

Pocus Questions

Episode 16 11th June 2019

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Intere	st Rate Cut					
1.	What was the main point of the BTN story?					
2.						
3.	In exchange for borrowing money, the bank charges which is a	of				
	the loan.					
4.	Which back decides whether to increase or decrease interest rates?					
5.	What effect can low interest rates have on the economy?					
6.	What are some negative consequences of lowering interest rates?					
7.	What is inflation?					
8.	The basic interest rate is the lowest it's ever been. True or false?					
9.	Apart from cutting interest rates, what other things can be done to help the economy?					
10	Name three facts you learnt watching the BTN story.					
Tiana	nmen Square Anniversary					
1.	Locate China using Google Maps. Where is it in relation to Australia?					
2.	This year marks the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.					
3.	Describe the `tank man' image.					
4.	Ever since a revolution after the Second World War, China has been a	_country.				

5. Communism usually means the government has a lot more _____ over people's lives.

- 6. Why were young people protesting in Tiananmen Square?
- 7. What happened on the night of 3rd June?
- 8. How did the then Prime Minister of Australia, Bob Hawke react?
- 9. How is information about Tiananmen Square controlled in China?
- 10. What questions do you have after watching the BTN story?

Check out the **Tiananmen Square resource** on the Teachers page.

Meditation Class

- 1. Explain what the kids in the BTN story are doing.
- 2. What is meditation?
- 3. What do you focus on when you meditate?
- 4. It's though that meditation was practised in India up to years ago.
- 5. Which other countries or religions practise meditation?
- 6. Some studies have shown that when you meditate, you produce different_
- 7. What are some benefits of meditation?
- 8. What do the kids in the BTN story like about meditation?
- 9. How does meditation help kids in school?
- 10. What was surprising about the BTN story?

involved in BTN's Ask A Reporter. This week's topic is meditation.





Pet Camels

- 1. What did the BTN Pet Camels story explain?
- 2. What type of camels were in the BTN story?
 - a. Dromedary
 - b. Bactrian
 - c. Both
- 3. Why does the Mitchell family think camels make great pets?
- 4. When were camels first introduced to Australia?
- 5. Where did they come from?
- 6. Why were they introduced?
- 7. When the ______ engine came along, camels were no longer needed.
- 8. How many feral camels live in the deserts of Australia?
- 9. What impact are they having on the environment?
- 10. What are some solutions to the problem of feral camels?

Check out the Pet Camels resource on the Teachers page.

Arctic Ski Adventure

- 1. Retell the BTN Arctic Ski Adventure story using your own words.
- 2. How old are Monty and Ziggy?
- 3. Which country did they ski across?
- 4. Who were Monty and Ziggy raising money for?
- 5. The brothers are experienced skiers. True or false?
- 6. Why did they have to adapt to the climate?
- 7. What challenges did Monty and Ziggy face?
- 8. How much money did they raise for their charity?
- 9. What questions do you have for Monty and Ziggy?
- 10. What did you like about the BTN story?





Teacher Resource

Episode 16 11th June 2019

China Profile

Q Focus Questions

- Locate China using Google Maps. Where is it in relation to Australia?
 This year marks the _____ anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.
 Describe the `tank man' image.
 Ever since a revolution after the Second World War, China has been
- a _____country.5. Communism usually means the government has a lot more over people's lives.
- 6. Why were young people protesting in Tiananmen Square?
- 7. What happened on the night of 3rd June?
- 8. How did the then Prime Minister of Australia, Bob Hawke react?
- 9. How is information about Tiananmen Square controlled in China?
- 10. What questions do you have after watching the BTN story?

Activity

Before watching the BTN *Tiananmen Square Anniversary* story, ask students to make some predictions about what the story might be about. Students will compare and contrast their predictions with other classmates after viewing the story.

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What does this video make your WONDER?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- How did this story make you FEEL?

Hold a class discussion about the information raised in the BTN story. What questions do students have (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following questions may help guide the discussion:

- Where is China? Find using Google Maps.
- · What is life like in China?
- Why has China been in the news recently?
- Clarify students' understanding of communism and censorship.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

Key Learning

Students learn more about China and create a profile of the country.

@ Curriculum

Geography – Year 6
The geographical diversity of the Asia region and the location of its major countries in relation to Australia

Differences in the economic, demographic and social characteristics of countries across the world

Australia's connections with other countries and how these change people and places.

HASS - Years 5 & 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Civics and Citizenship - Year 6

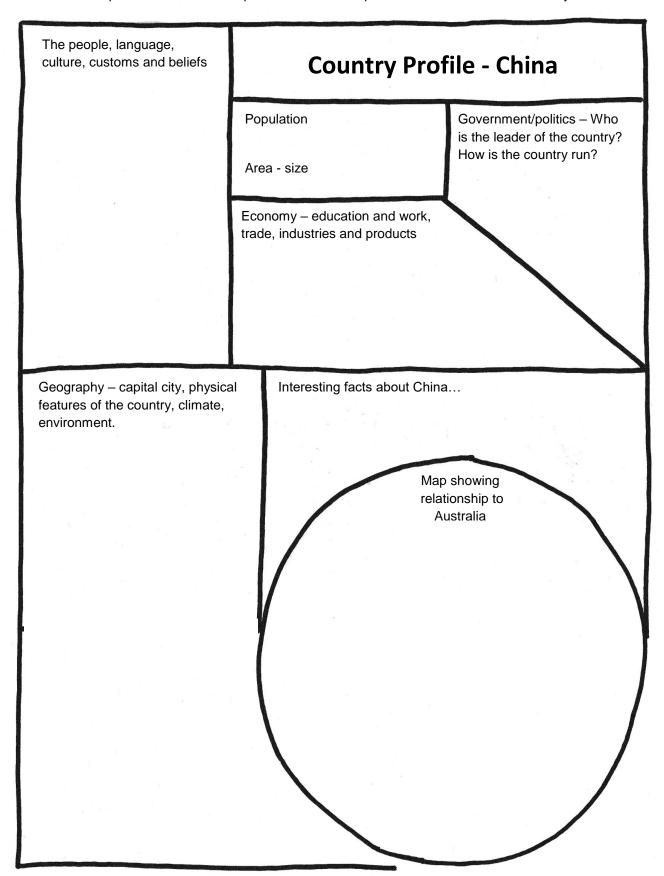
The obligations citizens may consider they have beyond their own national borders as active and informed global citizens.





Profile of China

Students will explore China in more depth and use this template to record the information they find.



Further Investigation

- How would your life be similar and/or different if you grew up in China?
- How would Australia be different if we didn't have any connections with China?
- Why is it important to learn about other cultures?

☆ Activity

Visual Literacy

Students look at the Tiananmen Square `tank man' image and respond to the following questions:

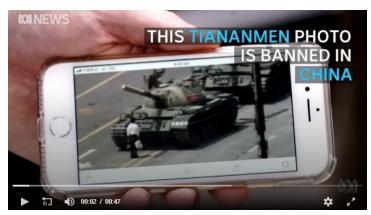
- What is happening in the image?
- Where was the photo taken?
- What do you think is happening?
- How does the image make you feel?
- What does the image tell you?
- What question/s would you like to ask about the image?
- Create a caption for the image.



ABC News - Reuters

Students watch the <u>short video</u> of young people in China looking at the banned Tiananmen Square `tank man' photo and respond to the following questions:

- How did the young people react to the photo?
- Why do you think a lot of people ran away when Tiananmen Square was mentioned?
- What did the couple who didn't want to be identified say about the photo?
- What was surprising about the responses of young people?



O Useful Websites

ABC News – Tiananmen Square 30th anniversary: How China erased iconic `tank man' image for young people.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-04/tiananmen-30th-anniversary-young-people-dont-know-tank-man/11152324

ABC News – China's automated censors crank up as Tiananmen Square 30th anniversary nears https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-27/chinas-ai-censors-ramp-up-ahead-of-tiananmen-anniversary/11151470





Teacher Resource

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Pet Camels

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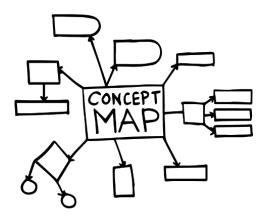
Activity

Class Discussion

Hold a class discussion about the information raised in the *Pet Camels* story. Create a class mind map with CAMELS in the middle. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- · What do you know about camels?
- What words would you use to describe camels?
- When were camels introduced to Australia?
- What were they used for?
- What are some different methods of controlling camel populations?
- What does it mean to `cull'?
- Why are some people against the idea of culling?

Students can research answers to questions they have about camels and present the information to a small group or the class.



Key Learning

Students will explore the issue of introduced species to Australia. Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry about the history of Afghan cameleers in Australia.

@ Curriculum

HASS - Year 5

The reasons people migrated to Australia and the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony.

HASS - Year 6

Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia since Federation (including from ONE country of the Asia region) and reasons they migrated.

The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation.

Science - Year 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.

Science - Year 6

With guidance, pose clarifying questions and make predictions about scientific investigations.





Six Hat Thinking

Working in pairs, students use Edward De Bono's *Six Hat Thinking* to explore the issues raised in the BTN *Pet Camels* story. Ask students to respond to the following questions:

feelings and emotions	How did the Pet Camels story make you feel?
facts and Information	What do you know about camels? What have you learnt from the story?
positives	Were there any positives from the story? If so, what were they?
negatives	What are some of the negatives or challenges that you learnt from the story?
creativity	Why is it important to find out more about the issue of feral animals?
thinking about thinking	What questions were raised during this activity? What do you want to learn further about this topic?



BTN Stories

Watch these BTN stories to learn more about camels and their impact on people and the environment.







Camel Cup



Camel Plague



Introduced species – Research Task

Students will investigate the impact that introduced species have on the environment and choose one to research. Include the following information:

- A description of the animal
- The country the animal came from
- · When and why the animal was introduced to Australia
- Where the animal lives in Australia (show on a map)
- The animal's habitat
- The impact the animal is having on native animals and the environment.
- Methods being used to control the animal (give at least one example)

Below are stories about introduced species on the BTN website to help students with their research. For example: <u>Dirk Harthog Island, Toad Training, Controlling Carp</u> and <u>Macquarie Success</u>.





Be a reporter for a day

Students will investigate the issue of controlling camel populations in Australia and write a newspaper article or online news report. Things to think about:

- Who is your target audience? Use age appropriate language and themes.
- Write a headline that is short and to the point.
- Use words and pictures in your report.
- Find information from a variety of sources.
- Present the facts and/or opinions clearly and accurately.

Activity

Questions for inquiry – Afghan Cameleers

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry about the history of Afghan cameleers, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one or more of the questions below.

- Who were the cameleers? Where did they come from?
- Why did they come to Australia?
- What was life like in Australia for them? Where did they live?
- What are some of the experiences that the Afghan cameleers had when they arrived in Australia in the 1860s?
- What contributions to Australian life did the Afghan Cameleers make?



Visual literacy

As a class examine the following historical images and hold a class discussion asking students what they see and what they think is happening. Individually students will choose one of the images and respond to the questions below.

Observe

- What do you see in this image? Write a short paragraph describing what you see in the image.
- Are there details you can't identify?
- Create a caption for the image.

Reflect

- What do you think is happening?
- How does the image make you feel?

Query

- What might have happened just before and just after the scene in the picture?
- What questions do you have about what you see in this image?





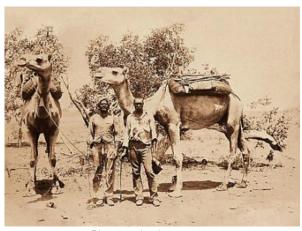
Unloading camels at Port Augusta, ca.1920. Source: State Library of South Australia



Bejah and Warrior
Source: State Library of South Australia (link to image)



Expedition party at waterhole Source: South Australian Museum (<u>link</u> to image)



Photograph taken c. 1891.
Source: State Library of WA (link to image)

Useful Websites

BTN - Camel Plague

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/camel-plague/10538408

BTN - Camel Racer

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/camel-racer/10524504

ABC News – Camels adopted as pets by families could curb https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-02/camels-the-new-backyard-pet/11133664

Department of Sustainability – Camel Fact Sheet http://155.187.2.69/biodiversity/invasive/publications/pubs/camel-factsheet.pdf

Australian Geographic – Australia's Afghan Cameleers https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/history-culture/2011/07/australias-afghan-cameleers/





BTN Transcript: Episode 16 – 11/6/19

Hey, how's it going? I'm Amelia Moseley and you're watching BTN. Here's what's coming up. The world remembers Tiananmen Square, we meet a family that loves a cuddle with their pet camels, and some Aussie kids go on an icy adventure.

Interest Rate Cut

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: But first to a story a lot of people found very interesting last week. It's about interest rates. which are now the lowest they've ever been in Australia. Now, you might be thinking that's actually not very interesting at all. But as Emma found out, interest rates can affect us all.

WORKER: Boss, I've got the latest figures. It's not good. We've got low wage growth, slow retail sales, falling house prices. It could be trouble for the economy.

WORKER: What are we going to do?

BOSS: We could deploy the weapon.

WORKER: What's the weapon?

BOSS: The Interest rate.

EMMA DAVIS, REPORTER: Last week was a dramatic one for the Australian Reserve Bank. It probably didn't go down quite like this.

WORKER: Are you sure boss?

But its decision to lower Australia's interest rate did get a lot of people talking. Now I know what you're thinking.

WORKER: Wait what is an interest rate?

Well let me explain. You probably know a little bit already about loans, right? They're the things that adults usually have to get when they buy a house. Houses are super expensive, and people don't often have that sort of money just lying around, so they borrow it from the bank. And not just houses - you can also borrow money for cars or holidays or businesses. But borrowing isn't free. In exchange for letting you hold onto its money the bank charges interest which is a percentage of the loan.. It's up to banks to decide how much interest they charge and give customers. But they often base that decision on a special national interest rate which is set by the reserve bank.

WORKER: What's the Reserve Bank?

BOSS: Do you even work here?

The Reserve Bank is Australia's central bank. It's not like other banks, you can't go there to get a home loan or a savings account. Its job is to make the big decisions about Australia's money, from what it looks like to how much of it gets printed. It also sets the cash interest rate. That's the interest rate that banks pay when they borrow money and it's a powerful tool when it comes to managing Australia's money. You see interest



rates have a big effect on the economy. When they're low, people like your parents tend to have more money to spend on other stuff and that helps businesses. So, if things aren't doing so well the RBA can lower interest rates and if banks decide to pass on those lower rates it can give the economy a boost.

WORKER: Cool sounds like a plan. Here, let me do it.

WORKER AND BOSS: No!

Lowering interest rates is a big decision. There can be serious consequences. Lower interest rates can encourage people to take out loans they can't afford. It can also lead to inflation which is when Australia's money essentially become worth less because there's too much of it floating around. In some cases, that's a good thing because it can make it easier to sell stuff overseas, but it has to be managed carefully and at the moment there's another big problem.

WORKER: They're already so low.

BOSS: I know.

Yep right now the basic rate is the lowest it's ever been.

Back in the 90s it was about 17.5 percent. But when the global economy took a dive in the late noughties so did interest rates and they've gone down heaps since then. For the past three years the RBA hasn't changed them but last week it decided that it needed to roll out the interest rate weapon. The trouble is now Australia's interest rates can't actually get much lower.

WORKER: What do we do if this doesn't work?

BOSS: I don't know.

It means they only get to use this economic weapon a few more times and that's got some people worried. Especially because economists reckon there'll be more interest rate cuts by the end of the year. While it's a good sign for the economy it is good news for borrowers and many are hoping it's what Australia needs to get back on track.

This Week in News

Some top-notch Aussies have been named in the Queen's Birthday honours list. It's a set of awards that are given out every year on the Queen's birthday, well not her actual birthday, just the day most Aussie states and territories choose to celebrate it.

You might recognise some of this year's winners like former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, ABC's current chair Ita Buttrose and singing dancing acting Wolverine AKA Hugh Jackman.

They were amongst the 12 people who received Australia's highest award the Companion Order of Australia.

There were big services Europe last week to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

It was a really important event in the Second World War when the Allies, including the UK, the US and Australia began to free Europe from the Nazis.

On June 6th, 1944 a massive military force set out from the UK towards France, including more than 150 thousand troops, more than 600 ships and more than 10 thousand aircraft. It was the biggest combined air,



sea and land operation in history.

Thousands of people died and last week world leaders honored them and the D-Day survivors. Aussie PM Scott Morrison was there to pay his respects and say thank you.

Meanwhile, if you were in Sydney last week you might have noticed some really big ships. These three Chinese navy ships came to Australia for a four-day visit. The PM said they'd been invited after the Aussie Navy visited China. But to many locals, including the New South Wales Premier, the visit was a complete surprise. The 700 crew members spend a few days hanging out in Sydney before heading off on Thursday.

Tiananmen Square Anniversary

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: You might have heard people talking recently about a place called Tiananmen Square. It's a famous landmark in Beijing, China's capital city. But it's also really famous for an event that took place there 30 years ago. Here's Emma with more.

The year was 1989. The world wide web had just been invented, Nintendo brought out the Game Boy and this song was everything. It was also a year of big political events including one in China that shocked the world. This image of a man standing up against a tank outside of Beijing's Tiananmen Square, became one of the most famous of the 20th century and a powerful symbol to many. But to understand how this came to be and why we'll have to go back a bit.

After a revolution in 1949, China became a communist country. Communism is a very different type of government to what we have here in Australia. It's based on the idea that everyone owns everything and government shares the wealth equally. But in practice it usually means the government has a lot more control over people's lives. In the early days of communist China there was a lot of poverty. But by the 80s things were changing a lot. The communist party started to allow more trade with other countries and that was helping the economy to grow. But many didn't like the way the communist party was running the country. They said there was a lot of corruption and they were unhappy with their lack of rights.

Young people started to join together to protest. Many had seen the way people lived in other countries and wanted China to be more like that. After a popular former Chinese leader died in April 1989 the protests got bigger. Tens of thousands of students gathered in a place called Tiananmen Square, a famous landmark in Beijing, where they held hunger strikes and refused to leave until their demands were met. On the 20th of May the Chinese government declared martial law. That means the army took control of the city but at first they weren't allowed to use force. That changed on the night of June 3rd. Thousands of soldiers moved towards Tiananmen Square. Some opened fire on people, even when they were trying to get out of the way. Hundreds possibly thousands of people were killed and videos like this caused outrage around the world.

Here in Australia, then Prime Minister Bob Hawke made an emotional speech.

BOB HAWKE, FORMER PRIME MINISTER: Thousands have been killed and injured victims of a leadership that seems determined to hang on to the reins of power at any cost.

He let ten thousand Chinese students living in Australia stay here permanently.

30 years on, the things that happened in Tiananmen Square are still remembered around the world and last week there were memorials to remember the victims including a big one in Hong Kong. But here in China Tiananmen is really controversial. After June 4th, 1989 the government tried to stop people from talking about the event. It admitted that the protests happened and that 200 civilians were killed but it said the students were trying to overthrow the government. It introduced tighter controls on the media and these days people in China can't easily research the Tiananmen protests on the internet. Young people aren't taught



about it in schools and many either don't know what happened or don't want to talk about it in public.

CHINESE STUDENT: There's really nothing I can say, I wasn't there and don't have an objective opinion.

Many people in China say it's pointless to dwell on the past and they'd rather celebrate China's achievements since 1989. It's now the world's second biggest economy and has a more open relationship with the outside world. But some still criticise China for covering up the past and say the country needs to acknowledge the tragedy so it can move forward.

Meditation Class

Reporter: Olivia Mason

INTRO: Now, do you sometimes get a bit stressed out? Well, some people reckon a good way to fix that is by meditating. It's something that's been practised for thousands of years and recently there've been calls to make meditation a regular part of the school day. Here's Liv with more.

School isn't always the most relaxing place, but these guys are seriously Zen.

LIANNA FALCO, TEACHER: Let's all just take a moment to be still, calm our bodies and focus on our breath.

REPORTER: This is meditation, a way of deliberately focussing your mind.

KIDS: Shh.

Oh sorry.

Basically, you try to focus on the present moment and switch off the other thoughts that are swimming around in your mind.

KID: You've just got to focus on your breathing and if your mind starts to wander you just go back to your breathing.

It's definitely not a new concept.in fact, meditation has been around for a really, really long time. It's been an important part of Buddhism since the 6th Century BCE. Siddhartha Gautama better known as the Buddha taught that it was a way to reach enlightenment. But he didn't invent it, in fact some reckon it was being practised in India up to 7 thousand years ago.

There's also evidence that people in China and Japan have been meditating for thousands of years.

And there's science to back it up. There have actually been some studies that've shown that when you meditate you produce different brainwaves and a lot of psychologists reckon it's a really useful way to feel less stressed, sleep better and feel happier.

These guys say they really enjoy it.

KID 1: My favourite thing about meditating is how it can relax you and make you think about now and not what's in the future.

KID 2: I feel more calm and I feel a bit warmer inside. Sort of like you're grabbing a blanket and your cuddling yourself with it.

KID 3: My brain doesn't work after 12 o'clock sometimes it will just help my brain keep working until school finishes.



Their teachers have noticed a big change too.

LIANNA FALCO, TEACHER: just by applying that 10 minutes in the day to switch off their mind and focus on their breath it allows them to cope with the pressures of their schoolwork and have a better day.

NICOLE JOANNI, CLASS TEACHER: It creates empathy, kindness and a general really positive vibe towards one another.

In this year's budget, the Federal Government put \$2.5 million towards a school program called Smiling Mind that teaches kids mindfulness and meditation. They reckon that meditation should be part of the school curriculum by 2020, and many agree.

LIANNA FALCO, TEACHER: I think it definitely should be part of the national curriculum. It helps them in their daily life especially as they move to high school and further on and it's a tool they can use anywhere, anytime and it improves their overall wellbeing.

KID 1: I definitely think meditation should be taught at every school because it can help kids relax their minds and focus on not homework, not sport, not what's after school but on them and what's now.

KID 2: I like the fact you close your eyes and focus on your breathing and to me it's like there's nothing else in the room.

Ask a Reporter

If you want to know more about that story, you can ask me live on Friday on Ask a Reporter. Head to the website for all the details.

Pet Camels

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: Another good stress reliever according to experts is hanging out with pets and you're about to meet a family with some unusual ones. They've adopted four camels and they reckon more Aussies could turn these pests into pets. Here's Jack.

The Mitchell Family had a farm, E - I - E - I - O, and on that farm, they had a camel? Wait what, a camel, that doesn't sound right. E - I - E - I - O. With a, hang on what sound does a camel make?

Camel: Huurrughmuaar

Right, well there you go, E - I - E - I - O.

Say hello to Spots, Humphrey, Garfunkel and Alfie the four new additions to the Mitchell farm. They're Dromedary camels, which you can tell from their one hump. Unlike their cousins, Bactrian Camels which have two humps. And Alice the camel who has no humps.

Because Alice is a horse.

While they might seem a little out of place on a cattle farm. These gentle giants help out around the property; protecting the cattle from wild dogs, eating up weeds and most importantly:

COURTNEY MITCHELL: I can go up and hug them and give them pats, they've never spat on me or anything or been aggressive or anything.

Well I'm glad they don't spit on you. The Mitchells are amongst a growing group of farmers who have jumped



on the camel pet bandwagon and they reckon there's a good reason, apart from the camel cuddles. You see Australia has lots of feral camels. So how did camels get here anyway?

Way back in the 1800s camels were imported to Australia from India and the Middle East. They were used for transport and carrying heavy things in the outback and played a huge part in building the railways that connected Aussie towns. But when the internal combustion engine came along they were no longer needed. So, thousands were released into the wild. And with no natural predators and vast areas to roam the camel population boomed. Today there are more than 300,000 feral camels living in the deserts of Australia. In fact, Australia has the biggest population of wild camels in the world, crazy right! But they're causing big problems for the environment and for farmers. Because they tend to destroy fencing, steal feed and drain water supplies. Yup, these thirsty camels gulp down millions of litres of water every year from dams and reservoirs.

That's why many state governments have been culling feral camels. But some reckon there are other solutions. There are quite a few farmers in Australia who are breeding camels for meat or milk or rides or races. They say there's a big opportunity for the industry to grow and some would like to see the feral herds rounded up and sent to farms. Where they can actually be really helpful.

MICHAEL MITCHELL, FARMER: The Camels will eat all of your foliage and everything and that's the number one thing for us they can eat weeds as well.

Of course, pet camels aren't for everyone and you can't just go up into the desert and take one home they can be a bit aggressive and they have been known to spit, no not you Garfunkel. Plus, you'll also need a big backyard, a livestock permit, and lots of food. Oh and of course plenty of hugs, something the Mitchell's aren't short of.

Quiz

What type of camel can be found in the Australian desert? Is it?

Bactrian camels

or

Dromedary camels?

The answer is Dromedary camels. They're the ones with one hump, remember? They come from North Africa and the Middle East. Bactrian camels, which have two humps, live in Central Asia

Sport

Ash Barty has confirmed her status as an Aussie sports legend. On the weekend she became the first Australian woman to win the French Open in 46 years. She beat Czech teenager Marketa Vondrousova 6-1 6-3

Barty put up an incredible display throughout the tournament, losing just two sets on her way to win her first Grand Slam singles title.

She has now moved to No. 2 in the world rankings. Way to go Ash.

Queensland has won the first game of the state of Origin 18-14.

The annual three-game contest between New South Wales and Queensland always causes a lot of



interstate rivalry and this year a lot of people were also talking about a moment before the match, when some players from both sides chose not to sing the national anthem.

They decided to boycott it because they reckon Advance Australia fair doesn't represent Indigenous Australians.

And Australia has lost to India by 36 runs at the Cricket World Cup.

The Aussies couldn't match the massive 352-run target.

Indian Captain Virat Kholi also showed some impressive sportsmanship sticking up for Aussie Steve Smith when he was booed by the crowd and asking them to clap instead.

Arctic Ski Adventure

Rookie Reporters: Monty and Ziggy

INTRO: Finally today, we're going to meet two young Aussies who recently took on a massive challenge. They set out to ski across Finland to raise money for charity. Just one tiny. problem., they'd never skied before. Here's Ziggy and Monty to tell you about it.

MONTY: I'm Monty, I'm 12 years old and I'm in year 7.

ZIGGY: I'm Ziggy, I'm 16 years old and in grade 11.

MONTY AND ZIGGY: Last year we had this crazy idea to participate in a cross-country ski event across Finland. We took this opportunity to raise money for a homeless shelter called Blind Eye Charities, located in Brisbane. We wanted to support them by asking people to sponsor our adventure.

There was one problem about skiing 440 km across Finland, and that was we'd never skied before.

We had to learn how to ski and how to adapt from our tropical climates in Brisbane to the freezing subzero climates in Finland. For example, minus 34 degrees, which we had one day.

We also couldn't let our finish mother or relatives down, as well as Blind Eye.

MONTY: It's snowing a lot. And tomorrow we're being interviewed about the ski event by a Finnish TV radio station.

It was cold. We couldn't ski. And we did get laughed at. Mostly by our parents.

ZIGGY: I can't feel my mouth. It's too cold.

And by the local news, who kinda thought we were crazy. But hey, we got on TV!

ZIGGY: I'm thinking high hopes but since it's 440 km and I've never skied before. also depends on the weather, really cold, I will complete it.

MONTY: I believe we can make it just depends on the conditions really.

We fell over a bit. A lot. But we learned quickly and covered some ground!

ZIGGY: I would probably say I'm the better skier out of the whole trip. I probably made more distance and quicker time.

MONTY: He made the most distance, but I had the better form. I could probably get farther.

ZIGGY: Probably still me.



At checkpoints, we got a chance to relax, and warm up.

MONTY: On the first day we went to the Russian border in a group of about 80 from many different cultures. We went downhill, we all fell over, kept falling over a couple of times. Ziggy went really far ahead.

ZIGGY: They got picked up by a snow mobile, I kept going further ahead, and got further ahead, I was freezing. I thought I had completed the whole 100 kays for the first day, but really it was the only first checkpoint and I'd only done 20 kilometres.

MONTY: We came up this term with the group called Finnish kilometres. Finnish kilometres is basically where you think you've done a long distance, but in actual fact, you've done a really short distance.

ZIGGY: Back home, my friends thought I was nuts and said I was going to die and get eaten by bears. Or wolves.

We skied 3-4 hours each day and completed about 100 kays of the 440 km course. It was a good effort. And we're thinking about doing it again. But the best bit was going home and handing over a cheque for \$2500 that we'd managed to raise. And proving to our friends we weren't completely crazy. Plus, we know how to ski now.

Closer

Well done guys. Well that's it from us for today but don't forget, you can go to our website for more stories and you can catch BTN Newsbreak on TV and online every weekday. We'll see you next week.

