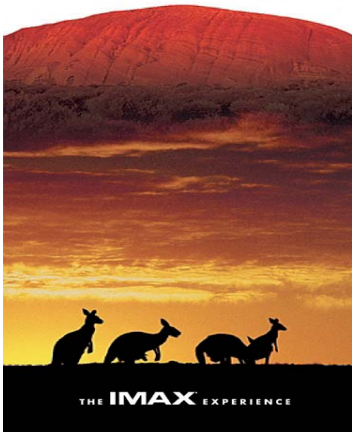




SCHOOL FILM SYNOPSIS

AUSTRALIA: LAND BEYOND TIME

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Australia is undoubtedly one of the most diverse of all countries on earth. In *Australia: Land Beyond Time*, we explore how life in this rugged, eroded land has adapted and flourished in a largely arid environment. See how the bounding giant red kangaroo has become more efficient than most athletes and learn how plants and animals cooperate to maximize their chance of survival.

Through computer animation and the wide-eyed lens of the world's most evocative motion picture format, you'll journey back in time to witness the birth and evolution of our unique land.

Your adventure begins more than 40 million years ago when Australia was part of the supercontinent of Gondwana. As this huge landmass broke up, Australia drifted north into the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean, while its sister continent, Antarctica, remained at the South Pole. Australia is comparable in size to the United States and is the largest island in the world. Isolated from other continents for millions of years, its plants and animals evolved in a unique way.

Australia is now the driest vegetated continent on earth. Millions of years of blasting winds and scorching heat have reduced the continent's towering peaks, which once rivalled Everest, to a vast expanse of sand. Gigantic and remote, the great expanse of desert is home to less than one percent of the population. Despite its inhospitable appearance, central Australia contains some of the most interesting and diverse ecosystems on earth.

While scarce and scattered, rainforests can still be found in a thin strip along Australia's eastern coastline. These moist ecosystems are home to an enormous variety of unusual and vibrant plants. They are among the Earth's oldest rainforests and still contain many unnamed and undiscovered living things. While most of Australia is dry and has an unreliable rainfall, the tropical north has two predictable seasons: "The Wet" and "The Dry." In some years these torrential rains will be more extensive than usual, and widespread floodwaters are forced into the continent's parched interior. This water travels slowly inland for many months and occasionally it reaches Lake Eyre, Australia's lowest point, 15.2m below sea level. Usually dry, this lake fills on average only twice a century, a scene captured magnificently on the giant screen.

Featuring the dramatic musical compositions of David Bridie, performed by some of Australia's finest musicians, and the engaging script enhanced by Australia's famous Poet Laureate, Les Murray, the film takes students on a never-before-seen journey through Australia.

Produced by the Australian husband and wife team of David and Sue Flatman, the film has been two years in the making so as to capture the unpredictable extremes of Australia's climate and the unique characteristics of its landscape and wildlife.

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Running Time: 40 Minutes

Curriculum Links:

Science & Technology: Stage 1: What's Alive; A Place in Time; HSIE: Wet & Dry Environments; Stage 2: Mini-worlds; Our Australia; HSIE: Australia – You're Standing In It; Stage 3: An Ancient Land; Environment Matters;

HSIE Stage 1-3: Units of Work: Wet & Dry Environments; Australia - You're Standing In It; Global Environments.

Science: Stage 4-5: Ecosystems.

Geography Stage 4-6: Investigating Australia's Physical Environments; Issues in Australian Environments. ICT Project: "Surviving The Elements" with a combined IMAX + Sydney Wildlife World excursion.

Geography Stage 6: Biophysical Interactions; Ecosystems at Risk.

Earth & Environmental Science Stage 6: Planet Earth & its Environment; Water Issues; Dynamic Earth; Environments Through Time: Formation of the Australian continent over millions of years; Caring for the Country: weathering & erosion; soil management; water management.

Biology Stage 6: Evolution of the Australian Biota; Blueprint for Life.

IMAX School Bookings

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