.
B There are many burger joints in Bondi Beach, one of Australia's most famous tourist spots.
- 2 A The premier of the Australian government is called the Prime **Minister**.
B The Sydney Opera House is a performing arts centre in Sydney. It is one of the 20th century's premier buildings.
- 3 A Australian English is particularly different from other types of English in its pronunciation, so it is rather straightforward to recognise an Australian accent.
B Many Australians have a straightforward approach to life.
- 4 A A minority of **frogs** in the forest are poisonous, and locals extract the poison to use on the tips of their **arrows**.
B Ethnic minority groups in China are often **entitled** to special funds from the government to help protect their cultural heritage.

3 Read an advertisement on Thailand's iconic attractions. Fill in the blanks using the correct forms of the words in brackets.

Thailand is a premier holiday destination, attracting tourists from all over the world. Consisting of 76 provinces that _____ (stretch) all the way down to Malaysia in the south, the country has a lot to offer and is a great getaway. A major attraction of Thailand is its amazing selection of islands, each with long sandy beaches and clear blue water. Visitors to the beaches can enjoy many activities, _____ (include) **diving**, kayaking, and rock climbing. Finding the islands is not _____ (complicate), and there are a variety of islands to suit all tastes. Be careful, however, not to go to popular islands during peak season, unless you want to _____ (wrestle) with other tourists! Many tourists also enjoy visiting Chiang Mai to see the beautiful elephants, the national animal and proud _____ (iconic) of Thailand. Unfortunately, elephants are _____ (endanger) in Thailand, but special parks have been set up to protect their safety and **freedom**. Visitors can see these _____ (amaze) creatures in their natural **domain**, and also **sponsor** an elephant to preserve its health and **liberty**.

Review useful structures

- 1 Work in groups and read the text again to find as many examples of past participles as possible. Then discuss whether each past participle functions as an attribute, adverbial, predicative, or object complement.

EXAMPLE

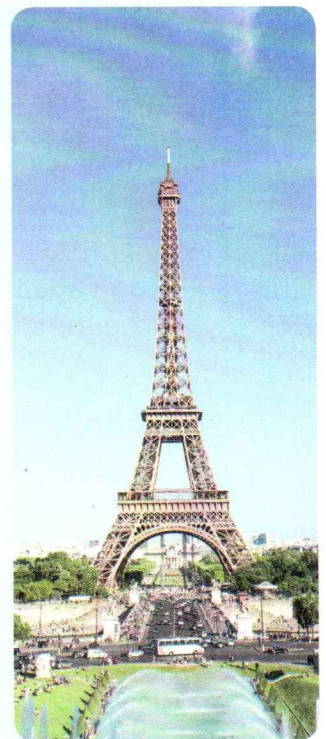
Located to the south of the equator, below many other countries on the globe, it is often informally referred to as “down under”. (located/adverbial)

- 2 Fill in the blanks with the help of the beginning letters. Then rewrite the sentences without using past participles and recognise the difference.

- 1 D _____ into 32 counties, Ireland brings in hundreds of thousands of visitors each year due to its **golf** tourism.
- 2 Cuba is just south of America, s _____ from it only by the **Straits** of Florida. It is a country k _____ for its exciting music and dancing.
- 3 With many parts of the world not m _____ yet, researchers have begun a project that involves travelling around the world and taking **sample** photographs.
- 4 I _____ by the first European settlers to Australia, the Sunday roast is now considered typical Australian food.
- 5 E _____ to the freezing weather, many brave tourists and scientists still choose to visit Antarctica.
- 6 I _____ by Chinese culture, many capital cities now have Chinatowns which are in themselves popular tourist attractions.

- 3 Below is a passage about the history of the Eiffel Tower before it was considered an iconic attraction. The text contains quite a few verb form mistakes. Correct the mistakes on your own. Then compare your corrections with a partner.

The Eiffel Tower is the most famous landmark in France, and one of the most visiting monuments in the world. But it wasn't always so popular. In fact, in 1886, just after its construction was first propose, many were strongly against it. At that time, it would have been the tallest building in the world, and many claim it would destroy the skyline of Paris, or perhaps even destroy some historic landmarks. The chief engineer, Gustave Eiffel, replied say that such a large monument was necessary to symbolise the great efforts of the French people as well as the great advancements in modern engineering, industry, and science. The next year, Eiffel gains approval and the tower was built in time to celebrate the 1889 World Fair in Paris. If you look carefully at the tower, you can still see the names of the 72 scientists, engineers, and mathematicians who help in its construction. Originally, the tower was planned to be taken down after 20 years, but it proved to be too useful as a communications tower, not to mention a giant advertisement board, before finally becomes the iconic attraction that we all know today.



Discuss what best represents a place

- 1 What do you know about New Zealand? Do some research to find out more about the following. Which attracts you the most?



1 the Bay of Islands



4 a geyser



6 manuka honey



2 the haka



7 bungee jumping



3 a kiwi bird



5 a sulphuric pool



8 a flock of sheep



- 2 Listen to a radio programme called *Amazing New Zealand*. Three speakers are talking about what they believe to best represent New Zealand. Match the speakers with their jobs and their choices.

Dave Edmonds

writer of the *Fantastic Life* blog

the geothermal parks

Felicity James

business journalist

the New Zealand experience

Jane Smith

editor of *World Nature* magazine

the Bay of Islands



- 3 Listen again and take notes. List the reasons given by the speakers why these three things best represent New Zealand.

the Bay of Islands:

the geothermal parks:

the New Zealand experience:

4 How do the speakers sum up their opinions?
Complete their sentences with the words you hear.

- 1 _____, the Bay of Islands is really what best represents New Zealand.
- 2 _____, the places that best represent New Zealand are the geothermal parks.
- 3 _____, I would like to suggest that tourists not just visit iconic places in New Zealand—they should experience its culture.

Sum up

When people talk about the same subject for a long time, they often end by stating the main point of their talk. Such summaries often begin with phrases such as *In summary*, *To sum up*, *All in all*, *In short*, and so on.

5 In groups, discuss what best represents China. Brainstorm the following topics and take notes.

- the cultural centre
- the economic centre
- the centre(s) of various cuisines
- the music centre
- the best place to see nature
- the best place to experience history
- the most diverse region
- the place with the best quality of life

6 Choose one place to give a presentation on. Use the expressions below to help you.

Describing special features of a place

It's a leading ...

It has/features ...

You can visit/see/enjoy ...

It's one of the top/best ... in the world.

It's celebrated around the world for ...

It's home to/of ...

It's a _____ centre.

Some of its attractions include ...

... allows people to ...

It's famous/well-known for ...

It's the centre of ...

Describe an iconic animal

1 Read the text and then answer the questions on page 21.

THE AMAZING ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA

Our topic today is "Creatures Unique to Australia", with questions answered by wildlife expert, Dr Jim Smith.

Australia has lots of unique animals, but which animal is a symbol of the country?

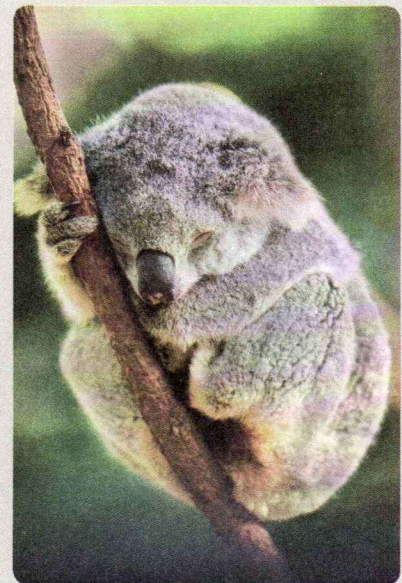
It has to be the kangaroo, as it has a wide **distribution** throughout the country. It's a tough animal that has to survive in a difficult environment. Also, it cannot walk backwards, so it is always moving forwards. This expresses the strength and resolve of the Australians as individuals and as a nation. Baby kangaroos weigh only two grammes at birth. They then find their way



into their mother's pouch—a kind of pocket—to stay safe and warm. They sleep and drink milk in that **temporary**, protected environment until they are about seven or eight months old. After this **phase**, they go out to try their legs. After they learn to jump, they gradually spend less time with their mother and learn to be independent. Kangaroos may look cute, but encounters with them don't always end so well. Kangaroos can hit and kick very hard, so please folks, if you see some kangaroos, remember they're not for petting!

Koalas are cute, and we see so many pictures of people holding them. But in many places in Australia, it is against the law to even touch them. Can you clarify that?

They are really quite cute, but the truth is, koalas are very sensitive creatures who can easily panic because of even small changes in their environment. They spend quite a lot of time eating, sleeping, and hanging onto tree **trunks**, so interaction with humans can cause them a lot of stress. Because of this, the government began to make laws against touching koalas, in the interest of animal protection, as well as public safety. So, if you see one in the wild, you shouldn't approach it to pick it up or even touch it. If you want to hold a koala, you have to go to certain licensed zoos where animal experts make sure that the koalas selected for each **session** are in a good state for human contact and that they are handled for only a limited time and on a limited **frequency** of occasions.



So, we've talked about some cute animals. What about animals which aren't so cute?

My favourite is a little creature called the Tasmanian devil. If you are out camping in Tasmania and come across one, the experience might scare you! Tasmanian devils hunt at night, so you won't usually see them, but you may hear their loud cries when they are fighting or eating. The noise they make could wake the dead. Frightening! They are about the size of small dogs and look like rather large black rats. They also have a terrible smell! Their diet is mostly dead animals. Fortunately, despite their name, they are generally not violent towards people.

Australia also has some animals that many people have never heard of, for example, the duck-billed platypus. Is that some kind of bird?

Not at all. While it may lay eggs in a **nest** like a bird, it's really a primitive mammal, with a unique **biology**. Its eggs **hatch** after about ten days, and then the baby platypus nurses from its mother like all other mammals. Its nose looks like a duck's bill, and it has feet like a duck's so it can dive under the water, but it's covered in hair. Do you know what's really strange about a platypus? The platypus doesn't use its senses of sight or smell to find food. It has a **capacity** to find food in the water by using electrical sensors in its bill. There are only a small handful of animals in the world that can do that!



- 1 When do baby kangaroos begin to spend less time with their mothers?
- 2 Why shouldn't you try to pet a wild kangaroo?
- 3 What do koalas spend most of their time doing?
- 4 Why has the government made it against the law to handle koalas?
- 5 What two things about Tasmanian devils can bother people most?
- 6 What do Tasmanian devils like to eat?
- 7 What makes the way duck-billed platypuses give birth so different from other mammals?
- 8 What is the unique way used by duck-billed platypuses to find food?

2 Read the text again. How does the writer describe these animals? Find at least three rhetorical devices the writer uses to arouse the readers' interest.

3 Write a description of an iconic animal in China.

- 1 In groups, brainstorm a list of four iconic animals.
- 2 Do some research and make notes. For example:
 - where they live
 - what they eat
 - what they look like
 - how they are different from other animals
 - how they interact with people
 - any other unusual or interesting facts about them
- 3 Using your notes, write a description of one of these animals. Remember to use some rhetorical devices to make your writing vivid and interesting.

4 Exchange your draft with a partner. See whether the writer does a good job of describing the animal. Take your draft back and revise it using your partner's comments.

5 Present your description to the rest of your class.

Assessing Your Progress

1 Complete the sentences using the correct forms of the words in the box.

distribution violence frequency herb hatch capacity

- 1 The iconic Beijing National Stadium, also known as the “Bird’s Nest”, has a _____ of 80,000.
- 2 Special tiger reserves with **fences** have greatly improved the _____ of the wild tiger population across India, and local police are now entitled to give longer **prison** sentences to hunters.
- 3 The _____ of the boat trips between the islands falls greatly in bad weather when stormy waves make such journeys especially difficult.
- 4 The largest native bird of Australia is the emu. Male emus are good fathers—after their babies are _____, they take care of them until they are nine months old.
- 5 _____ are an essential component of traditional Chinese medicine.
- 6 _____ tornado storms have been known to cause severe damage in America’s famous “Tornado Alley” area.

2 Fill in the blanks using the appropriate forms of the verbs in brackets. Then reorder these sentences to make a passage. Find out the link between the Grand Bazaar and the Silk Road.

- ___ A _____ (construct) as part of a larger political plan, the market was established to improve the city’s overall economy and prosperity.
- ___ B By the 17th century, the two markets and their surrounding areas had joined together to create a giant market that became an important part of the Silk Road, _____ (link) Europe to Asia.
- ___ C As for the future, _____ (inspire) by its own history, the **Grand Bazaar** (大巴扎集市) is still growing, with many shops opening nearby, offering cheaper prices that attract even the locals.
- ___ D Today, the Grand Bazaar is extremely iconic, _____ (mix) Turkey’s glorious trade history with its special brand of modern cultural tourism.
- ___ E At first, the Grand Bazaar _____ (sell) mostly textiles, but it soon expanded into selling books, jewellery, furniture, food, and a lot more.
- ___ F The market that was originally built was quite small in comparison to today’s Grand Bazaar. Some years later, another market _____ (open) nearby.
- ___ G The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, Turkey, has a long history _____ (date) back to 1455.

REFLECTING

- ⊙ Which iconic attractions in this unit have you heard about before? Which are new to you? Which impressed you the most?
- ⊙ Do you think you are becoming more confident in dealing with longer reading and listening passages by learning to take notes?
- ⊙ What do you think you are supposed to share when asked to describe a place you know well?
- ⊙ What rhetorical devices did you learn to use in your writing?
- ⊙ Overall, I thought this unit was interesting useful so-so difficult.

* Project: Introduce an iconic attraction in your city or town

1 In groups, brainstorm the kinds of things that people would most like to experience when they travel to a new place. Examples include:

- foods
- buildings
- celebrities
- festivals
- scenic views
- culture

Apart from these, what other kinds of things can you think of?

2 Do some research and come up with three iconic attractions that may best represent your city or town. Think about what people can experience there.

3 In groups, compare your lists. Discuss which attractions are the most impressive and representative, and come up with a final list of the top three.

4 Each of you should write about one attraction from the list and explain why it is worth visiting.

EXAMPLE

DUJIANGYAN

Originally constructed around 256 BCE by the State of Qin as an irrigation and flood control system, Dujiangyan is a remarkable example of ancient engineering skill and is still in use today. During the Warring States period, people who lived along the banks of the Min River were troubled by annual flooding. Qin governor and irrigation engineer Li Bing investigated the problem thoroughly. He led a team to construct a levee to redirect a portion of the river's flow. Then they cut a channel through Mount Yulei to discharge the excess water. After the system was finished, no more floods occurred. What's more, it made Sichuan one of the most productive agricultural regions in China because the redirected water from the Min River could be used for irrigation. If you visit Dujiangyan, you will see an unusual construction that resembles a fish's mouth. This famous attraction, Yuzui, together with two other important parts, namely, Feishayan and Baopingkou, were scientifically designed to control the water flow throughout the year. Recognised as a UNESCO heritage site, Dujiangyan has irrigated farms while preventing floods for over 2,000 years.



5 Give a presentation in class to introduce the city or town. You could even include a video of the attraction.



The Mbantua Festival

Mbantua means “awakening the desert”. The Mbantua Festival brings together hundreds of Aboriginal performers from across central Australia to celebrate their ceremonies, culture, and music through theatre, events, workshops, art, and film screenings.

BEFORE YOU WATCH

Match the following things.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Aborigines | A | “Alice” |
| 2 | an Aboriginal group in Alice Springs | B | good tucker |
| 3 | good food | C | billy cans |
| 4 | what the women are carrying on their heads in the race | D | indigenous groups |
| 5 | what a tourist decides to name her animal sculpture | E | non-indigenous people |
| 6 | white people | F | the Aranda people |

WHILE YOU WATCH

1 Check your answers in Before You Watch.

2 Circle the best words to complete the sentences below.

- 1 **Independent/Indigenous** groups from across Australia’s desert centre have come to share with one another on the **sacred/secret** grounds of the Aranda people in Alice Springs.
- 2 They might be using billy cans instead of wooden **bones/bowls** but the activities are helping keep alive traditions which might otherwise be **skipping/slipping**.
- 3 It’s presenting an alternative picture of a national **history/story** which can look very **apparent/different** for black and white Australians.
- 4 That’s what we are trying to do with this festival—bring non-indigenous people to us, **hear/share** our culture with them, and our history, in the hope that they feel like that part of the nation’s history is part of their own **dignity/identity**.
- 5 As night falls in the small **object/pocket** in the heart of Australia, people have been brought closer together, at least **for a few days/in a few ways**.

AFTER YOU WATCH

Discuss the following questions in pairs.

- 1 Why do you think this festival is important to Aborigines? What about non-indigenous people?
- 2 What interested you most in the video? Why?
- 3 What opportunities do you have to experience and learn about different cultures in China?