

Scaffolding

Focus on form

Talking about your media habits and writing about likely/unlikely events you will have to use different verb forms:

- (a) present simple: Do you read books?
- (b) present progressive: I am watching a film.
- (c) present perfect (simple): Have you ever met a movie star?

Write down three examples of a, b and c and check with a partner. If in doubt, ask your teacher for explanation.

Task 10: Reviewing a TV show

Whatever your choice, try to remember a TV show you watched recently. In the channel's media library ("Mediathek") you are invited to write a short review, either recommending or criticizing the show. Write a review of 100 words and get feedback from a partner who shares the same taste.

Scaffolding

Writing a review

I watched "(name of program)" last week – I have never been – very impressed – quite bored – It was about – People say it's – I found it – It's based on – It's really popular – I like the character of – the storyline is – the happy ending was – I can recommend it, because – don't watch it, because ...

Worksheet 1: A German university dropout (2 pages)

Ludwig Leichhardt, who was the first white man to cross the Australian continent in the 1840s, was lost in the desert. Use Leichhardt's profile to find out more about the explorer's fate. You might also wish to explain why he gave his name to a joint German-Australian stamp issue in 2013.

Leichhardt's profile

Ludwig Leichhardt (1813 – 1848?) was born in Prussia and educated at the universities of Berlin and Göttingen, where he studied medical and natural sciences but left without a degree. He arrived in Sydney in February 1842 and wanted to explore the inland of Australia. He undertook three major expeditions in Australia:

- ▶ an overland journey from the Darling Downs, Queensland to Port Essington in the Northern Territory from October 1844 to December 1845,
- ▶ an unsuccessful attempt in December 1846 to cross Australia from east to west,
- ▶ and a final east-west quest to cross the continent from the Condamine River, Queensland to the Swan River in Western Australia.

In March 1848 Leichhardt began his last attempt to cross Australia with a group of explorers. They were never seen again, despite a number of major searches over a period of almost a century to try and find them. Leichhardt and his men may have been killed by Aborigines defending their land. They may have drowned in a flood through a dry creek bed. Most likely they died of thirst and hunger in a desert which Leichhardt hadn't studied before. No certain traces have ever been found.

He is well remembered in both Australia and Germany with a number of places and schools carrying his name. The Australian novelist Patrick White (1912 – 1990) made Leichhardt the main character in his novel *Voss* (1957). In the novel, Voss (aka Leichhardt) is no ordinary hero. He is described as a 'shabby stranger', 'a madman. But harmless mad a funny sort of man'. In the novel: 'I expect you will consider it imprudent, Mr. Voss, if I ask you whether you have studied the map?' 'The map?' repeated the German. 'I will first make it ... I will cross the continent from one end to the other. I have every intention to know it with my heart'. Leichhardt always showed great interest in the Aborigines and tried to understand their culture. In return, they welcomed him warmly and guided his expedition, as he noted in his expedition diary: 'At the big Pandanus swamp, another tribe of black fellows guided us over the swamp and behaved very kind ... At the mouth of the East Alligator, Eooanberry's and Minotelli's tribe were equally hospitable and kind. At the north bank of the river we met Bilge's tribe, Bilge being the most important personage amongst them. At Nywall's Lagoon, Nywall treated us with imberbi (the root of a species of convolvulus), and two black fellows guided us two days farther. At Monmorris Bay we met Baki Baki and at Raffles Bay Bill White's tribe and Bill White himself guided us into the settlement'. (<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5005/5005-h/5005-h.htm> and <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0201121.txt>) (last accessed March 2016)

Task 1: Please, select the words unknown to you and check their meaning in a dictionary, digital or printed. **Explain** them in the box below:

Word bank:

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Task 2: After reading Leichhardt's profile **outline** the main facts describing his fate:

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Task 3: Discuss why there is a stamp issue about him in both Australia and Germany?

See: <https://www.noteworthy-collectibles.com/2013-Australia-Post-Stamp-Sheetlet-Pack-Leichhardt-Joint-Issue-with-Germany> (last accessed October 2016)

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Worksheet 2: Mapping the red centre (2 pages)

Task 4: On this map, **outline** the expeditions of explorers and enter other, modern Australian place names.

FORSCHUNGSEXPEDITIONEN IN DAS INNERE AUSTRALIENS



- Eyre 1839–1841
- + - + - + - + Leichhardt 1844–1845
- Burke and Wills — 1860–1861
- - - - - Stuart — 1860–1862
- . - . - . Forest 1870
- ~ - ~ - ~ Warburton 1873
- Giles 1875

Task 5: Research the activities of other explorers' names on the map (Eyre – Burke and Wills – Stuart – Forest – Warburton – Giles) and **explain** why their expeditions would be of some importance for the early European settlers. Enter your findings in the table below and present them in plenary.

For settlers expeditions were important because

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(unknown, wild land)

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(possible to start farms, build houses?)

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(other people living there?)

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(whose land is it?)

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(transport, connections)

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(climate)

Worksheet 3: The German baron (3 pages)

Task 6: Read the following conversation with a partner and list the activities of this remarkable baron. You might want to find out more about him and the reason why there was even a joint Australian-German stamp in 1996. Take notes and **compare** your findings in plenary.

Peter Schwarzbauer, whose parents came from Marburg to Melbourne during the Olympic Summer Games 1956 and decided to stay there, is a student at Monash University and has invited his long-time friend Karin to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) in his hometown. He has known Karin from a student exchange and is going to explain to her why to see the RBG is a must and that its founder was a German Baron.

Karin: Hi, Peter. You keep talking about this Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. Is he really such a big guy?

Peter: Well Karin, first of all – he isn't anymore but was! He died in 1896.

Karin: Oh, how boring!

Peter: Not at all boring. He used to be a great and very interesting man.

Karin: So he was great! I love tall men, they are so sexy.

Peter: Sexy or not – I don't know. He certainly was great and important, but rather small in stature.

Karin: I see. Well, sometimes important men are much sexier than big, strong men. But why was he so great?

Peter: Ferdinand von Mueller was a great botanist, but also a great scientist. He was a famous German but also an important Australian. Born in Rostock, he studied in Northern Germany, in Kiel. But he wasn't a very healthy person – both his parents died from tuberculosis – and so his doctor advised him to move to a warmer climate. That's why he came to Australia, where he worked as a Royal Botanist in Melbourne for 40 years. He became the first director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and he died here in Melbourne.

But he was a small man, too – small in size. Once dancing with a rather tall lady people laughed at him because it looked so funny!

Karin: That wasn't very nice. Great men should be shown more respect. Was he quite well-known then as a botanist?

Peter: Yes, indeed. He belonged to the most respected people in Melbourne and everybody knew that he was very efficient. They said he was working everyday from early morning till midnight.

Karin: Good heavens! That must have been very stressful for his family. What did his wife have to say about this?

Peter: He never married. He was engaged three times but it seems that the ladies must have noticed that he was really only married to his job. So they all left him.

Karin: So he wasn't too sexy after all.

Peter: Maybe not. But it was good for Australia that he put all his energy into his work.

Karin: Does a director of the Botanic Gardens have so much to do?

Peter: Maybe not every director – but von Mueller even was on many expeditions in Victoria and Northern Australia. He constantly discovered new plants and named them. In Australia alone he named thousands of plants and categorised them.

Karin: Amazing. But tell me, what do you mean by "categorizing" plants?

Peter: Well, look. All plants belong to certain families. There are, for example, the families of gum trees or acacias – we call them wattles in Australia.

Karin: I see. So what else did he find out about plants?

Peter: He checked plants and tested whether they would be useful for some things like making furniture with them or building houses. Whether you could eat them or use their fruit, or make medicine out of them.

Karin: Oh, I know. I have heard about good Australian tea-tree-oil or oil from eucalyptus

Peter: That's right.

Karin: Talking about wood for building houses or making furniture – I find that furniture here in Australia looks very much like that in Europe. And I have seen many oak and lime trees, as well as pines. Those are European plants, aren't they?

Peter: You are quite right. Interestingly enough, von Mueller was something like an ecologist in his time. He wanted to preserve the Australian environment and was fascinated by the unique flora here. But European settlers in Australia needed to build houses and furniture, but also used fruit and vegetables for food. This is why von Mueller took care to introduce European plants.

Karin: That can't have been too easy?

Peter: Quite so. From his European friends – many of them botanists too – he got a great number of seeds. He then tested whether they would grow here and get used to the warm climate. He even introduced birds and insects to create an ecological cycle.

Karin: Then he must have written many letters?

Peter: Oh yes. He was very busy writing to his friends in Germany and England. He seems to have written about ten letters every day and even made copies. Since they didn't have copy machines then, he held his letters over steam and put them onto new paper. Australia Post honoured his activities twice with his own stamps – in 1948 and 1996!

Karin: You said that von Mueller was interested in expeditions as well?

Peter: This is correct. Even if he couldn't go himself, he supported other expeditions with his money. He was fascinated by the young German explorer Ludwig Leichhardt who didn't return from his last expedition. Mueller was very sad about this and spent a lot of his money to find him

Karin: I think I would like to find out more about this German baron and his gardens. So let's go soon.

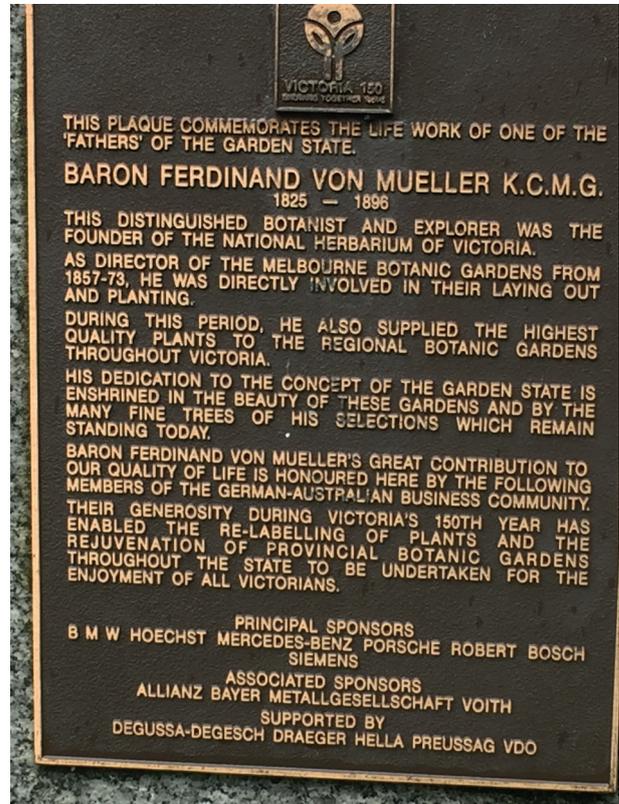
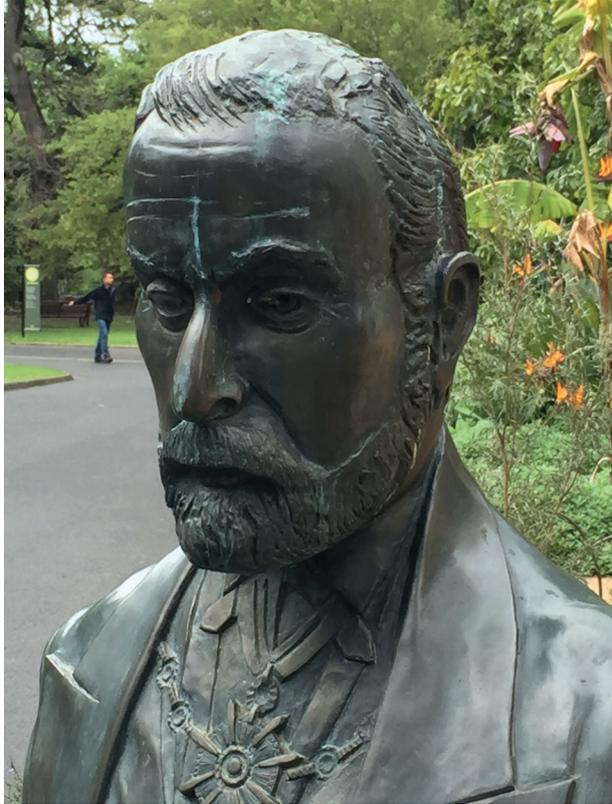
Peter: I have an idea. When we go to the RBG, I can show you his house where he lived and worked and even a gum tree that carries his name. But I also have to tell you that he was not too popular with some people. They thought him to be too much of a scientist and only wanted a nice garden to visit without being told about all his research. Anyway, near the main entrance you will see von Mueller's bust and we'll take it from there.

Scaffolding:

Baron Ferdinand von Mueller was a busy man. He worked more than ten hours every day, because he wanted

- to live as a botanist in Australia for health reasons
- to find new plants
- to give them names and categorise them
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-
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Task 7 (mediation*): Baron von Mueller's statue is situated at the entrance of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne and commemorates the contribution of the German scientist and explorer to the Australian culture, especially because he was the founder of the gardens. During your exchange visit to Melbourne you send this picture to a German friend explaining the contents of the plaque attached to the statue. Mediate (and do not translate) the text for him in German.



Task 8: Discussion

There was a joint stamp issue with Baron Ferdinand von Mueller as well – find out more about the connection between Leichhardt and the Baron (see also task 2 and 5). What did they have in common? Work in an inside-outside circle*. Present your findings in plenary during a discussion on the role of German scientists in Australia (past and present).

Worksheet 4 (additional activity): Aboriginal plants (2 pages)

Note: As with Native Americans in the USA or First Nations in Canada, it is important to use the right names talking about the original inhabitants of Australia. They would be called “Aborigines” and can also be called “Aboriginal people” – any abbreviations of this are thought to be rude and must not be used!

Aboriginal people – the indigenous Australians

Australia is the only country, which is a continent as well – and the oldest and least settled at that. Aborigines have lived here for more than 50,000 years and have a proud culture, which is almost lost to us.

Before European settlement, which is now dated by scientists to have started more than 50,000 years ago, Australia had about 400,000 Aboriginal inhabitants. They were very clever at using the natural resources they could find, especially native plants. There were 700 tribes living in the whole continent with different languages, religions, living and hunting habits – using various weapons, utensils and decorations.

In certain places, Aborigines started fires; this so-called “fire-stick farming” was important to enable fresh plants to grow, which were used for their own food and better food for animals. If particular regions were not burned down regularly, growth would slow down or stop. By controlling the fire special plants were protected while others could be gotten rid of. Aborigines knew exactly how animals would react to fire. Animals feeding on new shoots growing after the fires could be hunted and killed easily. Finally, fire had a stimulating effect on the growth of plants.

Aboriginal people in Australia were hunters and gatherers. For this they had to be fit – physically and mentally. And they needed to have a good knowledge of their habitat and the way animals moved and behaved. They depended on what nature could offer them in terms of food and shelter, and this is why they led a nomadic life and moved from place to place. Each tribe moved within the boundaries of a certain region. They were only able to carry a few things with them, like spears, sticks for making fire and digging for food.

Australian plants were a great source for foodstuffs, medicine, materials for building shelters, weapons and fibres for nets and ropes. In dry areas Aborigines would eat mostly roots, onions and bulbs. These different plants provided for a balanced diet and enough vitamins. Some plants were poisonous and had to be treated or heated before eating. Seeds and beans had to be prepared, grinded and made into dampers. Bush medicine was very efficient as a result of precise observation.

Task 9: Please, select the words unknown to you and check their meaning in a dictionary, digital or printed. **Explain** them in the box:

Word bank:

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