

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Australia Play

Performed By  
Mrs. Kernkamp's  
Class

## Beginning

Shannon: Welcome to our class play.

Angelina: The play was written by Mrs. Kernkamp and Ms. Beecher.

Noah: Some of the songs in our play are Australian folk songs, the others were written by Joseph Seserko.

Katelyn: We are having the play videotaped. So please no flash photography.

Lyndsay: After the show we will pose for photographs, introduce ourselves, and sign autographs.

Ben: Angelina: Thanks for coming.

Lauren: We hope you enjoy the performance.

## : AUSTRALIA- Song

Alex: The continent of Australia is often called “the land down under.”

Shannon: That’s because Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere.

Noah: That’s right! You can find it on the bottom half of Earth’s globe, below the equator.

Riley: Equator? What’s that?

Ben: It is an imaginary line that is halfway between the north and south poles.

Lauren: Oh, I remember. The equator splits the Northern and Southern Hemispheres in half.

Chase: That’s right, when we look into the night sky, we see the Big Dipper.

Teegan: In Australia, they see the Southern Cross.

Lyndsay: The aboriginals who were the first people to live in Australia call it Mirrabooka.

Katelyn: Yes! Legend has it that there once lived a kind and wise man. In his old age, the good spirit placed him in the night sky to help watch over the tribes.

Pierce: Tribes, are they the same as our Native American tribes?

Nathan: Well, sort of. They too were the first people to live on the land.

Colin: And they all have unique customs and languages within their tribes.

Eli: Aren't the seasons opposite in Australia?

Angelina: Yes, they are! When it is winter in Washington and the Northern Hemisphere, it is summer in Australia.

Patty: So, in December, it is summer in Australia.

Edward: Right!

Shannon: Doesn't Santa get too hot in his big, warm suit?

Teegan: No, because he changes into a t-shirt and board shorts! Doesn't everyone know that!

Pierce: Well, now I do!

Ben: Australia is surrounded by water, making it the only island continent.

Patty: If you go wading on Australia's eastern seacoast, you'll be wetting your toes in the South Pacific Ocean.

Chase: And if you go swimming on Australia's west coast, you'll be splashing in the Indian Ocean.

Alex: Wow, that is very interesting.

My Australia By: Mick Leigh

Colin: I love the dingo, it's a noble dog  
And I love the Wallaby too.

Edward: I love the Possums large and small  
And I love the Kangaroo.

Nathan: The Wedge-Tailed Eagle that flies so high  
And the magpie that wakes me with a song.

Eli: I love the sound of the didgeridoo  
And the singing of ancient song.

Colin: The whispers of the Silky Oak  
And the sigh of the Casuarina.

Edward: The Mountain Ash so straight and tall  
And the big red sun when the day is done.

Nathan: These are the things I dearly love  
this is my Australia.

Noah: There are a lot of interesting animals that live in Australia.

Katelyn: Lets play a game. I will tell you some animal facts and you have to guess the animal.

Edward: OK!

Riley: This animal lays eggs, has a beaver tail, otter feet, and it's venomous. Do you know what it is?

Colin: I know, it's a platypus!

Eli: Right!

Old Man Platypus By: Paterson

Lauren: Far from the trouble and toil of town,  
Where the reed beds sweep and shiver

Katelyn: Look at a fragment of velvet brown,

Drifting along the river

Lyndsay: And he plays and dives in the river bends.  
In a style that is most elusive,

Angelina: With few relations and fewer friends,  
For Old Man Platypus descends from a family most exclusive

Lauren: He shares his burrow beneath the bank  
With his wife and his son and daughter

Katelyn: At the roots of the reeds  
And the grasses around

Lyndsay: And the bubbles show where our hero sank  
To its entrance under water

Angelina: Safe in their burrow below the falls,  
They live in a world of wonder

Lauren: Where no one visits and no one calls,  
They sleep like little brown billiard balls

Katelyn: With their beaks tucked neatly under.  
And he talks in a deep unfriendly growl

Lyndsay: As he goes on his journey lonely  
For he's no relation to fish nor fowl

Angelina: Nor to bird nor beast, nor to horned owl.  
In fact, he's the one and only!

Patty: Did you know that there is an Aboriginal myth about the platypus?

Nathan: No way!

Katelyn: It is said that once the platypus were little men called Dinderi and they traveled from place to place catching and eating water snakes.

Chase: When they reached a lagoon the water snakes overpowered them and turned them into the first platypus.

Pierce: That's cool!

Angelina: Hey I've got one! This animal lives in eucalyptus trees, eats eucalyptus leaves, is a marsupial, and only lives in Australia.

Alex: Oh, I know, it's a Koala Bear!

Lyndsay: Close, but it's not a bear. The early Europeans who arrived in Australia saw the Koala and thought it looked a lot like a teddy bear.

Shannon: It isn't a bear but the name has stuck for all these years.

Ben: Right!

Lauren: Legend says that the laughter of the Kookaburra in the morning is a signal to the sky people to light the great fire that illuminates and warms the earth by day.

From Australia By: D.H. Lawrence

Shannon: All day the kookaburra is laughing  
From the phantoms of trees

Teegan: From the satire of nature  
It is not tragedy nor comedy

Patty: It is the echo of beasts  
The bitter chorus of thorns

Shannon: And flowers that have names  
That aren't easily remembered

Teegan: The kookaburra laughs from the trees  
From the branches of ghosts

Patty: But the sky remains blue  
And the eyes glow green in the night

♪ : KOOKABURRA– Song

Lyndsay: How about this one. This animal is also a marsupial. It has four legs but only hops on its big back legs. Its baby is called a joey, and it carries it in a pouch on its stomach.

Riley: That is too easy, it's a kangaroo!

Noah: Correct!

The Kangaroo By: Douglas Florian

Eli: The kangaroo loves to leap.  
Into the air it zooms,

Alex: While baby's fast asleep  
Inside its kangaroom.

♪ : TIE ME KANGAROO DOWN–Song

Angelina: What about this one? It has short legs and a very short tail, it lives in the mountains and forests, and it is a marsupial with a backwards pouch to help with digging.

Eli: Oh, that's a wombat.

Colin: Correct!

Weary Will By: A.B. Paterson

Noah: The strongest creature for his size  
But least equipped for combat

Teegan: That dwells beneath Australian skies  
Is Weary Will the Wombat

Chase: He digs his homestead underground  
He's neither shrewd nor clever

Riley: For kangaroos can leap and bound  
But wombats dig forever

Ben: The boundary rider's netting fence  
Excites his irritation

Patty: It is to his untutored sense  
His pet abomination

Noah: And when to pass it he desired  
Upon his task he'll centre

Teegan: And dig a hole beneath the wires  
Through which the dingoes enter

Chase: And when to block the hole they strain  
With logs and stones and rubble

Riley: Bill Wombat digs it out again  
Without the slightest trouble

Ben: The boundary rider bows to fate,  
Admits he's made a blunder,

Patty: And rigs a little swinging gate  
To let Bill Wombat under.

Noah: So most contentedly he goes  
Between his haunt and burrow,

Teegan: He does the only thing he knows,  
And does it very thorough.

Katelyn: Did you know that the Aborigines didn't need fences or boundaries? They separated the land by the spiritual connections that a tribe had to the land.

Lauren: In fact, the Aborigines were gatherers and hunters who lived off the land, unlike the English who became sheepherders and cattle drovers.

Teegan: I had a lot of fun learning about Australian animals.

Nathan: Yah, they're very unique!

A Nip In Time By: Mick Leigh

Ben: The Wombat said to the Kangaroo  
"Gooday my friend, and how are you?"

Pierce: "I'm glad you asked" said the Kangaroo  
"I'm sitting here wondering what to do".

Riley: "I've lost me jump and got the hump,  
So I can't be a Kangaroo  
Boo Hoo".

Nathan: "That's true" said Willy the Wombat,  
"A kangaroo's got to have jump,

Colin: But if you can wait, I've got a good mate  
And I'm sure he'll know what to do  
Yes, I'm sure he'll know what to do"

Ben: So Willy found Billy the Bull Ant  
And told him of Rodney Roo's plight

Pierce: Then Billy the Bull Ant bit Rodney  
Who jumped clear out of sight

Riley: "Strike me Blue!" said Rodney Roo  
"That was a heckava bite

Nathan: But thanks to you and Willy too  
I've got me jumpin' right

Edward: Is everyone ready?

Alex: Shhhhhhhhhhh! It's time to go to sleep.

## Outback

Edward: Wake up everyone, we're here!

Chase: Where are we?

Lyndsay: The outback!

Noah: What's the outback?

Pierce: It's the vast area in the middle of the continent. Australians call it the "outback!"

Noah: Oh yah! I remember, most of the outback is desert. It is dry, hot, and there aren't any trees.

Ben: Are there any cities in the outback?

Eli: No, and very few people live here.

Shannon: I remember a song called Waltzing Matilda.

Colin: Oh, me too!

Alex: Let's sing it!

 : WALTZING MATILDA-Song

Nathan: There isn't very much water in the outback either. A lot of the rivers and lakes are dry most of the year.

Colin: There is underground water, but it is too salty for people to drink.

Riley: But cattle and sheep can drink the salty water, and they graze on the grasses and shrubs.

Lauren: Did you know that there is a frog in Australia that will store water during a drought and bury itself in the sand until the rains come?

Lyndsay: The Aboriginals know about this clever frog, and they will dig it up and drink the water from it.

Pierce: They let the frog go without hurting it.

### : THE TOAD AND THE KANGAROO–Song

Eli: Here’s a fun fact! Toads are not native to Australia.

Chase: Really!

Patty: Yah, they brought them from Hawaii to help stop the beetle from eating the sugar cane crop.

Angelina: Well, that didn’t work. No one thought they should collect the toads and return them to Hawaii.

Teegan: Today, the toad has become a pest in Australia because they are toxic.

Shannon: Right! They don’t have any predators and the toad will eat just about anything it can swallow.

Edward: Look! What’s that?

Chase: Wow, it’s so beautiful.

Ben: That big rock over there is called Uluru. It is the largest rock in the world.

Teegan: Did you know that it’s known as an “island mountain?”

Shannon: What’s an “island mountain?”

Colin: That’s what is left after a mountain has eroded away into the sea.

Nathan: Wow, it looks like it’s glowing red!

Patty: That’s because the sand is red. At sunset, Uluru looks like a big red ball of fire.

Eli: Australians call this area “Red Center.”

Riley: Oh, I can see why!

Katelyn: And Aboriginals think of it as the most sacred of places. This is where many song lines and Dreaming tracks come together.

Uluru By: Mick Leigh

Alex: Heart of the land,  
Your deep buried spirit will rise again  
To reclaim the long lost vanished creatures hidden within you

Chase: Gondwana you are the living heart  
The dreaming giant  
Temple of dance,  
Where the spirits sleep.

Noah: Fountains of song,  
Where the desert wind sings.  
Remember the past.

Pierce: Home of the starmaker,  
You bask in the sun,  
Drink from the clouds,  
Count the passing of stars.

Noah: Timeless mountain,  
Shelter of spirits,  
Gave birth to the Rainbow Serpent,  
And life to the land.

Chase: Watching in silence,  
You will always remain,  
The sacred spirit which will return.

Alex: For I am, I am, lore of the land  
I am Uluru.

Lauren: I am getting really hot, lets go somewhere we can all cool down.

Angelina: Ok, I have just the place.

Ben: Is everyone ready?

Lyndsay: Shhhhhhhhhhhh! It's time to go to sleep.

### The Great Barrier Reef

Eli: Wake up everyone, we're here!

Teegan: Where are we?

Riley: We're at the Great Barrier Reef! Look at all of the beautiful colors.

Pierce: What's that coming at us!

Noah: Oh no!

Riley: It's a shark!

♪ : NEVER MINCE WORDS WITH A SHARK! –Song

Edward: What's that?

Patty: I think it's a jelly-fish.

### A Jelly-Fish By: Marianne Moore

Katelyn: Visible, invisible,  
A fluctuation charm

Angelina: An amber tintured amethyst  
Inhabits it, your arm

Katelyn: Approaches and it opens  
And it closes, you had meant

Angelina: To catch it and it quivers,  
You abandon your intent.

Nathan: What is the Great Barrier Reef made of?

Shannon: Coral and skeletons of billions of tiny sea creatures.

Lyndsay: It's located along Australia's northeastern coast. The reef is the largest coral formation in the world.

Colin: The Great Barrier Reef is made up of 2,500 small reefs and islands.

Lauren: No way! That can't be right.

Chase: I know, but it's a fact!

Little Fish By: D.H. Lawrence

Edward: The tiny fish enjoy themselves in the sea.

Pierce: Quick little splinters of life,

Alex: Their little lives are fun to them in the sea.

Nathan: What else do you know about this amazing reef?

Angelina: Here's a fun fact. It is the largest structure ever made by living creatures.

Alex: I can top that. Did you know that it is visible from the moon?

Patty: Wow!

Katelyn: Look down everyone. The water is so clear. You can see the bright colors and strange shapes of giant coral castles.

Chase: And this gorgeous underwater world is home to millions of glittering fish.

Riley: Look, I think I just saw a clown fish swim by.

Edward: Isn't Nemo a clown fish?

Colin: Yah, let's see if we can find him, he must be around here somewhere!

Teegan: But that will take all day and we haven't seen everything yet!

Ben: Lets go. I have just the place.

Pierce: Is everyone ready?

Lauren: Shhhhhhhhhhh! It's time to go to sleep.

### Tasmania

Lyndsay: Wake up everyone, we're here!

Noah: Where are we?

Shannon: I don't think we're in Australia anymore...

Alex: This is Tasmania and it's still part of Australia.

Edward: I thought Tasmania was an island.

Angelina: It is. Long ago Tasmania was attached to the mainland like a toe.

Lauren: Then, about twelve thousand years ago, the sea rose, covering the section of land that joined Tasmania to the rest of the continent.

Chase: So that's why it looks so different here.

Katelyn: Unlike the dry, flat outback, Tasmania is wet, cool, mountainous, and green.

Eli: Look, there's a seal.

Pierce: Where? Oh, I see it now.

Seal Lullaby By: Rudyard Kipling

Patty: Oh! Hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,  
And black are the waters that sparkled so green.

Chase: The noon, o'er the combers, looks downward to find us  
At rest in the hollows that rustle between.

Shannon: Where billow meets billow, there soft by thy pillow,  
Ah, weary wee flippering, curl at thy ease!

Colin: The storm shall not wake thee, nor sharks overtake thee,  
Asleep in the arms of the slow swimming seas.

Lyndsay: I know a fun fact about Tasmania. There is a bush that grows here call  
'Kings Holly.'

Chase: Oh, I've heard of it. Kings Holly is the oldest living thing on Earth.

Katelyn: Scientists believe it has survived for more than forty thousand years!

Riley: Wow, that's a really long time!

Angelina: It's really nice here but let's see something else.

Colin: Is everyone ready?

Teegan: Shhhhhhhhhhh! It's time to go to sleep.

Sydney

Shannon: Wake up everyone, we're here!

Lyndsay: Wow, who are all these people?

Patty: I didn't know that all of these people lived in Australia!

Eli: This is a big city!

Katelyn: Most of the people in Australia live on the east coast because they like the cool weather and enjoy spending time at the beach.

Ben: Oh, I remember seeing a picture of the Gold Coast. The sand is so pretty that it looks like gold.

Nathan: Look, what is that? It looks like a bunch of gigantic white shells.

Noah: That's the Sydney Opera House. People go there for special events where they see people from all around the world perform.

Alex: Can you hear that?

Lauren: What do you think it is?

Teegan: Oh, that's just a bunch of parrots.

Parrots By: Neil Paech

Lauren: Parrots  
With vermilion bands and beak

Lyndsay: Green iris camouflaging  
They are acrobats

Lauren: Swinging on trapezes of green gum leaves tips  
They carry their very own safety net

Lyndsay: Their green yellow tail feathers  
Which spray out like palm fronds parachuting.

Edward: Look, what is that in the bay?

Eli: I don't see anything.

Patty: Oh, I can see it! It looks like something swimming.

Riley: It's a dolphin!

Dolphins By: Zoe Bailey

Chase: The dolphins play in the sea like children,  
Diving, leaping ahead of the long ship,

Teegan: Rising out of the sparkling waves,  
Their jaws smile,

Shannon: Friends, they seem to say  
We are friends, play with us.

Patty: The water sprays from their curving backs  
And in the bubbles of their shining wake.

Chase: Small fish watch the game  
Round eyed and open mouthed

Teegan: However fast the ship, the dolphins are faster,  
Sliding joyfully through the emerald sea.

Patty: At last descending into the deepest water,  
They swim away from the ship and the bright sky.

Ben: I remember learning about Captain James Cook of the British Navy.

Nathan: He explored Australia's Pacific coast and landed in a beautiful bay.

Patty: Here's an interesting fact. Did you know that the botanist on board the ship was so amazed at the wonderful plants he saw, he named it Botany Bay.

Colin: Isn't the city of Sydney near the bay where his ship first landed?

Noah: Yes, it is!

Shannon: He sailed back to England and told everyone about the great land he found.

Pierce: The government in England wanted a place to send minor criminals.

Riley: Right, so they remembered Botany Bay and took convicted criminals there until 1880.

Angelina: The second time Cook sailed there, he didn't land in Botany Bay, he went to a bigger harbor down the coast that is now called Sydney.

Pierce: Isn't there a song about Botany Bay?

Lyndsay: Yep, lets sing it!

🎵 : BOTANY BAY-Song

Alex: There are too many people here, let's go!

Lauren: Ok, I have just the place.

Edward: Is everyone ready?

Ben: Shhhhhhhhhhh! It's time to go to sleep.

### New Zealand

Eli: Wake up everyone, we're here!

Colin: Where are we? It's a lot cooler here!

Teegan: We're in New Zealand. I think we are on the South Island.

Riley: Look, there's Mt. Cook!

Katelyn: Yep, we must be on the South Island.

Noah: It looks really big. Wow, there's even snow on top.

Colin: Look over there. I can see a bunch of sheep.

Patty: Wow, there are more sheep over there.

Chase: Did you know that there are more sheep in New Zealand than people?

Shannon: Yah, for every one person, there are 20 sheep.

Lyndsay: No way! That's a lot of sheep!

Lauren: Do possums live in New Zealand?

Ben: Yes, they are everywhere.

If You Go Softly By: Jennifer Kelly

Nathan: If you go softly out to the gum trees  
At night, after the darkness falls,

Riley: If you go softly and call  
Tch, Tch, Tch,  
Tch, Tch, Tch,

Eli: They'll come  
The possums!

Alex: If you take bread that you've saved  
They'll come close up, and stand

Colin: And eat right from your hand  
Softly,  
Snatching,

Nathan: Nervous  
The possums!

Riley: And if you are still, and move slowly,  
You can, very softly, pat  
Their thick fur, gently, like that

Eli: It's true!

You can!  
The possums!

Alex: You can do that all  
If you go softly,

Colin: At night,  
To the gum trees,  
If you go softly and call.

Alex: Don't Kiwi birds live in New Zealand?

Shannon: Yes, I hope we see one!

Eli: We won't see any now because they're nocturnal.

Edward: What is nocturnal?

Riley: That means they only come out at night, and they sleep during the day.

The Kiwi By: Douglas Florian

Pierce: Wings so small.  
No tail at all.

Edward: Very rare.  
Feathers like hair.

Pierce: Quiet and shy.  
Cannot fly.

Edward: They call you a bird,  
But I don't know why.

Conclusion

Shannon: Wow, this has been a great trip.

Noah: It has been a lot of fun traveling around Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand.

Lyndsay: We learned so many interesting things about the geography and animals.

Katelyn: Yah, I really liked seeing the koalas.

Nathan: Oh, I liked watching the kangaroos with their joeys.

I've Seen by: Marc Glasby

Lauren:

I've seen the desert bloom with color  
seen the red land turn to green  
seen the sunset's wild abandon  
The wide brown land is where I've been

Ben:

I've seen the mountains cloaked in thunder  
seen the mighty Fitzroy flow  
I've seen the land they call 'Down Under'

Shannon:

I've seen the whales that breach and blow  
seen a land of open spaces  
seen a sea of cobalt blue

Lyndsay:

I've seen a sea of smiling faces  
felt the thing they call 'true blue'  
I've walked a mile upon the footsteps

Noah:

Where pioneers trod once before  
packed my swag in lonely places  
pitched a tent upon the shore

Angelina:

I've walked the rim of Wolfe Creek Crater  
rode the mighty Murray down  
seen the ore they ship by freighter  
seen the bridge in Sydney town

Katelyn:  
I've been away to foreign places  
seen the world in other parts  
but nothing there I've seen replaces  
the wide brown land within my heart

Chase: Well, I think it's time to go home.

Teegan: Is everyone ready?

Angelina: Shhhhhhhhhhh! It's time to go to sleep.

Colin: Wake up everyone we're here!

Edward: Where are we?

Patty: We're back home.

Ben: What an awesome journey we have had!

Lauren: Boy, I can sure see why people who visit and live in Australia feel a strong connection to this unique and beautiful island!

🎵 : I LOVE A SUNBURNT COUNTRY-Song