

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

BLENDING LEARNING LESSON

Australia's Underground Homes!

Vocabulary Preview

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

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| 1. desert | <u>E</u> | A. to rise or increase; to go up |
| 2. climb | _____ | B. a kind of beautiful blue stone |
| 3. opal | _____ | C. to make a hole in the ground |
| 4. dig | _____ | D. a kind of machine that makes cold air |
| 5. absolutely | _____ | E. a hot, dry, sandy place |
| 6. air conditioner | _____ | F. a person who lives in a certain place |
| 7. resident | _____ | G. completely; 100% |
| 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. Are you absolutely sure that we have a holiday next Monday?
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 lives in London. She is a British _____.
5. What can you find when you _____ into the ground?
6. There is a large, hot, dry _____ in Australia.
7. The temperature is _____. Soon it will be too hot to go outside.
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. _____

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BLENDING LEARNING LESSON

Australia's Underground Homes!



TOPICS: Australia / Apartments & Houses

When you think of Australia, probably the first things that you think about are the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, or perhaps Ayers Rock, or even kangaroos – and if you are like many people, you may not know about a very special town in the Australian state of South Australia. The name of this **desert**¹ town is Coober Pedy. Not many people live in Coober Pedy. Fewer than 2000 people live there. One reason that not many people live there is because in the summer the temperature can **climb**² to as high as 52 degrees Celsius! That's 127 degrees Fahrenheit! However, it's not the weather or its small population that makes Coober Pedy special. Instead, there are two other things that really make Coober Pedy different from most other places. The first of these things is a kind of rock called **opal**³. Opals are very beautiful, but they are hard to find, so they are very valuable. People in Coober Pedy must work very hard to **dig**⁴ them out of the ground. Coober Pedy is also special for its homes. This is because most of the homes there are not above ground. Instead, about 1000 of its homes are underground homes. These homes are called dugouts. Can you guess why people make their homes underground? If you guessed that it has something to do with the hot weather, then you are **absolutely**⁵ correct! The underground homes in Coober Pedy are so cool that there is no need to use **air conditioners**⁶, even in summer! In addition to homes, there are underground churches, underground hotels, and even underground stores. However, Andy Sheils, a **resident**⁷ of Coober Pedy, says there is a small problem. He says when visitors first come to his town, they don't see any houses. They feel **confused**⁸ and they say: "Where is the place? I don't understand. Is anyone here?"

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Vocabulary and Spelling Practice

- Read the sentences on the right and complete the crossword. Look at the article again to help you.

1	2	A	U	S	T	R	A	L	I	A
								3		
4					5					
								6		
				7						
				8						
								9		
									10	
		11								
14										

ACROSS

1. Coober Pedy is located in ____.
4. An opal is a ____ blue stone.
6. A desert is a ____, dry, sandy place
8. ____ cost a lot of money.
11. Coober Pedy is ____ for two reasons.
12. About 1000 ____ are underground.
14. "Where is the place? I don't ____."

DOWN

2. There are ____ homes, churches and hotels in Coober Pedy.
3. The underground homes in Coober Pedy are called ____.
5. Coober Pedy is a small ____.
7. The town is ____ in a hot desert.
9. There is a problem when ____ come to Coober Pedy.
10. They feel ____ when they arrive.
11. It's easy to make a ____ underground home become a big home.
13. Visitors to Coober Pedy can't ____ many houses!

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BLENDING LEARNING LESSON

Australia's Underground Homes!

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. churches, hotels and stores. |
| 5. There are also underground | 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 homes are cool in summer. What other advantages are there to living in an underground home?
2. What disadvantages can you think of to living underground?
3. Would you like to live in an underground home? 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).**

1. _____

2. _____

NAME: _____

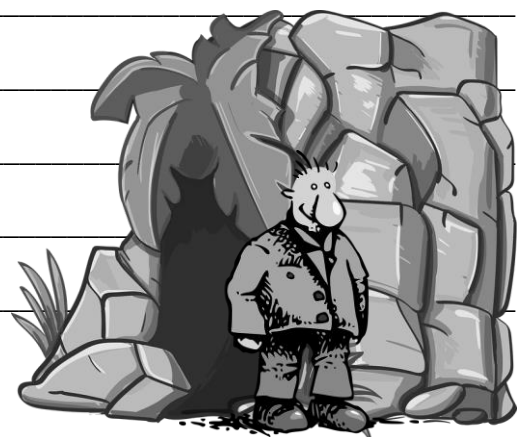
DATE: _____

BLENDED LEARNING LESSON

Writing

Would you like to live in an underground home?

- *Write a paragraph to answer the above question. Give at least three reasons.*



Title "Australia's Underground Homes!"

Grammar Focus Present Simple, There is / There are

Vocabulary 312 words
A1 words-70% / **A2** words-14% / **B1** words-4% / **B1** words-1%
Off List Words-11%
AWL Words in this text: *resident*
 Vocabulary Analysis by: *vocabkitchen.com*

Level Elementary to Intermediate (CEFR A2 to B1)

ANSWER KEY Page 1

● **Vocabulary**

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

Watch the matching video with subtitles!



ANSWER KEY Page 3

● **Vocabulary & Spelling**



ANSWER KEY Page 4

● **How Much Do You Understand?**

1. Coober Pedy is a small (E) town in South Australia.
2. People there dig holes (A) into the ground to get opals.
3. The people there also (F) dig homes underground.
4. The homes are very (B) cool in the summer.
5. There are also underground (D) churches, hotels and stores.
6. Visitors feel confused when (C) 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>
- *Coober Pedy: One of Earth's Hot Spots*
<https://www.npr.org/2007/08/17/12873915/coober-pedy-one-of-earths-hot-spots>

A special thank you to **Tyenne Debrouwere** for proofreading this lesson!