

Dear Dad!

Everybody says that if we (not / go) to Australia for the Christmas, we (miss) a lot of fun. The journey isn't too long. Uncle Andrew says that if you (travel) to Sydney by ship, it (take) you about 4 weeks. If Rosie or Mum (get) seasick, they (take) some medicine. When I (see) Rosie, I (tell) her more about our plans.

Nick.

b) Use the correct verb forms in Nick's message.

LESSON 3. Terra Australis incognita

Communicative area: reading and talking about Australia

Active vocabulary: central, coast, flat, holy, land, landscape, rock, the sky, star

- 1. Write down five things you think about when you hear the word 'Australia'. Compare your list with your classmates'.**
- 2. a) Read Mr. Rambler's answers to questions about Australia. Find out how many things from your list are mentioned in his answers.**

A. – If you look at the map of the world, you'll see that Australia is the biggest island in the world and its smallest continent. It's only a little smaller than the USA and it is bigger than Western Europe. By the way, it's 30 times bigger than Great Britain.

B. – It is one of the oldest **lands** in the world. Although there are some mountains along the east **coast** and some along the west coast, the centre of the country is very **flat**. You can drive for hundreds of kilometres through the great deserts of Western Australia along roads that never seem to go up or down.

C. – The **landscape** isn't boring at all, because in this great flat land there are some wonderful places. Although rain never falls and the land is very dry, the deserts are beautiful – red, orange and brown. There are great salt lakes, interesting plants and animals. And there are strange **rocks** that stand out of the flat desert floor. The most famous of these is the largest piece of rock in the world – **Ayers Rock**. It is a very special place in **central** Australia: the rock is red, it is 335 metres high and you can see it from many kilo-



Australian coast

sky above Uluru –
Ayers Rock



flat desert – typical Australian landscape



metres away. Native Australians call it Uluru and believe it is **holy** – there is magic there.

D. – They can't live in the deserts, on rocks or in salt lakes. In fact most of them live in the cities of the east coast. There are only about 24 million people in Australia and it's a very big country. You won't believe it, but there are ten sheep in Australia for each person who lives there.

E. – Before Cook all world maps used to have words *Terra Australis Incognita* (Southern Unknown Land) on them where Australia and Antarctica are now. Captain James Cook discovered Australia in 1770, but the first European visitors were the Dutch. They **settled** there in 1616. Later, in 1788, the first British settlement appeared in Australia – Britain sent some criminals there.

F. – It was much earlier. On old rocks in Australia you can see the so-called X-ray paintings of people and animals. They were left by the first Native Australians. Some of the paintings are about 40,000 years old



G. – The local wildlife, of course. But what surprised me most when I came there first, was the **sky**. If you look at the sky above Australia you'll see that it is absolutely different. The **stars** that you see are dif-



ferent. On the flag of Australia there is the Southern Cross – a group of stars you can't see if you look at the sky in Britain, for example.

b) You have read the traveller's answers. What do you think were the reporter's questions? Work in

pairs to write 7 questions to match each of the answers.

 **c) Listen to the conversation. Check yourselves. Guess the meaning of the words in bold.**

3. Match the words with their definitions:

a land	a) without mountains, not rounded, having little or no height (<i>высота</i>)
flat	b) a country; the surface of the Earth (<i>поверхность Земли</i>) that is not covered by water
a rock	c) the dry part of the Earth's surface, or any large piece of this, material mountains are formed from
a coast	d) related to God, morally good
holy	e) the land next to or close to the sea
central	f) the area above the tallest structures on the Earth, in which clouds, the sun, etc. can be seen
the sky	g) something far away in space which is usually seen from the Earth as a point of light in the sky at night
a star	h) a large area of countryside or a picture of the countryside
landscape	i) in, at, from or near the centre or most important part (of something)

4. Match the paragraphs (ex. 2a) and the titles below. There can be more than one paragraph for one title. Then find key words and phrases in the paragraph for each title.

HISTORY

AREA

LANDSCAPE

POPULATION

SPECIAL THINGS

5. Work in pairs. Take turns to answer the questions.

- Is your country flat or are there any rocks in Belarus? Do you know any countries that are flat? Do you know any countries where there are a lot of rocks?

- Why do people live mostly along the coast in Australia? Why don't they settle in the central part of the continent?

- Why do you think the Native Australians believe that Uluru is holy? What other holy places do you know?

- When did the first Europeans settle in Australia? Where and when did people first settle in your country? What parts of the country do they mostly live in?

- When can you see millions of stars in the sky? Why do you think you can see starry sky on the Australian flag? What other countries have got stars on their flags?

- Australia is a land of strange animals and millions of sheep. What kind of land is your country?

LESSON 4. Passport to Australia

Communicative area: listening to a museum guide talking about Australia

Active vocabulary: cattle, climate, divide, marine, mild, minerals, mining, production, state, territory, wheat, wool, oil