

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

READING

Australia's Underground Homes

Vocabulary Preview

- Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| 1. opal | <u>E</u> | A. different |
| 2. dig (v.) | _____ | B. the place where something is |
| 3. special | _____ | C. to make a hole in the ground |
| 4. underground | _____ | D. a kind of machine that makes cold air |
| 5. located | _____ | E. a kind of beautiful blue stone |
| 6. desert | _____ | F. a hot, dry, sandy place |
| 7. air conditioner | _____ | G. below the ground |
| 8. confused | _____ | H. not able to understand something |

- Use the above words to complete the sentences. Change the forms of verbs and nouns when necessary.

1. Canada is located _____ in North America.
2. It's very hot in this room. Let's turn on the _____.
3. I'm _____. I don't understand how to use this computer.
4. My aunt is very _____. She can speak six languages!
5. What can you find when you _____ into the ground?
6. There is a large, hot, dry _____ in Australia.
7. Birds live in trees, and some animals live _____.
8. Many of the world's beautiful, blue _____ come from Australia.

- Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. _____
2. _____

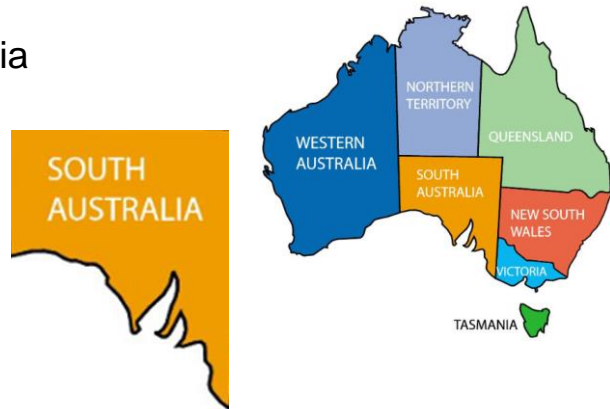
NAME: _____

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Topics: Apartments & Houses / Australia

Australia's Underground Homes



Coober Pedy is a town in South Australia. Not many people live in Coober Pedy. Fewer than 2,000 people live there. Coober Pedy is a small town, but it is famous. It is famous because many of the world's **opals**¹ come from this town. An opal is a kind of blue stone that is very beautiful, and it costs a lot of money. Opals, however, are not easy to find. People work hard to **dig**² into the ground to get them. Coober Pedy is famous for a second, more **special**³ reason: about 1,500 people there live in about 1,000 **underground**⁴ homes called “dugouts”!

The first question people ask when they find out about Coober Pedy is, “Why do the people in Coober Pedy live underground?” The answer is Coober Pedy is **located**⁵ in a very hot **desert**⁶. It is more than 40 degrees Celsius in the summer! People want to live underground because it is cool underground. Then, they don't need to use **air conditioners**⁷. There are also five underground churches, some underground hotels and a few underground stores. There is another good reason to live underground. It is very easy to make your small home become a big home. When you want more space to live, you can just dig a new room!

However, Andy Sheils lives in Coober Pedy and he says there is a problem. He says when visitors first come to his town, they don't see any houses. They are **confused**⁸. They say, “Where is the place? I don't understand!”

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How Much Do You Understand?

● **Complete the statements.**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Coober Pedy is a small | A. into the ground to get opals. |
| 2. People there dig holes | B. cool in the summer. |
| 3. The people there also | C. they first come to Coober Pedy. |
| 4. The homes are very | D. homes become big homes. |
| 5. It's easy to make small | E. town in South Australia. |
| 6. Visitors feel confused when | F. dig homes underground. |

Discuss

● **Discuss the following questions with your classmates.**

1. The article says the underground houses are cool in summer. What other good things are there about underground houses?
2. What bad things can you think of when you live underground?
3. Would you like to live in an underground house? Why? / Why not?

Write

● **Write one good thing about living underground (your own idea). Then, write one bad thing about living underground (your own idea). Compare your answers.**

1. _____

2. _____

Lesson "Australia's Underground Homes"

Grammar Focus Present Simple, There is / are

Vocabulary 254 words

A1 words-73% / **A2** words-11% / **B1** words-5% / **B1** words-2%

NOTE: Most of the more difficult words are covered in the page 1 vocab preview.

AWL Words in this text: *located*

Vocabulary Analysis by: *vocabkitchen.com*



Level Beginner (CEFR A1)

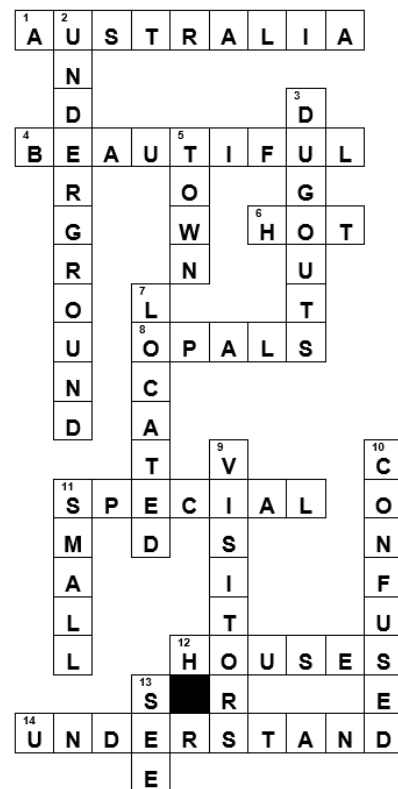
ANSWER KEY Page 1

● **Vocabulary**

- | | |
|------|--------------------|
| 1. E | 1. located |
| 2. C | 2. air conditioner |
| 3. A | 3. confused |
| 4. G | 4. special |
| 5. B | 5. dig |
| 6. F | 6. desert |
| 7. D | 7. underground |
| 8. H | 8. opals |

ANSWER KEY Page 3

● **Vocabulary & Spelling**



ANSWER KEY Page 4

● **How Much Do You Understand?**

1. Coober Pedy is a small town in South Australia.
2. People there dig holes into the ground to get opals.
3. The people there also dig homes underground.
4. The homes are very cool in the summer.
5. It's easy to make small homes become big homes.
6. Visitors feel confused when they first come to Coober Pedy.

Article Sources:

- *Coober Pedy*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coober_Pedy
- *Step Inside Australia's Underground Homes*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1XSKu3pK8A>