

# Explore Term

Australia- Wildlife, animals and why they live there



# What are we learning this week?

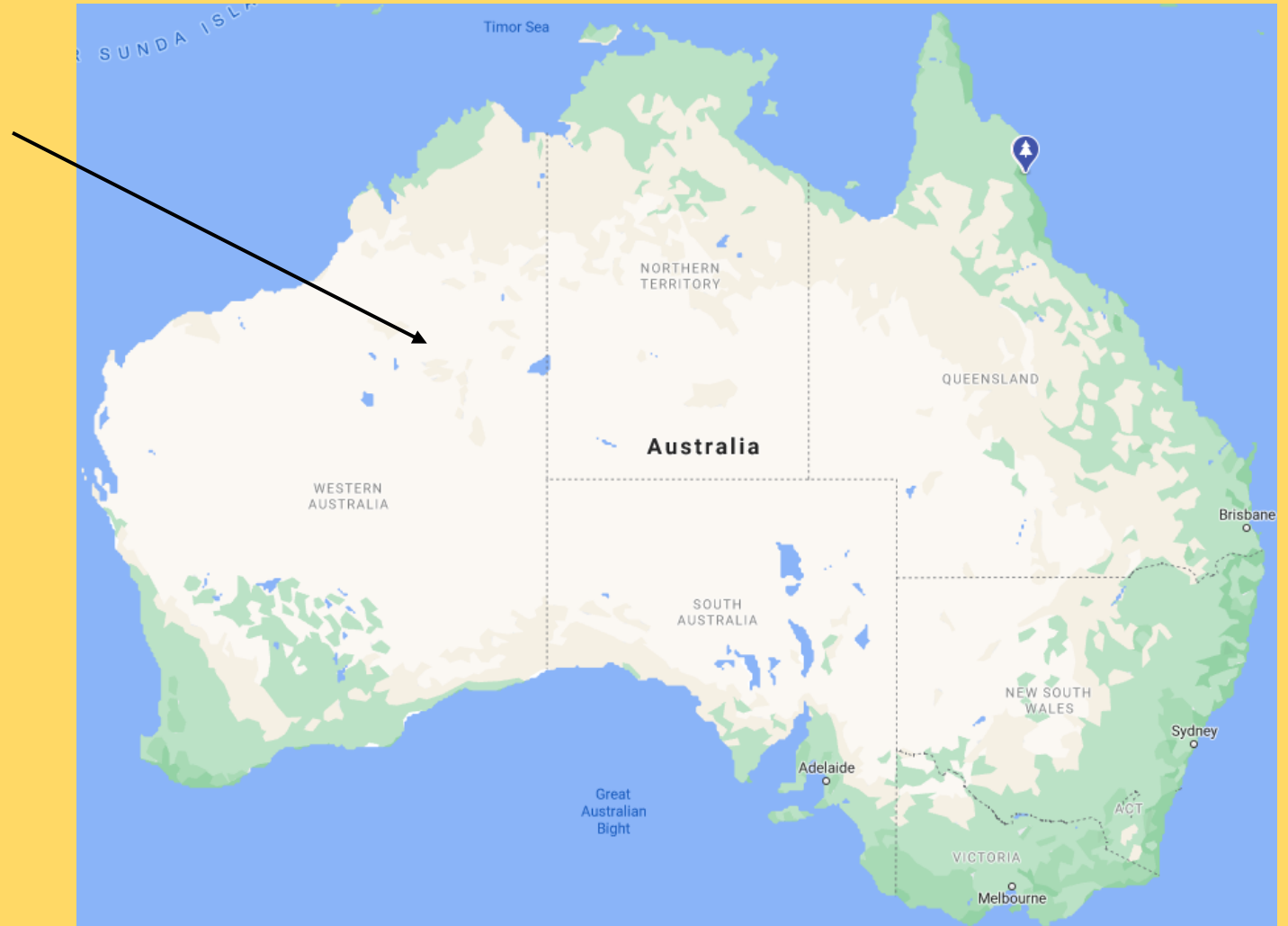
- Geography-
- This week we are going to learn about Australian wildlife, animals and why they live there.
  
- Science-
- We are going to learn about habitats and adaption this week. We will be focussing on Australian habitats and animals.

# Australian Physical Geography

- Last week you learned about the human geography in Australia. This week we are going to look at the physical geography.
- Another way of saying this is the Australian nature.
- Can you imagine what Australian's nature looks like or think of some Australian animals?

# What is the Australian landscape like?

- Look at this huge area that covers most of Australia. This is the landscape we will focus on this week.
- Why do you think it is white on the map? How is it different to the edges of Australia?



# Australian Nature

- Here is Australia's most common tree. The Eucalypts Tree.
- How is it different to the trees in the UK?
- What do you notice about the landscape around the tree?



Here are some more Australian plants.

Bottlebrush



Wattle



Can you describe these plants?

# Can you describe these plants?

Waratah



Spider Flower



# Task 1

- Have a go at drawing these plants and write 1-2 sentences describing them.
- Extra task- Can you compare them to plants found in the UK? How are they different?



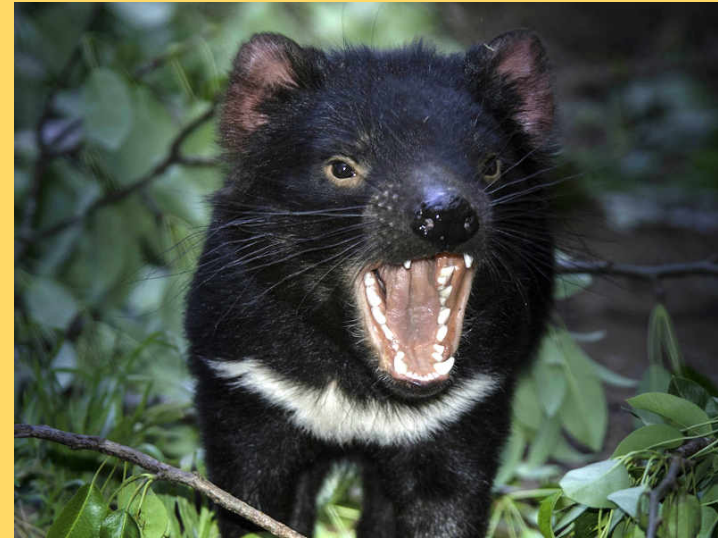
# Australian Animals

- Australia has lots of animals that do not live any where else on Earth. The reason for this is scientific and we will learn about this during our Biology lesson.
- For your second Geography task, I would like you to make a poster that showcases all the strange animals that are native to Australia.

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkCq54\\_ho-A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkCq54_ho-A)
- You could watch this video on Youtube that introduces lots of Australian animals.
- If you cannot watch the video, here are some of the animals.
- Have a go at researching your own Australian animals as well.



**Kangaroo**-These animals are classified as Marsupials.



**Tasmanian Devil**- These are the largest carnivorous Marsupials in the world. Carnivorous means they eat meat.



**Koala Bear**- These animals are Marsupials. They are similar to Mammals.



**Dingo**- This is a wild dog in Australia. You would not keep one of these as a pet!

# Biology



Hot and dry Australian environment.

- The habitat of lots of Australian animals is very dry and hot. This means where they live is extremely difficult for animals to survive.
- Lots of animals have adapted to this dry and hot environment by being able to do special things that no other animal can do. It is like their superpower.

# Adaptations

- In order for animals to survive in an Australian environment, they have had to adapt. Here are some of the adaptations Kangaroos have made to survive living in an open, hot and dry habitat.
- Kangaroos move around by jumping instead of walking like we do. This is because they live in an enormous open space, with few trees or obstacles in the way. Jumping is a quicker way to get around and uses less energy than running.

# Adaptations

- With huge back feet and a long tail as a counter balance, kangaroos can jump up to thirty feet in a single leap. They have strong legs and a thick, muscular tail, to help keep them balanced.
- Kangaroos also are able to go for long periods of time without water. They can do this because they reabsorb every drop of water from the food they eat.
- Kangaroo mothers carry their babies (called Joeys) in pouches on the front of their belly. This is to allow the babies to grow and develop before having to keep up with their parents jumping around.

# Task- Have a go at answering these questions

The kangaroo has adaptive traits that helps it survive in its hot, dry, open Australian habitat.

1. Name two of the kangaroo's adaptive traits and how it helps it survive.
2. Name two animals from your yard, local parks or wild areas (forests, prairies, wetlands, etc.) who use the same type of jumping locomotion as the kangaroo. For each explain how the animal is physically different from the kangaroo despite its jumping trait.
3. Why would the kangaroo's physical traits not work in a forested habitat?