

VISITING CANBERRA

Use the Canberra, Your National Capital Classroom Poster to identify where you will learn the following facts:



- The Australian Men's Volleyball team (the Volleyroos), who train at the AIS have an average height of 6ft 7in (2 metres)

- The Dickin Medal was awarded to any animal displaying conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty associated with, or under the control of, any branch of the Armed Forces or Civil Defence units during World War II and its aftermath. At least two pigeons attached to the Australian Army received these medals.

- Did you know that takes between 5,000 and 8,000 years to drive to the planet Pluto travelling at 100km/hr? NASA's New Horizons spacecraft did it in just 9.5 years!

- Did you know that using ice cores dug up from Antarctica scientists can collect and study air that is thousands of years old?

- "Old Canberra House was the first double story building to be constructed in Canberra."

- In the history of the Earth all of the world's land masses have come together to form a supercontinent several times. The most recent was Pangea ~280 – 200 million years ago.

- Late one evening in 1985 a man dressed as a chicken sat on the frontbench in the House. When spotted by the Speaker he fled, chased by the attendants. Was it an MP?

- Among the rarest trees growing at the Arboretum is *Sophora toromiro* which is descended from the last remaining tree on Easter Island. It was cut down in 1960 by a farmer for firewood.

- There are letters about Zombies in the NAA collection.
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- Did you know that the first woman ever to work as an architect in the USA, Marion Mahony Griffin, also worked on the design for Canberra?
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- Did you know, when running elections the Australian Electoral Commission prints over 43 million ballot papers and provides over 100,000 pencils so electors can cast their vote?
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- One of the most well-known and expensive works of art was made by throwing, dribbling and flicking paint. (Blue Poles)
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- Did you know a 3000 year old mummified Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) head was found on the mainland of Australia? It was discovered on the Nullarbor Plain in 1990.
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- The word 'selfie' was chosen as "Word of the Year 2013" by the Oxford English Dictionary and is an Aussie abbreviation of self-portrait.
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- A tigon is a cross between a tiger and lion. They are a tigon if the father is a tiger and a liger if the father is a lion.
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- Australia's first decimal coins were designed by an art teacher from Geelong named Stuart Devlin. He has gone on to much bigger things, and now works as the Queen's personal jewellery designer.
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- The idiom 'lightning never strikes the same place twice' is not entirely true. The Empire State Building in New York is struck by lightning on average 25 times per year. in Questacon's Awesome Earth gallery.
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- The Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) is used to make ice-cream sticks! It has no smell or taste and doesn't leave splinters in your tongue!
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