

## Bushfire in Australia

In Australia, about **100** fires continue to burn; about 7.5 **million** acres have been scorched so far.

In the state of **Victoria**, tens of thousands of residents had to evacuate due to the fires. However, officials told residents who **live** in remote places that it was too late to leave, so they should take shelter **indoors**.

11 people have **died** in these fires. One **volunteer** firefighter died during a fire and two were injured when high **winds** rolled their truck.

Hundreds of thousands of people signed a **petition** to cancel Sydney's New Year's Eve fireworks show. They want to use the \$4.5 million for the show to **help** firefighters or the people affected by the fires. The Australian **Prime Minister** said that he will not cancel the **show**.

*Difficult words: to scorch (to burn) remote (far away from cities or other places), sign a petition (to sign a document that asks the government to change something).*

1. Listen to the **audio** on Online Klassenzimmer and fill in the following words into the corresponding gaps.

indoors	Victoria	volunteer	winds	help	million
died	petition	Prime Minister	100	show	live

2. Use link 1 to convert the amount of km<sup>2</sup> that have been burned so far and compare it to the size of Switzerland.

km<sup>2</sup> burned in Australia: **30'351 km<sup>2</sup>**

Size of Switzerland in km<sup>2</sup>: **41'285 km<sup>2</sup>**

3. Are these statements about the text true or false?

	True	False
The government has told people who live far away from cities and villages to stay inside their houses.	X	
Thank god no one has died in the fire so far!		X
A lot of people want to give the money that usually is spent on the fireworks, to help the firefighters and the victims of the fires.	X	
The Prime Minister agreed to this wish.		X

4. Look at **picture 1**. You can see the world famous Sydney fireworks. Which **two** of the following Sydney sights<sup>1</sup> can you see on the picture too?

- Famous Sydney harbor bridge
- The Royal Botanic Garden
- Queen Victoria Building
- The Sydney Tower Eye
- Sydney Opera House

5. What would you do if you were the Prime Minister? Would you cancel the fireworks or not? Give at least one reason for your answer.

**Individual answer** .....

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6. With the help of Google Maps find and label the locations mentioned in the news report:

- The state of Victoria
- The city of Sydney



<sup>1</sup> Sehenswürdigkeit

7. Look at **picture 2**. Describe the picture as detailed as possible. Who can you see? Where are they? Why do you think they are there? What is happening?

**Individual answer**.....

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8. Look at **part 1** of the video. Put the sentences in the right order.

<b>5</b>	as their habitats <sup>2</sup> are destroyed.
<b>3</b>	The so adorably <sup>3</sup> cute <sup>4</sup> animals which are symbol of the nation
<b>2</b>	Australia's bushfires are having a devastating <sup>5</sup> effect on Koalas.
<b>7</b>	As experts fight to save one Koala at a time.
<b>1</b>	Welcome Back!
<b>4</b>	are being particularly <sup>6</sup> hard hit in New South Wales
<b>6</b>	But there is hope!

9. Mark and label the region in which the koalas are especially suffering on the map in exercise 6.

10. Translate sentence number 2.

**Australiens Buschfeuer haben einen verheerenden Effekt auf die Koalas.**

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<sup>2</sup> habitat = Lebensraum  
<sup>3</sup> adorable = liebenswert, bezaubernd  
<sup>4</sup> cute = herzlich  
<sup>5</sup> devastating = verheerend  
<sup>6</sup> particular = besonders

11. Look at **part 2** of the video and fill in the gaps.

Narrator: A koala **hospital** in Australia overwhelmed<sup>7</sup> with patients with wildfire injuries.

Doctor Nr. 1: So, he seems to be quite dehydrated and probably quite hungry.

Narrator: Not all were lucky, like this **little** one. Animal experts estimate hundreds of koalas have died in raging fires in eastern Australia since September. Australia's **environment** minister saying on Friday up to 30% of koalas in the countries New South Wales region may have been killed in the ongoing **fires**. *The region's 'Port Macquarie Koala Hospital' has admitted<sup>8</sup> more than 300 of these adorable<sup>9</sup> animals so far this year. But the hospital director says the support from the public<sup>10</sup> has been equally overwhelming<sup>11</sup>.* The hospital has received<sup>12</sup> of 2 million **dollars** in donations on a GoFundMe<sup>13</sup> page site.

Doctor Nr. 2.: The amount of **visitors** that are here at the koala hospital over the last five or six weeks has been **phenomenal** . Everyone is so afraid that we're going to lose koalas, that they come and **see** them. That's the **power** of the koala worldwide!

12. Find the 'Port Macquarie Koala Hospital' and mark and label it on the map in exercise 6.

13. The koala in the first is described by the doctor and the narrator with **three adjectives**. Which ones?

**Little, lucky, dehydrated, hungry**

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<sup>7</sup> overwhelmed = überwältigt

<sup>8</sup> to admit = aufnehmen

<sup>9</sup> adorable = liebenswert, bezaubernd

<sup>10</sup> the public = die Öffentlichkeit

<sup>11</sup> overwhelming = überwältigend

<sup>12</sup> to receive = erhalten

<sup>13</sup> GoFundMe is an online platform on which people can collect money for a project.

14. Check out [link 2](#). It sends you to the GoFundMe page for the 'Port Macquarie Koala Hospital'.

a. Translate the title of the project:

**Hilf Koalas die durch die neusten Brände verwüsted wurden.**

b. How much money has been raised<sup>14</sup> so far?

individual

c. How much more money has been raised since the CNN news report was published?

individual

d. How many people have donated<sup>15</sup> so far?

individual

e. How much money did the hospital want to raise originally?

**25'000**

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<sup>14</sup> to raise money = Geld sammeln

<sup>15</sup> to donate = spenden

### Part 3

	to help save and rehab <sup>16</sup> them.
	over the weekend and into next week.
	A new heat wave is expected to hit parts of the country
	for the already vulnerable <sup>17</sup> koala community.
	Raising <sup>18</sup> fears that high temperatures and dry winds
	The government says it's working with koala experts
	could further <sup>19</sup> intensify <sup>20</sup> the waging infernos.
	That is all bad news
	and six million dollars have been set aside <sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> to rehab = wieder gesund machen

<sup>17</sup> vulnerable = verletzlich, schutzlos, verwundbar

<sup>18</sup> to raise = verursachen

<sup>19</sup> further = weiter / mehr

<sup>20</sup> to intensify = verstärken / verschärfen

<sup>21</sup> to set aside = bereitstellen