

AUSTRALIA

Australia is one of the most remote places on Earth and the largest landmass in the continent of Oceania. This land was originally inhabited by the **Aboriginal Australians**, who have been living there for more than **65,000 years**.

Over the years, several European settlers arrived, but it wasn't until **1778** that the British established the first **penal colony** in Sydney Harbour. This was a place where people convicted of crimes were sent to serve their sentences. The prisoners were forced to work as part of their punishment while helping to develop the region.

Charles Darwin, the famous scientist who talked about the evolution of species, was fascinated by the variety of animals in Australia. Some animals were so unique that they even made him reconsider his own theory. Besides kangaroos and koalas, Australia is home to the curious **platypus**. Platypuses are very strange animals: they are mammals with duck bills, they lay eggs, and they even have venomous spurs.

In addition to these amazing creatures, the people of Australia also live alongside some more dangerous animals. For example, children learn from a young age to check their shoes to make sure there are no poisonous spiders inside.

Also, Australian beaches can be very dangerous. They are home to **great white sharks**, **box jellyfish**, and even **saltwater crocodiles**.

PHOTO

VIDEO

QUESTIONS

a) **Which animal fascinated Charles Darwin?**

- a) Kangaroo
- b) Platypus
- c) Koala
- d) Crocodile



b) **Why did the British establish a penal colony in Australia?**

- a) To explore the land
- b) To send criminals to serve their sentences
- c) To trade with Aboriginal Australians
- d) To build farms and cities

c) **What do children learn to do to avoid dangerous animals?**

- a) Check their backpacks
- b) Shake their shoes before wearing them
- c) Avoid going to the beach
- d) Wear protective gloves

d) **Which of these animals is NOT dangerous in Australia?**

- a) Great white shark
- b) Box jellyfish
- c) Kangaroo
- d) Saltwater crocodile

e) **What is special about the platypus?**

- a) It is a mammal that lays eggs
- b) It has venomous teeth
- c) It only eats plants
- d) It lives in the desert

