



**Is Australia an island, a
country, or a continent?**

**All of the
above!**



Australia is actually a land of opposites, with the highest temperatures over 107°F (42°C) and the lowest at -10°F (-23°C). Two-thirds of the country is desert, but there are also lush rain forests and mountainous regions. Can't get much more opposite than that!



It's raining. It's . . . snowing?

**Yep, it snows
in parts of
Australia!**

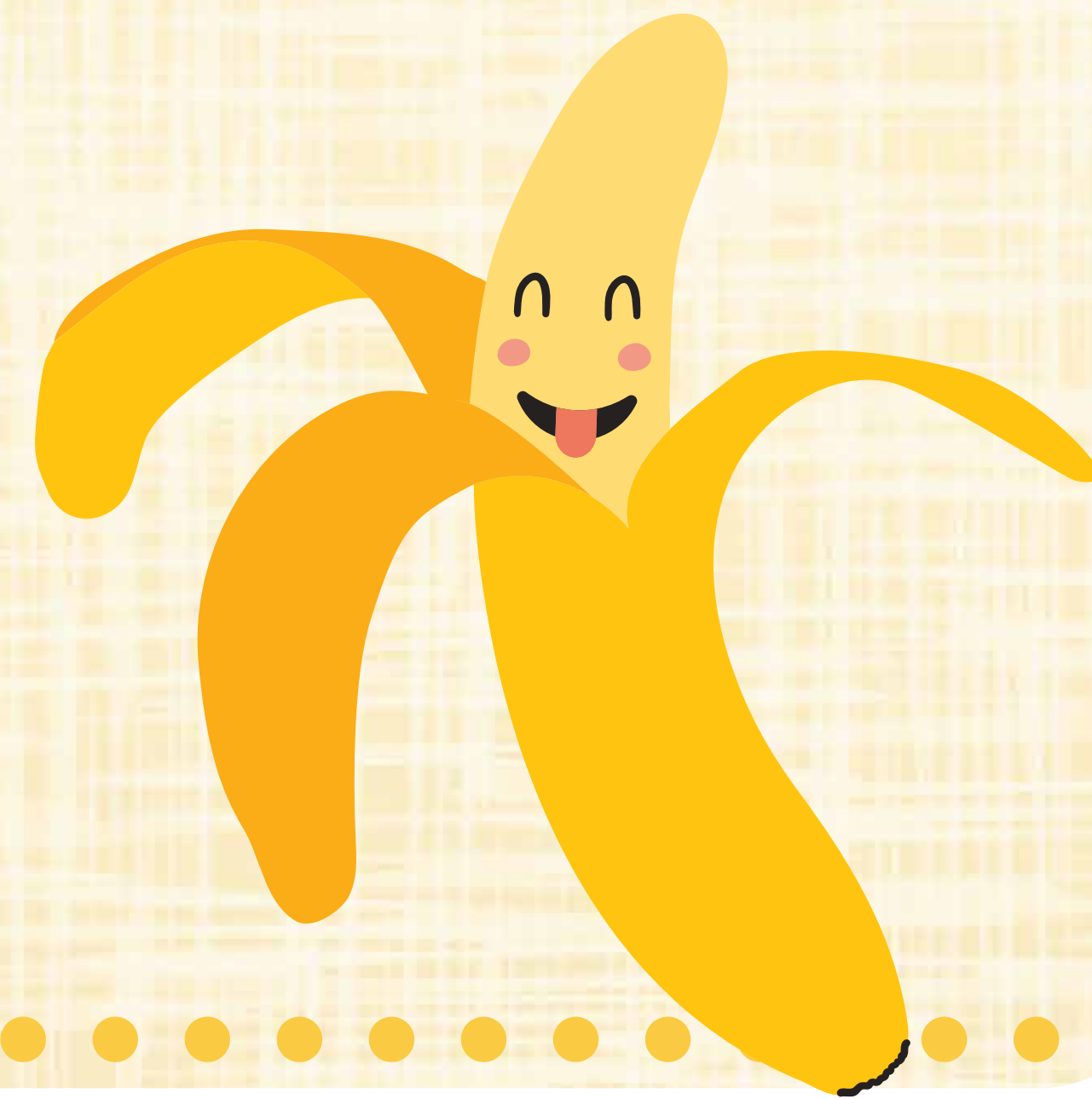


How would you like to live in a town called Batmania? One city, Melbourne, used to have that name.





**Other spots in Australia are called
Banana, Foul Bay, Woolloomooloo,
Nowhere Else, Mt. Hope, Wagga Wagga,
Tin Can Bay, Moo Ball,
Paradise, Dunedoo, Woy
Woy, Woolloongabba,
and Wollongong.**





Dislike going to the doctor?
**In Australia's outback, the
doctor comes to you by plane as
part of the Royal
Flying Doctor
Service!**



**The Royal Flying Doctor Service
has a fleet of planes that have
full operating
rooms and
intensive care
units inside them.**





Ever been to the beach?

**If you lived in Australia,
you'd have over
10,000 beaches
to choose from.**



Ho ho ho! One of the islands off Australia's coast is called Christmas Island.





**During election season, you
better not forget to vote.
Voting is not optional,
and people are
fined if
they don't.**



VOTE!



**Ever look up your house on
Google Maps? You can thank
Australians for
the invention of
those maps.**



**Australian inventions:
UGG® boots, the “selfie,” the
pacemaker, the ultrasound, the
black box in planes,
the electric drill,
and boomerangs.**



The longest fence in the world runs through Australia. It's called the Dingo Fence. Can you guess why it was built?



Uluru, the biggest monolith rock in the world, is like an iceberg on land because most of the rock can't be seen from aboveground. The majority of it sits underground.



**Uluru formed during the
Flood of Noah's day, about
4,300
years ago!**



Uluru, perhaps meaning giant pebble, is so big it would be hard to miss. In 2006, however, one man waved down some police officers to ask for directions to the rock. Ironically, he was only 330 feet (100 m) away from it!



How would you feel if a 12-foot (3-meter) crocodile tried to enter your tent? In 2006, a family was camping at a park when a croc tried to come in. Thankfully, it got scared and ended up running away.



Australia's Kakadu National Park has more lightning than any other place on earth. During the monsoon season, lightning slices the sky for hours each day. Yikes!

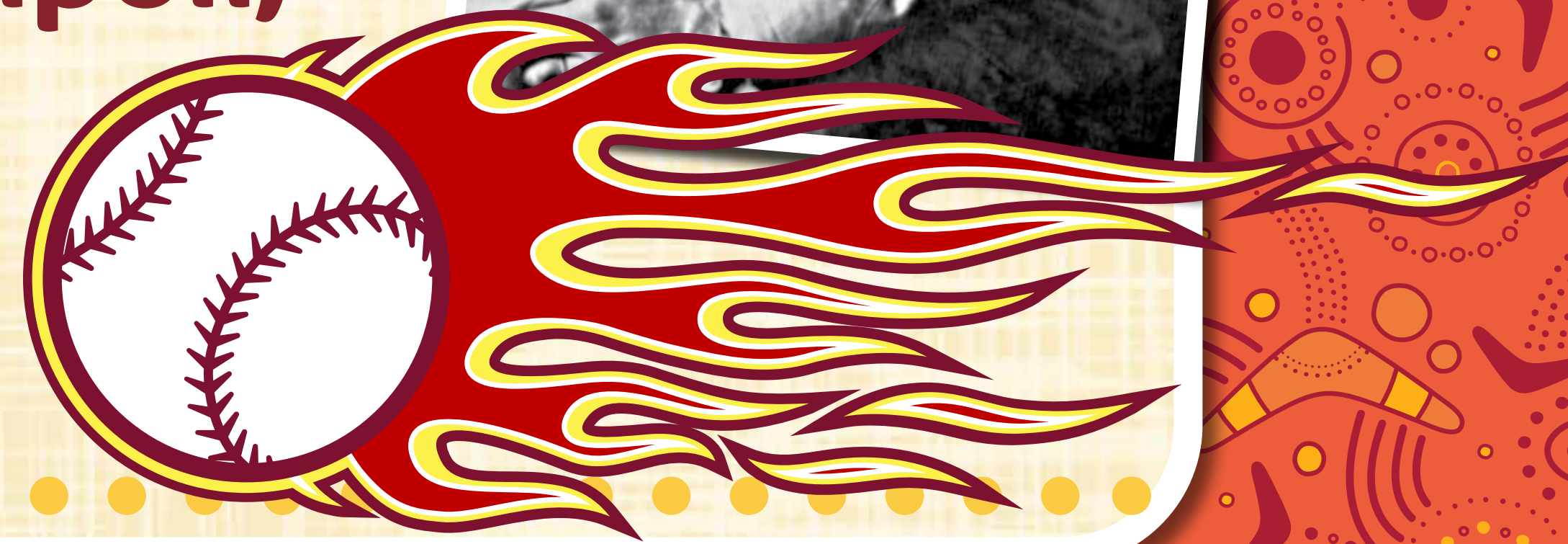




Have you ever heard of an ocean post office? The Great Barrier Reef, which has the world's biggest group of coral reefs, has the only floating post office in Australia.



During World War I, an Australian soldier named Leonard Keysor caught bombs thrown by the enemy and tossed them right back. During one battle at Gallipoli, Turkey, he kept this up for 50 hours.



**In 2010, Sydney Opera House
hosted a canine concert. One
thousand dogs howled
and barked for 20
minutes straight.
It was the first
ever dog concert.**



If you put all the roof sections of the Sydney Opera House together, they would form a perfect sphere. The architect, Jorn Utzon, got his inspiration for the roof from seeing an orange peeled.





A baby's skeleton has more bones than an adult's. So how does a person end up with fewer bones as he grows?

Some of a young child's bones fuse together over time.



God made skin different thicknesses. It's thicker on the soles of your feet (where it needs to be tough) but thinner on your delicate eyelids, for instance.





**Each person has on average
100,000 hairs on
their head. God
knows the exact
number you have
at any time!**





**If all the muscles in your
body pulled together,
guess what they
could lift?**

A bus!





Mucus is gross! Or is it?

**God made it to
protect your skin
and lungs, and
even help you
swallow food.**






Did you know that while you're sleeping, your eyes stay clean by rounding up the dirt?

Eye crud's cool after all!






No joke—your upper arm bone is called the humerus. But your “funny bone” isn’t actually a bone at all! That funny feeling you get after you bump your elbow comes from a nerve that bumps against your humerus.



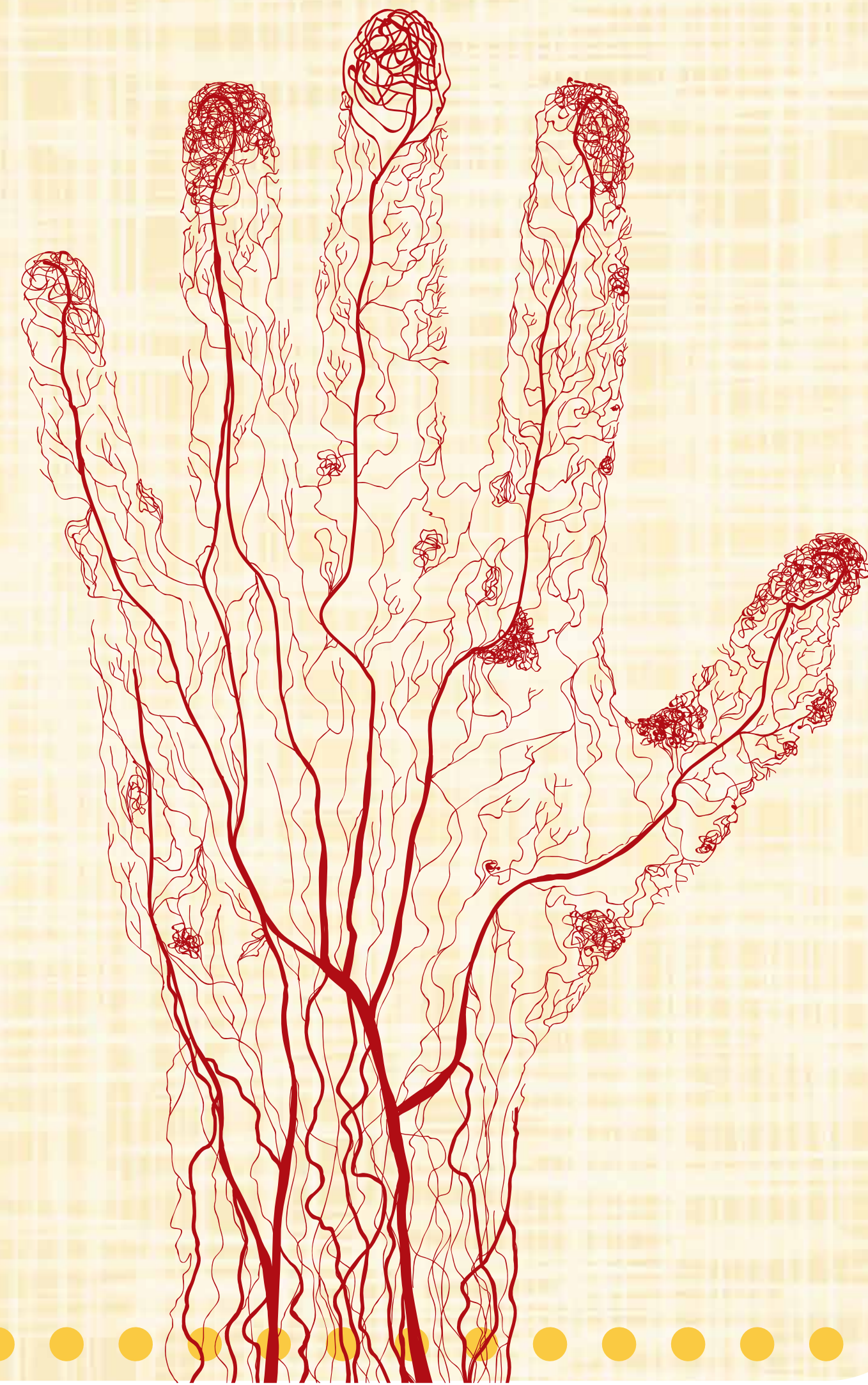




Some people dream in black and white and some dream in color. Wonder what your dreams look like?






**Talk about
globe-trotting! If
you laid out your
blood vessels end
to end, they would
circle the globe.**





**Get out the nail
clippers and clip
those nails. But wait!
Your fingernails grow
faster than your
toenails—up to four
times faster.**



The surface of your brain (the cerebral cortex) has lots of bumps and ridges. If you smoothed it out flat, it would be large enough to cover a bed.





Isn't it gross to throw up? But did you know God designed your body to vomit, cough, sneeze, or itch to get rid of unwelcome germ visitors?



God gave us amazing cooling systems. When we overheat, drops of perspiration pour out of sweat glands to cool us off. Isn't that "cool"?



In one human brain, there's probably more electrical circuitry than all the computer systems in the world put together.





Is that someone's cell phone ringing?

No, it's just Australia's
lyrebird, a creature that
can imitate the sounds of a
cell phone, chain saw, car alarm,
and more!





As well as eating chocolate bunnies at Easter, Australians eat chocolate bilbies, which represent a marsupial that looks like a combo mouse/ rabbit.



**Saltwater crocodiles can
grow up to 20 feet (6 m)
long. Yikes!**



**If you ever climb
a tree to get away
from a crocodile,
don't forget that
crocodiles can jump
more than 6 feet
(1.8 m) in the air!**



**Australia's blue-tongued
lizard can break off its tail
if caught by
a predator.
That's
convenient!**



**Baby crocodiles chirp in
their eggs when
they're ready
to hatch. How
... cute?**



**A baby
echidna is
called a
puggle.**



Echidnas look like their feet were put on backwards, but this design actually helps them dig and burrow below the earth better.





Ever own a pet lizard?

It might be hard to have a pet goanna.
This Australian lizard can be over six
feet long and can
run 20 miles per
hour (9 meters
per second)!





**Did you know a flying fox
isn't actually
a fox?**

**It's really just
a giant bat.**



**The smallest jellyfish is
the size of
an adult's
thumbnail.**



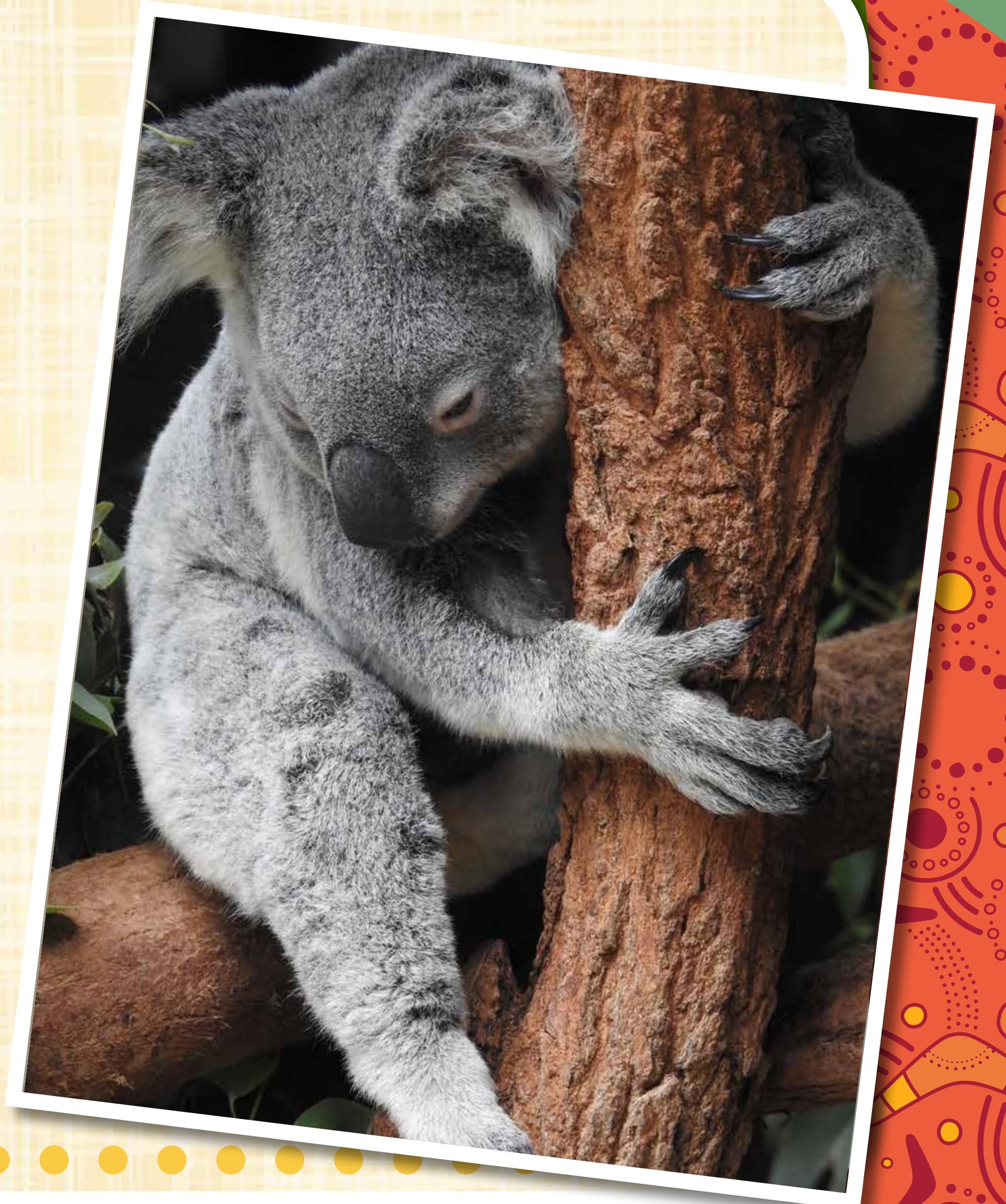
In the mood to hop? A kangaroo can jump across a two-lane highway in a single bound!



**A wallaroo is another
member
of the
kangaroo
kind!**



**Koalas snooze
up to 20 hours
a day. What
sleepyheads!**



There are about 50 million large red crabs that live on Christmas Island. When they migrate, so many cover the roads that people have built bridges and tunnels to help them safely cross.



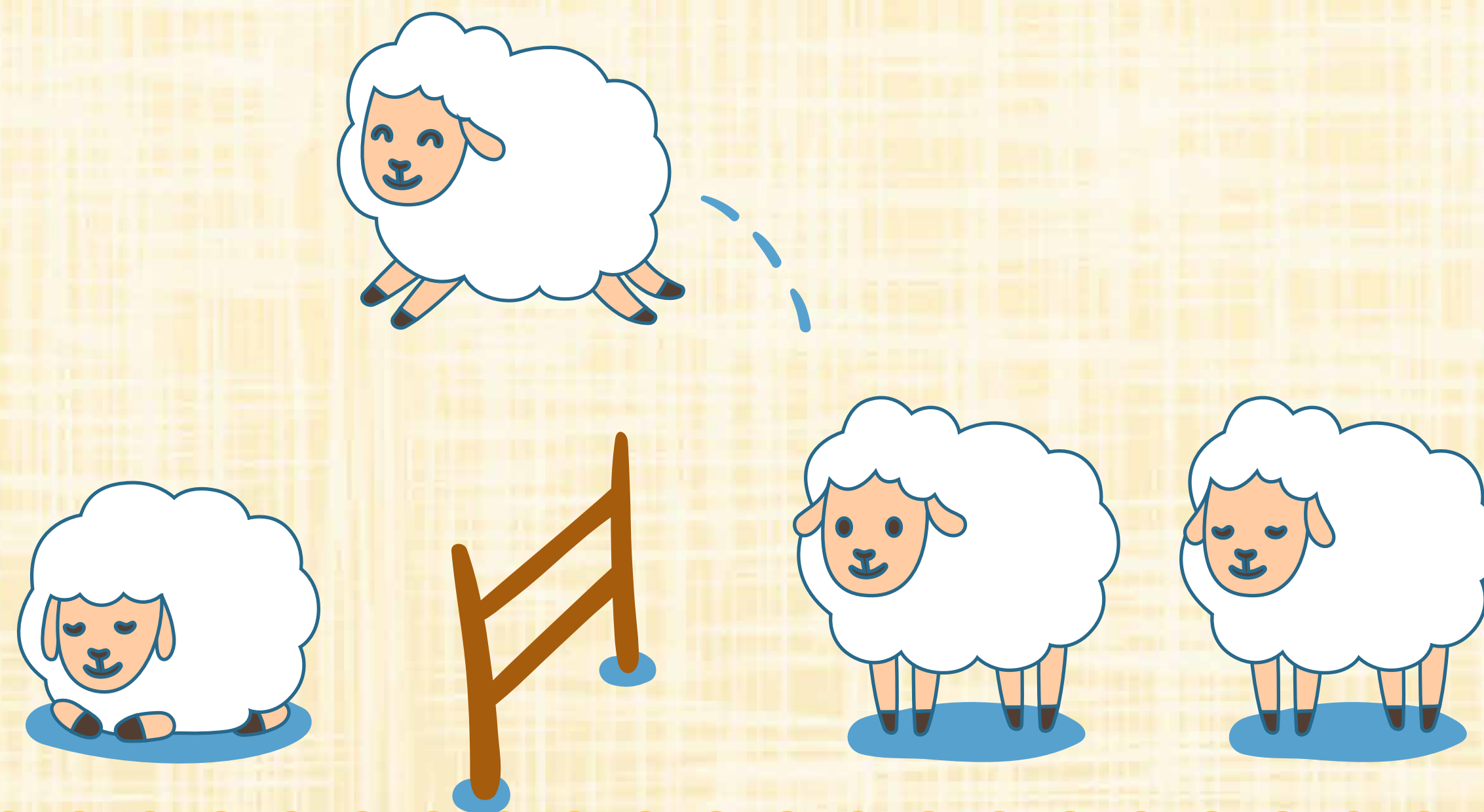
Robber crabs have been known to steal silverware and watches out of people's homes. What unusual thieves!



Are you a snake lover? You may want to plan a trip to Australia, where 20 of the world's 25 most venomous snakes live.



Australia has roughly 104 million sheep. There are four times as many sheep in Australia as there are people.





Did you know crocodiles have strong muscles that can snap their jaw shut, but weak muscles for opening their mouths?

A rubber band around the snout is all that's needed to keep a croc from opening its mouth.



In the early 1900s, Australian people shared ideas on how to reduce the amount of shark attacks. Some people suggested using explosives to blow up the sharks. Others thought mounting machine guns on the cliffs to shoot the sharks would work.





Ever heard of a pistol shrimp?

This incredible sea creature is small, but when its claws shut, the sound is louder than a jet engine. The sound stuns its prey.





**Did you know kangaroos
never stop growing
during their whole
lifetime?**

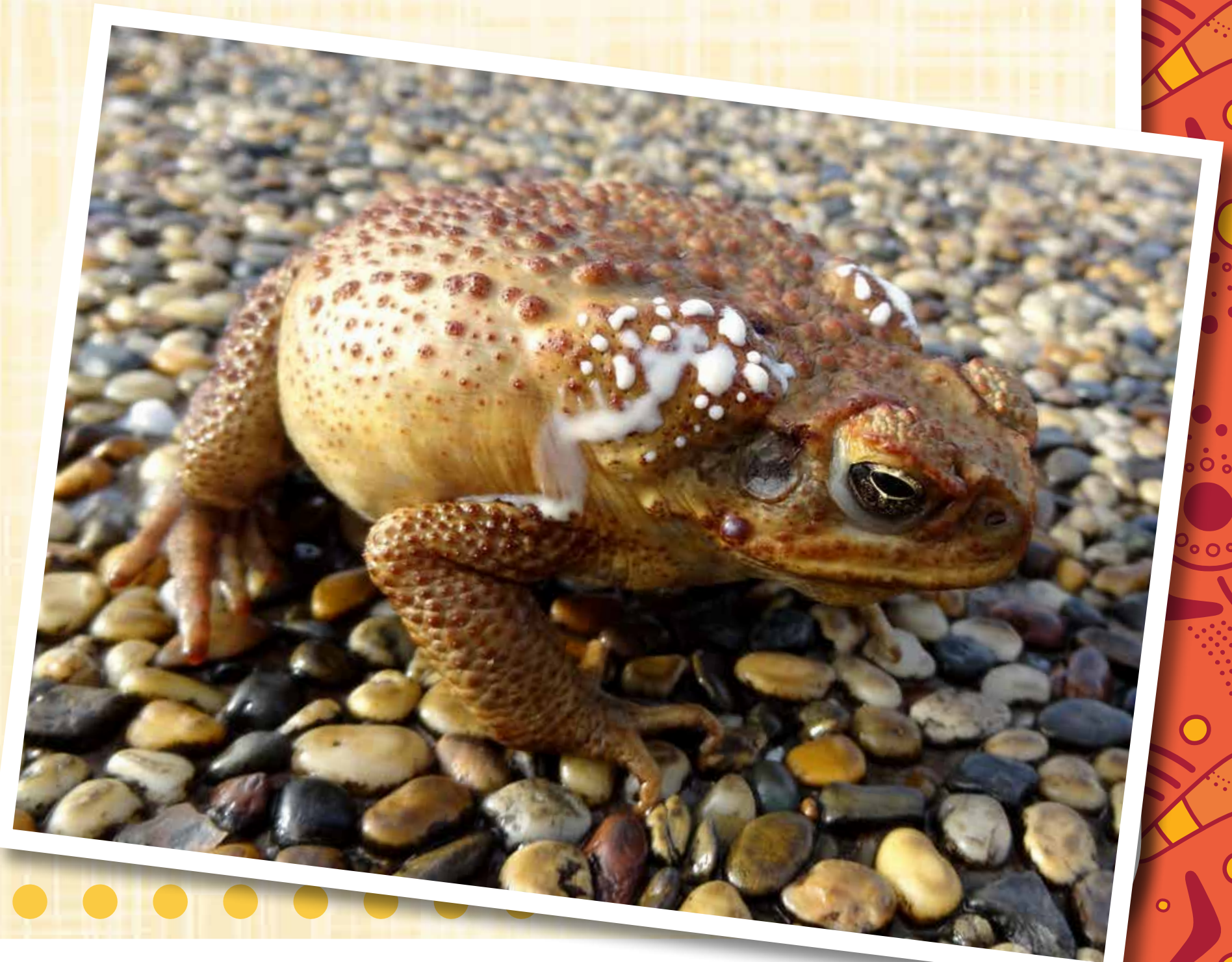
**Good thing humans
don't do that!**



Australia's little penguins are the world's smallest penguins, weighing 2 pounds (0.9 kg) each and measuring just 10 inches (25 cm) in adulthood. Awww!



**Cane toads release a poison
from their skin. Weirdly
enough, this
poison has
been used by
dentists to cure
toothaches.**



There are about 30,000 kinds of flies in Australia. One specific kind likes to feed on secretions around people's eyes and mouth. Yuck! As a result of people trying to flick these pests away, the "Australian salute" was born.

