

Self-Education: World Cultures

Part 2



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About the Self-Education Units

Self-education is a major benefit of homeschooling. We often learn alongside our children, but we sometimes want to take it further and dig deeper. That's where our self-education units come in!

In the World Cultures units, you will explore cultures and people groups around the world while reading a piece of literature from each continent/region. Every week, you will be reading an article, watching several videos, cooking traditional foods, enjoying beautifully written poetry and literature, and watching movies to help you get immersed in different cultures as you study. Each of our Self-Education units will be similarly structured, to help you build a routine and stay consistent with your education!

Self-Education: World Cultures, Part 2 will focus on the continents of Oceania and Europe. This unit will take 8 weeks to complete as written, but feel free to take it slower if necessary.

You will need a notebook – nothing fancy; any spiral-bound notebook will do. This will become your journal. I include prompts every week to guide you and give you a way to process and think about what you are learning. There is also copywork included each week, but I encourage you to jot down any quotes that stand out to you as you read!

In addition to journaling, I've included quizzes for each continent. These are completely optional, but testing yourself and seeing what you've learned can be fun.

I hope you enjoy furthering your education and showing your children that learning never stops!

SAMPLE WEEK

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Self-Education: World Cultures, Part 2

Week 1

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Geography and Cultures: <i>National Geographic People of the World</i>	Oceania Pg. 151 – 152		Australia Pg. 153 – 158	Australia Pg. 158 – 162	Australia Pg. 162 – 165
Literature: <i>In a Sunburned Country</i>	Chapters 1 – 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5	Chapter 6	Chapters 7 – 8
Activity:	Article and Journaling: Aboriginal Art		Poetry: Samuel Wagan Watson	Cooking Activity: Pavlova	Journal Reflection
Media:		Geography Now! Australia			The Nightingale

Week 1

Day 1:

Geography and Cultures:

National Geographic People of the World – read Chapter 4 pages 151 - 152

Key Idea/Topic – Introduction to Oceania

Literature:

In a Sunburned Country – read chapters 1 – 3

To Think About:

- What examples did the author give to prove to you that Australia is an interesting place?
- How did Australians react when the author brought up the topic of Aborigines? What do you think made this such a hot topic?
- Look at a map of Australia and trace the journey the author was taking across the Outback.
- How did the author describe the Outback?
- You might like to watch this video and learn more about the Burke and Wills expedition: [What Caused the Ultimate Demise of Australia's Most Famous Explorers? | 60 Minutes Australia](#)

Copywork:

Done in one fell swoop, the journey to Perth takes nearly three days. Our instructions, however, were to disembark at the old mining town of Broken Hill to sample the outback and see what might bite us. So for Trevor and me the rail journey would be in two parts: an overnight run to Broken Hill and then a two-day haul across the Nullarbor. The train trundled out through the endless western suburbs of Sydney – through Flemington, Auburn, Paramatta, Doonside, and the adorably named Rooty Hill – then picked up a little speed as we entered the Blue Mountains, where the houses thinned out and we were treated to long end-of-afternoon views across the steep-sided vales and hazy forests of gum trees, whose quite respirations give the hills their eponymous tinge.

Activity:

Read and explore this website about Aboriginal Art from Artlandish: The Aboriginal Art Gallery: <https://www.aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art/>

Then watch this video: [Aboriginal Art. The Men of the Fifth World | Planet Doc Full Documentaries](#)

Journaling: Explore the different art pieces on the website and write about how they make you feel. What sticks out to you? What makes their art so unique?

Day 2:

Literature:

In a Sunburned Country – read chapter 4

To Think About:

- Did Bryson's brief history of Australia teach you anything new? What did you already know?
- What made colonizing Australia so difficult?
- How did Sydney become the city as we know it today?
- What is the author's favorite landmark in Sydney? Why?

Media:

Watch [Geography Now! Australia](#)

Day 3:

Geography and Cultures:

National Geographic People of the World – read chapter 4 pages 153 – 158

Key Idea/Topic – Australian Cultures – Arrernte, Australians, Cape York Peoples, Ngarrindjeri;

Geographic Insight: Australian Arrival

Literature:

In a Sunburned Country – read chapter 5

To Think About:

- At the beginning of the chapter, the author muses about place names. Have you ever stopped to think about how places and landmarks get their names? Do some research and learn about place names local to you.
- How did the Australian Gold Rush change the country?
- You might enjoy this video: [Victorian Gold Rush: The True Story of the Bendigo Miners | Absolute History](#)

Activity:

Read some of the poetry by Australian poet Samuel Wagan Watson. You can read about the poet and some of his poetry here: https://www.poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poets/poet/102-19572_Wagan-Watson

Day 4:

Geography and Cultures:

National Geographic People of the World – read chapter 4 pages 158 - 162

Key Idea/Topic – Australian Cultures – Noongar, Pintubi, Tiwi, and Torres Strait Islanders

Literature:

In a Sunburned Country – read chapter 6

To Think About:

- How does the author describe the capitol of Australia?
- Does your town or city have a slogan? If you could give it one, what would it be?
- Why does the author say that it is impossible for outsiders to understand Australian government? Do you think that is true of any country? Why or why not?

Activity:

As we tour the world through culture and stories, we'll also try out some of the delicious cuisine! Whenever possible, I'm going to aim to include a recipe for the national dish of a country or region being studied.

This week, you can try making Pavlova – a very popular dessert that both Australians and New Zealanders claim!

- Here is a recipe to try: <https://www.wandercooks.com/easy-australian-pavlova-recipe/>
- You can also watch a video here: [Perfect Pavlova Recipe | Preppy Kitchen](#)

Media:

Optional: If you have access to the streaming service MAX, I recommend watching Anthony Bourdain's No Reservations Season 5 Episode 12 - Australia

Day 5:

Geography and Culture:

National Geographic People of the World – read chapter 4 pages 162 – 165

Key Idea/Topic – Australian Cultures: Walpiri, Wurundjeri, and Yolngu

Literature:

In a Sunburned Country – read chapters 7 – 8

To Think About:

- How did the author describe the game of cricket? Why did find it odd that it was such a popular sport in Australia?
- How had the rabbit population affected the land? What did they do to try and correct the issue? Did it work?
- How did the author compare Canberra and Adelaide?
- How had the country changed since the 1950s? What was the author's commentary on this? How does it compare to the way your country has changed in that time period?

Activity:

Journaling – Today you should reflect on what you learned this week. Answer the questions on the Reflection Journal Activity found on page 4 of this guide.

Media:

It's movie night! Every week, I'm going to include a movie recommendation to enjoy! This week's movie is: [The Nightingale](#) (2019) – this R rated film is set in 1825, and we're following a young Irish convict woman as she chases a British officer through the rugged Tasmanian wilderness, bent on revenge for a terrible act of violence he committed against her family. Along the way she enlists an Aboriginal tracker who is also marked by trauma from a violent past. The Nightingale is an exploration of the horrors of Australian colonialism.

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