

Questions for discussion

Episode 21
9th August 2016

Census Stats

1. Discuss the BtN *Census Stats* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. How often is the census held?
3. Every _____ gets a census form.
4. The census is not compulsory. True or false?
5. What sort of information does the census collect?
6. What is the census data used for?
7. How was the information collected at the last census used?
8. Why is it important to fill out the census properly?
9. What are some of the privacy concerns people have?
10. What do you understand more clearly since watching the *Census Stats* story?

Write a message about the story and post it in the comments section on the story page

Olympic History

1. Before you watch the BtN story, record what you know about the Olympic Games.
2. When were the first Olympic Games held?
3. Which god were the Olympic Games dedicated to?
4. The only people who could compete were...
5. Give an example of a sport included in the ancient Olympics.
6. There was only one winner of the ancient Olympics. True or false?
7. What did the winner receive?
8. In which year was the first modern Olympic Games held?
9. How are the ancient and modern Olympics similar?
10. Name three facts you learnt watching the BtN *Olympic History* story.

Check out the [Olympic History resource](#) on the Teachers page

Coordinate Changes

1. Discuss the BtN *Coordinate Changes* story in pairs and record the main points of your discussion.
2. About how many centimetres a year is Australia moving?
3. What is the top layer of the earth called?
4. What are tectonic plates?
5. Tectonic plates float on top of a layer of hot molten rock called the _____.
6. Maps and GPS use sets of coordinates called...
7. How much are Australia's latitude and longitude coordinates out by?

8. Why do scientists say it's a problem?
9. Give an example of something that relies on GPS.
10. What did you learn watching the BtN story?

Check out the [Coordinate Changes resource](#) on the Teachers page

Left-handed

1. Briefly summarise the BtN *Left-handed* story.
2. Around one in every _____ people is left-handed.
3. No one really knows why left-handed people are actually left-handed. True or false?
4. Almost all of which animals are left-handed?
5. What is another name for a left-handed person?
6. In the old days, left-handed people were considered to be what?
7. In the past, what were left-handed people forced to do?
8. What are the disadvantages of being left-handed?
9. An advantage of being left-handed is...
10. What was surprising about this story?

Do the [quiz](#) on the BtN website

App Creator

1. What was the main point of the story?
2. Hamish creates apps about...
3. What condition does Hamish have?
4. Who is the main character in Hamish's apps?
5. Triple T has ASD. What is that?
6. What does his environmental app focus on?
7. Where was Hamish invited to recently?
8. What did Hamish do on his trip to the United States?
9. What question would you like to ask Hamish?
10. What did you like about the *App Creator* story?

Write a message of support to Hamish and post it in the comments section on the story page.

Teacher Resource

Olympic History

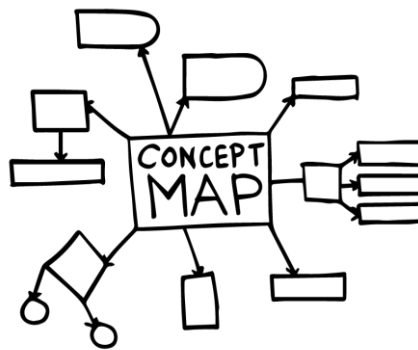
FOCUS QUESTIONS

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ACTIVITY

Discuss the BtN *Olympic History* story and record any questions that were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? Record what they know about the history of the Olympic Games on a mind map. Questions to focus discussions with students could include:

- When and why did the ancient Olympics begin?
- When were the first modern Olympics?
- Who was allowed to compete in the ancient Olympics?
- What events did athletes compete in?
- How were the ancient Olympics different to the modern Olympics?
- What are the similarities?



Students create a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences of the ancient and modern Olympic Games.

KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the ancient Olympic Games. They will also research an Australian athlete competing in Rio and find out more about a Summer Olympics sport.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

History – Year 7

Significant beliefs, values and practices of the ancient Greeks, with a particular emphasis on ONE of the following areas: everyday life, warfare, or death and funerary customs ([ACDSEH036](#))

Roles of key groups in the [ancient](#) Greece, Egypt or Rome, including the influence of [law](#) and [religion](#) ([ACHASSK173](#))

The physical features of [ancient](#) Greece, Egypt or Rome and how they influenced the civilisation that developed there ([ACHASSK172](#))

HASS – Years 5 & 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges ([ACHASSI122](#)) ([ACHASSI094](#))

ACTIVITY

Symbols of the Olympics

Brainstorm with students what the symbols of the Olympic Games are. Responses could include:

- Olympic Rings
- Olympic Torch
- Flag
- Olympic Motto
- The Medals

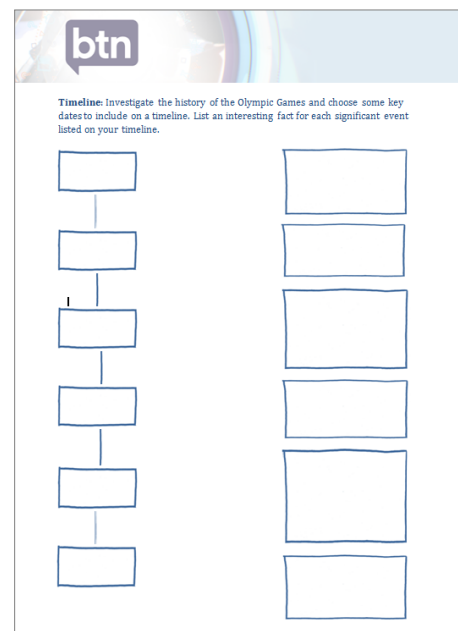
Ask students to describe and draw (or find images of) at least three Olympic symbols. In their description, they need to include information about what the symbols represent.

ACTIVITY

Timeline of the Olympic Games

Research the history of the Olympic Games. [Download this template](#) and use your research to include important dates in the history of both the ancient and modern Olympic Games. List an interesting fact for each significant event on the timeline. Some examples of significant dates are:

- 776 BCE – First Olympics held
- 394 AD – Olympics were banned
- 1894 – International Olympic Committee founded
- 1896 – First modern Olympics held
- 1916 – Olympics cancelled due to World War One



The image shows a timeline template with a 'btn' logo in the top left corner. Below the logo, there is a text box with the following text: "Timeline: Investigate the history of the Olympic Games and choose some key dates to include on a timeline. List an interesting fact for each significant event listed on your timeline." Below this text, there are two columns of empty rectangular boxes. The left column has seven boxes, and the right column has six boxes. Each box is connected to a vertical line, suggesting a timeline structure.

ACTIVITY

Profile of Brazil

The 2016 Olympic Games are being held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Students will research and develop a profile of Brazil to gain a deeper understanding of the country.

Working in pairs, ask students to brainstorm what they know about Brazil and record their responses. Using the 'who, what, why, when, where and how' framework, ask students to write questions that they would like to find the answers to. Students share their questions with the rest of the class. Discuss how the students could find answers to the questions they generate.

Topics to include in a profile of Brazil include:

- Geography – physical features of the country, capital cities, climate, environment, population
- People – culture and identity, health, religion and beliefs
- Economy – wealth and poverty, education, work, industries
- Government – political history
- Relationship with Australia – trade, migration, tourism, education, cultural influences.
- Facts about Brazil

Encourage students to gather information from a variety of sources. Negotiate with students how they are going to present their profile. These could include using creating a poster or giving a 5 minute presentation to the class.

Getting the lowdown from Rio locals

Watch the [following video](#) to find out more about Rio from a local's perspective.

- What did you learn about Rio watching the video?
- What was surprising?



Further Investigations

Using Google Maps locate Brazil and the countries that border it.

- Find the latitude/longitude of Brazil.
- Calculate how far (in kilometres) Brazil is from Australia (your closest capital city).

Portuguese is the official language of Brazil. Students will learn some everyday Portuguese greetings and phrases. The [Digital dialects website](#) will help students learn Portuguese.



ACTIVITY

Australian athlete – Create a biography

Students will choose an Australian Olympics athlete and write a biography about them.

Ask students to think about the sort of information included in a biography. What does a biography tell us about a person? Using the [Biography Organiser template](#) students will find and record information about the person they have chosen.

Some possible areas of research include:

- Where and when was the person born?
- Describe their family life growing up.
- What are some of their achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- What are some of the challenges they have faced?

A 'Biography Organiser' form with a 'btn' logo in the top left. The form is titled 'BIOGRAPHY ORGANISER' and includes a 'Name:' field. Below this is a small instruction: 'Using different sources find information about the person you have chosen for your biography. Use this biography organiser to keep track of what you learn.' The form is divided into three main sections: 'Person's name' at the top, 'Personal information' on the left, 'Achievements' on the right, and 'Interesting facts' at the bottom. Each section contains several horizontal lines for writing.

Once students have completed their research ask them to present their findings in an interesting way.

- Give a presentation on the individual's achievements
- Design a poster
- Make a "Did you know?" for other students.
- Write a letter thanking them for their achievements and how it has changed Australia.

Send a [message of support](#) to your chosen athlete.

ACTIVITY

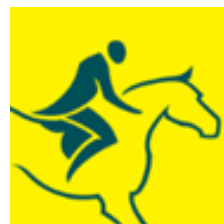
Summer Olympic Sports

Students will choose an Olympics sport to find out more about. The Australian Olympic Team website has the [list of sports](#) in the Rio Olympics

Information to include:

- A brief summary of the sport
- History of the sport in Australia
- Equipment needed
- Number of Australians competing in the sport at the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- Some trivia about the sport.
- Include a photo

Students can present the information using [Prezi](#)



ACTIVITY

Watch the BtN [Olympic TV story](#) to find out more about the restrictions of broadcasting the Olympic Games.

1. BTN is allowed to show vision of the Olympic Games. True or false?
2. Complete the following sentence: 'TV stations only get the right to show the Olympics if they...'
3. Which TV stations have the rights to show the Olympics?
4. How do TV stations with the rights to the Olympics make money?
5. What is the ABC news allowed to show?
6. Why is only official merchandise allowed to be sold during the Olympics?
7. What can happen if people display the Olympic rings?
8. Why is sponsorship important to the Olympics?





USEFUL WEBSITES

Olympic.org – Ancient Olympic Games

<https://www.olympic.org/ancient-olympic-games>

BBC – Ancient Greeks: The Olympic Games

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/the_olympic_games/

Australian Olympic Committee: Australian Olympic Team

<http://rio2016.olympics.com.au/team>

Behind the News - Olympic TV

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3556535.htm>

Behind the News – New Olympic Sports

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4256722.htm>

ABC News – Rio 2016

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rio-olympics-2016/>

The Perseus Project: FAQ about the Ancient Olympic Games

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/faq1.html>

The Games at Olympia

<http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/festivals/story/olympics.html>

Hstry – Ancient Olympic Games

<https://edu.hstry.co/timeline/ancient-olympic-games>

Teacher Resource

Coordinate Changes

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the BtN *Coordinate Changes* story in pairs and record the main points of your discussion.
2. About how many centimetres a year is Australia moving?
3. What is the top layer of the earth called?
4. What are tectonic plates?
5. Tectonic plates float on top of a layer of hot molten rock called the _____.
6. Maps and GPS use sets of coordinates called...
7. How much are Australia's latitude and longitude coordinates out by?
8. Why do scientists say it's a problem?
9. Give example of things that rely on GPS.
10. What did you learn watching the BtN story?

ACTIVITY

Watch the BtN *Coordinate Changes* story and discuss as a class. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following questions may help guide the discussion:

- What is a map?
- What is the purpose of a map?
- What are the features of a map?
- What are some ways to describe locations?
- What is GPS?
- What impact does the movement of tectonic plates have on maps and GPS?

The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

| <i>What do I know?</i> | <i>What do I want to know?</i> | <i>What have I learnt?</i> | <i>How will I find out?</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | |

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources.

KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of latitude and longitude and how they are measured. They will also find out more about plate tectonics.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Geography - Year 6

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

Science – Year 6

Sudden geological changes and extreme weather conditions can affect Earth's surface ([ACSSU096](#))

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions ([ACSHE100](#))

Science – Year 9

The theory of plate tectonics explains global patterns of geological activity and continental movement ([ACSSU180](#))

Glossary

Students develop a glossary of words and terms that relate to latitude and longitude. Below are some words to get them started. Add words and meanings to your glossary as you come across unfamiliar words throughout your research. Consider using pictures and diagrams to illustrate meanings.

| | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Latitude | Longitude | Equator | Prime Meridian |
| Vertical | Horizontal | Tectonic Plates | Coordinates |

Challenge students by asking them to use words from their class glossary to write their own sentences.

ACTIVITY

Finding latitude and longitude

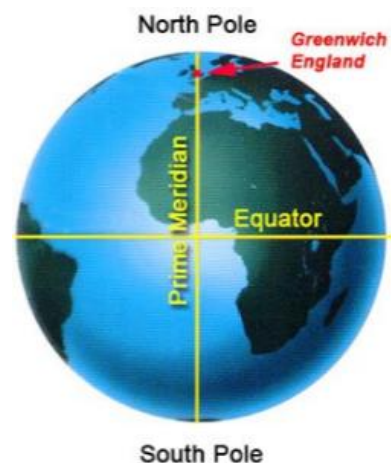
Students will find out more about how latitude and longitude are measured.

How is latitude measured?

The equator (0°) is the starting point for measuring latitude and the lines run parallel to the equator. Latitude lines above the equator are marked with an N for north. Latitude lines running below the equator are labelled with an S for south.

How is longitude measured?

The prime meridian (0°) is the starting point for measuring longitude. Longitude lines to the right of the prime meridian are marked E for east. Lines to the left are marked W for west.



On a [World Map](#) locate:

- The equator
- Prime meridian
- Lines of latitude
- Lines of longitude
- Tropic of Cancer
- Tropic of Capricorn

Using websites such as [NASA latitude and longitude finder](#) or [Find latitude and longitude](#), students complete the task below:

Find the latitude and longitude of the following locations:

- At least three capital cities in Australia
- Your home
- Your school
- A capital city in the Northern Hemisphere
- A landmark in Australia

ACTIVITY

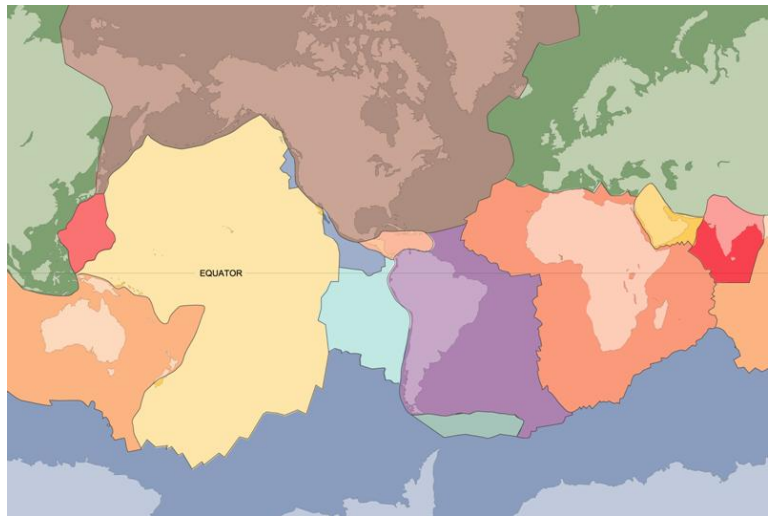
Tectonic Plates

Investigate what tectonic plates are and how they work. Some questions to investigate include:

- What is the top layer of the earth called?
- What are tectonic plates?
- Why do tectonic plates move?

Using this [map of tectonic plates](#) template locate and label the 15 major tectonic plates.

1. Eurasian plate
2. Australian plate
3. Filipino plate
4. North American plate
5. Juan De Fuca plate
6. Pacific plate
7. Cocos plate
8. Nazca plate
9. Caribbean plate
10. South American plate
11. Scotia plate
12. African plate
13. Arabian plate
14. Indian plate
15. Antarctic plate



ACTIVITY

To find out more about how GPS works, watch the [BtN story](#) and answer the following questions:

1. Summarise the *GPS Rival* story.
2. What does GPS stand for?
3. What does GPS help people do?
4. Who developed GPS and what was it used for?
5. Small mistakes were built into early GPS receivers. Why?
6. Give three examples of where you might find a GPS.
7. Describe the new satellite navigation system being launched by the European Union.
8. Who was Galileo?
9. What do some people say are the advantages of having another navigation system?
10. Name three facts you learnt watching the BtN story.





USEFUL WEBSITES

ABC News – Australia’s latitude and longitude coordinates out by more than 1.5 metres, scientists say

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-28/aust-latitude-longitude-coordinates-out-by-1-5m-scientists/7666858>

Behind the News – GPS Rival

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3349523.htm>

Live Science – What is Plate Tectonics?

<http://www.livescience.com/37706-what-is-plate-tectonics.html>

BtN: Episode 21 Transcript 09/08/16

Hello, I'm Nathan and this is BtN.

Coming up today:

- We travel nearly 3000 years back in time to attend the opening ceremony of the very first Olympic Games.
- Australia moves up in the world but not in a good way.
- And we join 11 year old app creator Hamish as he travels to the US to promote his games.

Census Stats

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: All that soon but first today it's census time in Australia. That's when every household and person in Australia is counted and surveyed. As you can imagine it's a massive job which is why it only happens every five years. So why does the government go to so much effort to collect so much data? Take a look.

August the 9th is a really important date. It's the day Anna Kendrick celebrates her 31st birthday. It was the day 80 years ago that US athlete, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics. And in 1979, Britain's first nudist beach opened. It's also the date this year when people around Australia have to fill out the census. Hopefully with clothes on.

The census is a really important survey held every five years. Every household gets a form, and the aim is to count every person in that household, on one night. The census is compulsory, and it asks a range of questions on all kinds of topics. Like your age, gender, family size, education, where you were born and the languages you speak.

But while we know what information the census collects, what will all of that data actually be used for? To find out, I met up with Lisa, who works at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the organisation in charge of running the whole thing.

LISA MOUTZOURIS, SA CENSUS DIRECTOR: We call it a snapshot of Australia. So that we understand what our population looks like, how many people, where they were born, how old they are, whether they're at school, whether they're working. So that we have a really good understanding of the population so that government and other people can plan for the future.

Having an idea of the size of the population of Australia can be really helpful.

MATT HOLBROOK, REPORTER: 24 million people in Australia.

It helps explain how Australia's changed over time, and gives governments a good idea of where funds are most needed for things like schools, roads and nursing homes. All of that data is also used in important studies. For example, the last census helped to work out the life expectancy of Indigenous Australians which helped set the government's *Closing the Gap* targets.

MATT: What happens if I don't fill out the census?

LISA: We'll come knocking on your door and saying hey, this house has not responded to the census.

MATT: Will you really do that?

LISA: We will, we'll remind you.

Lisa says it's really important not just to do the census, but to fill it out properly. And while 65,000 Aussies said they belong to the Jedi religion in the last census, mostly as a joke, Lisa doesn't recommend it.

MATT: Should I say I belong to the Jedi religion on the census?

LISA: Probably not a good idea. At the end of the day they all get lumped into a category called "Not applicable" or "not further defined" because Jedi is not a recognised religion.

MATT: Don't use the force?

LISA: Don't use the force.

But Jedi aren't the only ones worried about filling out the census this year. For the first time, names and addresses collected in the census will be kept for four years instead of eighteen months. So some people are concerned their personal information could be revealed if not kept securely. But the ABS says that info is really important for future studies, so they'll be very careful to look after it properly. And around April next year, the ABS will start releasing stats that show how you fit into this massive snapshot of Australia.

This Week in News

The Rio Olympics are now in full swing but while a lot of people are enjoying the festivities some Brazilians are angry that their government is spending billions of dollars hosting the games when so many locals there live in poverty.

There were protests about the issue last week during the torch relay and even some attempts to put out the Olympic flame.

Passengers on this flight from India to Dubai had a very close call recently when the Emirates plane crash landed at Dubai airport then burst into flames. Luckily all 300 passengers onboard made it off the plane just in time. Some even grabbed their cabin bags on the way out which experts say is a really dangerous thing to do.

The first round of results from this year's NAPLAN tests are in giving us a snapshot of how Aussie students are doing in years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Overall the ACT performed best in reading and grammar while Victoria topped writing and numeracy.

But while everyone's numeracy scores improved there hasn't been much change in reading or writing levels. Some say that's not good enough and suggest we need to make big changes to the way kids are taught these subjects or invest more money into schools.

And finally the new Harry Potter script is breaking records around the world! Since it was released Aussie Muggles have bought more than 170 thousand copies. In the UK it's more than 600 thousand and US sales have topped two million!

While that's less than the last Harry Potter novel it's still one of the fastest-selling books in history and the publishers say that's unheard of for a script.

Olympic History

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Now as you heard earlier the biggest sporting event on the planet has kicked off. This is the 31st running of the modern Olympic Games but did you know there have actually been many more Olympics than that? We travelled back in time to see where this huge competition first started.

It all began in ancient Greece around three thousand years ago. No one's quite sure who actually started the games or why, so let's just say it was this guy.

KID 1: You know what, we should do this thing where a bunch of people come and run and wrestle and do javelin and then everyone comes and sits and watches and then the winner, they get a crown or something.

KID 2: Hmm that sounds mildly entertaining, let's do it!

Anyway, they decided the first known Olympic Games should be held in an area named Olympia in 776BC in a rectangular stadium, and the games were dedicated to the Greek God Zeus. The only people who could take part were men of Greek origin. They were picked by their cities and trained for months to compete.

At first there was only one sport - a 200m sprint. Then they added longer running events, boxing, equestrian, pankration - that's an extreme mix of boxing and wrestling - and pentathlon, made up of five sports including javelin, discus and long jump. Oh and every athlete competed in the nude.

ATHLETES: What!

But for the purposes of this story, we won't worry too much about that.

Finally, all athletes and judges took an oath to take part honourably and abide by the rules.

KID 3: Wait, does that mean I can't cheat?

KID 1: No, of course not!

At the end of an event, there was only ever one award winner known as the Olympionic. They were crowned with sacred olive branches and they were seen as a hero in their hometown. Statues were often made in their likeness and poems written about their athletic feats.

KID 4: He ran with the fierceness of a goat; dainty and hoofed of feet.

KID 5: I approve! I approve!

The Olympics were held like that every four years and at first it was only a one-day thing, but eventually it became even longer as the event became more and more popular.

REPORTER: The Games drew tens of thousands of spectators, and even when some Greek cities were at war they were brought together by a sacred truce which meant that nobody could fight during the Games so everybody could watch.

After more than a thousand years of games, this guy Emperor Theodosius the First decided he didn't like it very much and scrapped it and that was the end of the ancient Olympics. It wasn't until centuries later in 1894 that this guy, a French teacher and historian named Pierre de Coubertin, founded the International Olympic Committee. The IOC then organised the very first modern Olympic Games in Athens, Greece in 1896.

Over the years, the Olympics continued to change a lot. Competitors started coming from all over the globe and of course female athletes were finally included. One award changed to three medals. Heaps of new sports were added, although some didn't last! And huge ceremonies and TV broadcasts eventually became part of the experience.

But if you watch closely, there are still plenty of traditions in the modern Olympics that originated from ancient times, like running races and the pentathlon. The Olympic torch and of course the four years between games. So the next time you watch your favourite athlete go for gold, spare a thought for the ancient, ah nude, Olympians who started it all.

Ask a Reporter

Amelia Moseley: Got a question about the history of the Olympics? Well, you can ask me live on Friday during Ask a Reporter!

Just head to our website for all the details.

Did you know?

Rio gold medals weigh 500g. The bad news - it's 494g of silver and only 6g of gold. That's about \$260 worth of gold - so probably not worth melting it down!

Coordinate Changes

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: Next, it's been revealed that over the past 22 years Australia has shifted north by 1.5m. That might not sound like a lot but many new technologies rely on precise measurements to function properly. So now, researchers want to fix our coordinates. Here are the details.

Australia is a country on the move, no really it's actually moving. Not that you can feel it.

JACK: That's because we're only moving at about 7 cm every year which is about the same speed that your fingernails grow.

MATT, AMELIA & NATHAN: Ooooh.

The reason it's moving is all to do with the way the earth is made up. It might look like one giant rock, but it's actually made up of different layers. The ground we stand on is called the crust and it's made of huge slabs of rock called tectonic plates. They float on top of a different layer of hot molten rock, called the mantle. But over time these floating plates move around and that's starting to cause issues for our maps and GPS devices.

They work using sets of coordinates called latitude and longitude. Think of it like a graph over the top of the earth. Latitude goes this way, longitude goes this way and each line has a number. So if you want to tell someone where you are on earth, you can tell them your latitude and longitude number.

AMELIA: Hey, where should we go for lunch today?

JACK: We should go to 55 degrees 32 minutes 54.65 seconds south and 138 degrees 54 minutes 32.56 seconds east.

AMELIA: I was thinking more like Sushi.

But the trouble is, because Australia's tectonic plate is moving, its latitude and longitude coordinates are now a bit off. In fact they're out by more than 1.5 metres. Take the Opera House for example - maps and GPS devices say the opera house is at these coordinates. But actually it's here and it's only getting worse. Scientists say in 4 years the coordinates will be about 2 metres out and in 10 millions years Sydney will be where Brisbane is. Although you probably don't need to worry too much about that.

JACK: But scientists say it's an issue that needs to be fixed soon. Because it's starting to become a problem for people who rely on maps each day and no, not just for Pokémon trainers.

MATT: It says the Pikachu is there but it's here!!

The military use GPS devices for navigation on land, sea and air. And driverless cars need accurate coordinates to navigate the roads safely. Fixing the issue will be a big job and scientists say it hasn't been done since 1994. But they say it's important to put Australia back on the map.

Quiz

Quiz time!

One major circle of latitude runs through Australia. What is it called?

- The Tropic of Capricorn
- The Tropic of Cancer
- The Tropic of Caterpillar

The answer is: The Tropic of Capricorn

Left-Handed

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Okay I have a question to ask you before our next story. Are you a leftie or a rightie? If you're part of the 10% of the population that prefer your left then you're in luck because the 13th of August is International Left-handers' Day. To celebrate, we thought we'd find out why people prefer different hands and how being left-handed wasn't always seen as okay.

What do these people have in common? If you answered with "they're all awesome" you'd probably be right. But there's one more thing. Me and my close friends here are all left handed! Yay.

Around one in every ten people are left-handed. And they're often pretty easy to spot. But no-one really knows why left-handed people are actually left-handed. Some theories are that there's a left-handed gene, that the brains of lefties are just wired differently, or that left-handers might be copying the behaviour of their left-handed parents.

MATT HOLBROOK, REPORTER: Hi Dad! He really is left-handed.

MATT'S DAD: Hello son.

MATT: He really is left-handed

Anyway, however we came to be, us lefties aren't alone in the world. Scientists have found almost all kangaroos are left-handed, too. Well, left-pawed, really. And while that hasn't stopped our kangaroo friends from hopping about enjoying life, throughout history it's been a different story for humans.

Lefties have been called witches, unclean, possessed by the devil, or just clumsy in the past. And back when everyone wrote with ink, kids were actually forced to use their right hand, even if they were left-handed.

MATT: Sounds pretty unfair, but having said that this is really messy.

Today, no-one's going to call you a witch for being left handed. But there are still some pretty big disadvantages to living in a right-handed world.

KID 1: If we want to try and use instruments it's pretty hard to learn how to play the instruments, because the instruments are mostly made for right-handed people.

KID 2: Sometimes it's hard to write.

ALEX: I do magic and I have to learn certain moves with my hand, and I have to force them to do those positions and it can be really annoying.

Being a leftie has encouraged Alex to work really hard at perfecting his magic act. But that's not the only unexpected benefit. Some studies have shown that being left-handed means you're more likely to be good at subjects like music and maths. There's also a really high proportion of geniuses that have been left-handed. Although that could just be a coincidence. And it can be a big advantage when you're playing sport against right handed people too.

KID 1: People say when you're left-handed you're writing's more neater, and you draw better, so I'd rather stay left handed.

KID 3: I kind of find it nice being left handed. Don't think you're different in a bad way, think you're unique in a special way.

Anyway, that's what left-handed day is all about. Celebrating left-handedness, and why we're proud of it. Plus it's a really good excuse to make right-handed people, do all your right-handed work.

MATT: Can you cut this out for me?

AMELIA: No.

MATT: But I'm left handed!

AMELIA: Ok, fine!

Poll

Now we want to see if 10% of our BtN audience are lefties too. So we're making that our poll for this week!

Let us know your preferred hand on our website.

Quiz 2

And let's stay with left Vs right for quiz number 2 today!

True or false? Most people also have a dominant eye, ear and foot.

And that's true!

Sport

In Sport the International Paralympic Committee has decided to ban Russia's entire Paralympic team from competing in this year's Games.

It's a massive blow for Russian athletes getting ready for the Games. But the IPC says it made the decision because Russia's anti-doping system isn't reliable.

Meanwhile the current Olympics may have only just begun but the International Olympic Committee has already announced there'll be six new sports in the next Olympic Games in 2020.

Baseball, softball, surfing, climbing, skateboarding and karate will all feature at the Tokyo games. The IOC says it hopes the new events will encourage more young people to tune in.

Back home now and Jarryd Hayne made his return to the NRL on Sunday for new team the Gold Coast Titans. The Hayne plane showed glimpses of his talent throughout the match. But it wasn't enough to grab the win as the Titans went down by 10 points.

And finally, dogs and their owners travelled from around Australia recently to take part in the Mt Buller Sled Dog Quest.

URSI: You can see the joy that they're having going out on the snow.

As you can see it was a howlingly good time for all.

App Designer

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Finally today an 11-year old app designer from Queensland recently travelled to the US as the special guest of an international entrepreneurship summit. He was the youngest kid in the world invited to go and while there he got to see President Obama and the creator of Facebook, he also filmed the trip exclusively for BtN. Here's what happened.

Hamish might be in primary school, but that hasn't stopped him from becoming a successful software developer. He creates apps about topics he's passionate about, like the environment and Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD. That's a condition Hamish and many other Aussie kids have.

HAMISH: Sometimes you like can't stand loud noises or you have to follow a certain pattern when you're like walking in the mall.

Hamish has made four apps so far, and the main character of all of them is this guy a little turtle called Triple T who has ASD. One app features games, quizzes and tips to help people with, and without, autism to learn more about the disorder. While the others are about the environment, like this one which focuses on sea turtles and the need to protect them from pollution. So players help Triple T to clean up the ocean!

HAMISH: He just runs around and collects rubbish bags that have been left by people who don't care.

But recently, Hamish and his apps caught the attention of someone very important, the US Ambassador. He was so impressed with them, he invited Hamish to a big Global Entrepreneurship Summit in America to hear special guest US President Barack Obama! To make sure Hamish could go his family set up a crowd funding page and luckily they raised enough money to send him to see the President.

HAMISH: I've actually made some t-shirts and business cards. Tell him to wear it on some of his speeches.

HAMISH: Right now I'm in the Brisbane International Airport lounge and I'm waiting for my flight to go to the US.

Hamish set off for San Francisco; the home of hundreds of tech companies like Google, Apple and Facebook!

HAMISH: Here I am at the birthplace of Silicon Valley!

While there, he got to visit lots of cool places like NASA's research centre and Stanford University, where he met other software designers and tried out some cool new technology that will help other kids with autism, just like him.

HAMISH: I see like faces, it's really kind of funny.

Then of course, it was time for the big summit and the chance to learn from amazing people like Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg and of course, President Barack Obama!

US PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: This is the place that made nerd cool.

Hamish was the youngest person invited to attend, and he even got a few moments in the spotlight!

SILICON VALLEY TV SHOW ACTOR: Listen to this, this is Hamish, he's developed four apps. How old are you? He's 11! What are your apps, tell us about your apps, Hamish?

HAMISH: Three of the four apps teach people about litter and about the environment and oceans.

SILICON VALLEY TV SHOW ACTOR: Oh, about littering? Wow! Let's give him a round of applause.

And it seems everyone's excited to see what this whizkid will do next.

SILICON VALLEY TV SHOW ACTOR: He's going to be President of the World!

Closer

Great work Hamish! And that's it for today! But the fun will continue on Friday during our live Ask a Reporter session. I'd love to see you all then! Stay well and bye for now.