

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

Visits to South & Central America, Australia

by Sonya Shafer



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ARGENTINA



**Your Guide to Exploring South & Central America,
Australia through Maps and Living Books!**

Make geography come alive

through the delightful combination of maps and living books!

With the *Visits to . . .* series, you will explore each region of the world through captivating photography, a traveler's firsthand accounts, delightful living books, and step-by-step work with maps.

Each *Visits to . . .* book serves as your guide to

- see the big picture as you explore continent by continent.
- become familiar with the countries of the world and where they are located.
- get to know real families who live in those countries and see what their lives are like.
- look closely and carefully at the details of those families' countries.
- create a personal map book.

With short map drills, guided readings from two fascinating travelogues—*Material World* and *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, —leading narration and discussion questions, meaningful map studies, plus lots of ideas for additional living books and activities, you are sure to enjoy these visits to each part of your world!

Explore the world with the entire *Visits to . . .* series!

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Visits to South & Central America and Australia

by Sonya Shafer

*Your Guide to Exploring
South & Central America and Australia
through Maps and Living Books*

Visits to South & Central America and Australia
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Materials Needed

- *Material World* by Peter Menzel
- *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* by Peter Menzel
Peter Menzel traveled the world, staying with “average” families in many countries and documenting their ways of life. These two books that present his fascinating memoirs and captivating photography are used in all six books of the Visits to . . . series.
- Pen
- Tracing paper
- A soft pencil (4B works well)
- Colored pencils

Recommended Reading

Grades 1–3 or Family

Most of these are picture books that younger students will particularly enjoy, but don't overlook how much everyone can learn from a well-written children's book. Feel free to share them with the whole family. Older students might read them to the younger students.

- *Are We There Yet? A Journey around Australia* by Alison Lester
This book is out of print but will give a great overview of Australia if you can find a copy. (Note: There is one evolutionary comment about artwork being more than 20,000 years old.) Another option would be the book, *To the Top End: Our Trip Across Australia*, by Roland Harvey.
- *Elena's Story* by Nancy Shaw
- *Hands of the Rain Forest: the Embera People of Panama* by Rachel Crandell
This book is out of print, but a library near you may have a copy.
- *Herbert: The True Story of a Brave Sea Dog* by Robyn Belton
- *A Mango in the Hand: A Story Told through Proverbs* by Antonio Sacre
- *Not Just Tacos* by Shirley Solis
Optional but recommended. The authentic recipes and cultural insights will add much to your study of South America.
- *Waiting for the Biblioburro* by Monica Brown

Grades 4–12

- *Kon-Tiki* by Thor Heyerdahl
A riveting narrative of the trip that six men took from South America to the Pacific islands on a primitive raft. A fascinating story well told. (Note: There is a little sprinkling of strong language throughout the narrative, but no cursing.)

How to Use

Complete one visit per week and you will finish this book in one school year. Throughout the weeks you will visit South & Central America and Australia through four types of activities.

Map the Countries

When you come to a Map the Countries exercise, it will have a labeled map and a blank one. Fold back the book so the labeled map isn't showing and fill in on the blank map all the countries or regions that you know. Then open the book back up and compare your handwritten map with the pre-labeled one to check your work. As you progress through this book, each Map the Countries exercise will introduce new countries or regions to remember and add to your map next time.

Recommended Reading

Delightful living geography books are scattered throughout the weeks, along with helpful reminders to make sure you have time to get each book for the Visit in which it is mentioned. Check your library for many of the picture books.

Meet the Families

When you come to a Meet the Families section, read the assigned pages from *Material World* or *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* to help you get a close-up look at families around the world—what they eat, where they live, what they possess, what their days are like. Use the leading questions to prompt discussion or written narration.

Make Your Own Map

When you come to a Make Your Own Map activity, you will have the opportunity to spend a little longer visit in the country you just read about. You will use the labeled map to create your own map, carefully tracing the country's borders and filling in your choice of cities, rivers, mountains—whichever features you want to include. It's your map! Detailed instructions will walk you through the process step by step.

If you want to make more maps of your own, you'll find extra pages in the back of this book.

Extra Visits

You will find lots of ideas on page 6 for adding some extra visits along the way. Enjoy those suggested activities designed to help you linger in your selected part of the world and get to know it even better. Have fun with your Visits to South & Central America and Australia! And when you're done, pick another part of the world to visit:

Visits to Africa

Visits to the Middle East

Visits to Europe

Visits to South & Central America, Australia

Visits to North America

Visits to Asia

Ideas for Extra Visits

Use one or more of the ideas below to add some extra visits to your selected continent or country.

Play a Fun Game

Many interesting and enjoyable geography games are available. One possibility might be the series of games called *10 Days in . . .*, which focuses on each continent (*10 Days in Africa*, *10 Days in Europe*, etc.). Games are a great way to add some extra visits.

Contact a Foreign Missionary

If your church supports a missionary who lives in your selected continent or country, you could connect with him to learn more about the area firsthand. Get his e-mail address. Sign up to receive his updates. If you can video- or audio-chat with him, you can learn about the language in that country and hear some samples. Maybe you can learn how to say “Hello, my name is __” and “What is your name?” in that language. Write down your questions to ask the missionary about that part of the world. And of course, find out more about his ministry and pray for the people, the missionary, and the work there.

Taste Some Authentic Food

Few things transport you to a specific place on earth like the taste of that region’s traditional cuisine. If you are adventurous and love to cook, search the Internet for recipes and the area markets for ingredients and have fun! Many recipes are given in *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*. If you know a person from that country who loves to cook, arrange for a get-together and a cooking lesson or offer to contribute toward the cost for that person to cook some traditional dishes for your family to taste. You might also check your local area to see if there is a restaurant that specializes in your selected type of cuisine.

Listen to Traditional Music

A vast array of music samples are available through the Internet. Search for “traditional music of ____” and fill in either the continent name or any of the country names.

Search for Current News

Be on the lookout for current events that relate to your selected continent or country. As always, a parent should supervise research and screen any findings to determine whether it is appropriate for family members.

The Big Picture



The visits in this book will take you to South & Central America and Australia. Look closely at this map of the world and find Australia. Which oceans touch Australia? Which continents are close to it and in which directions? Where is Australia in relation to the equator: north (in the Northern Hemisphere) or south (in the Southern Hemisphere)?

Do you have the picture in your mind's eye? Now, without looking, try to describe where Australia is in the world.

Next do the same with South & Central America. Find them on the map. Which oceans touch South & Central America? Which continents are close to that region and in which directions? Where are South & Central America in relation to the equator: north (in the Northern Hemisphere) or south (in the Southern Hemisphere)?

Try to describe where South & Central America are in the world.

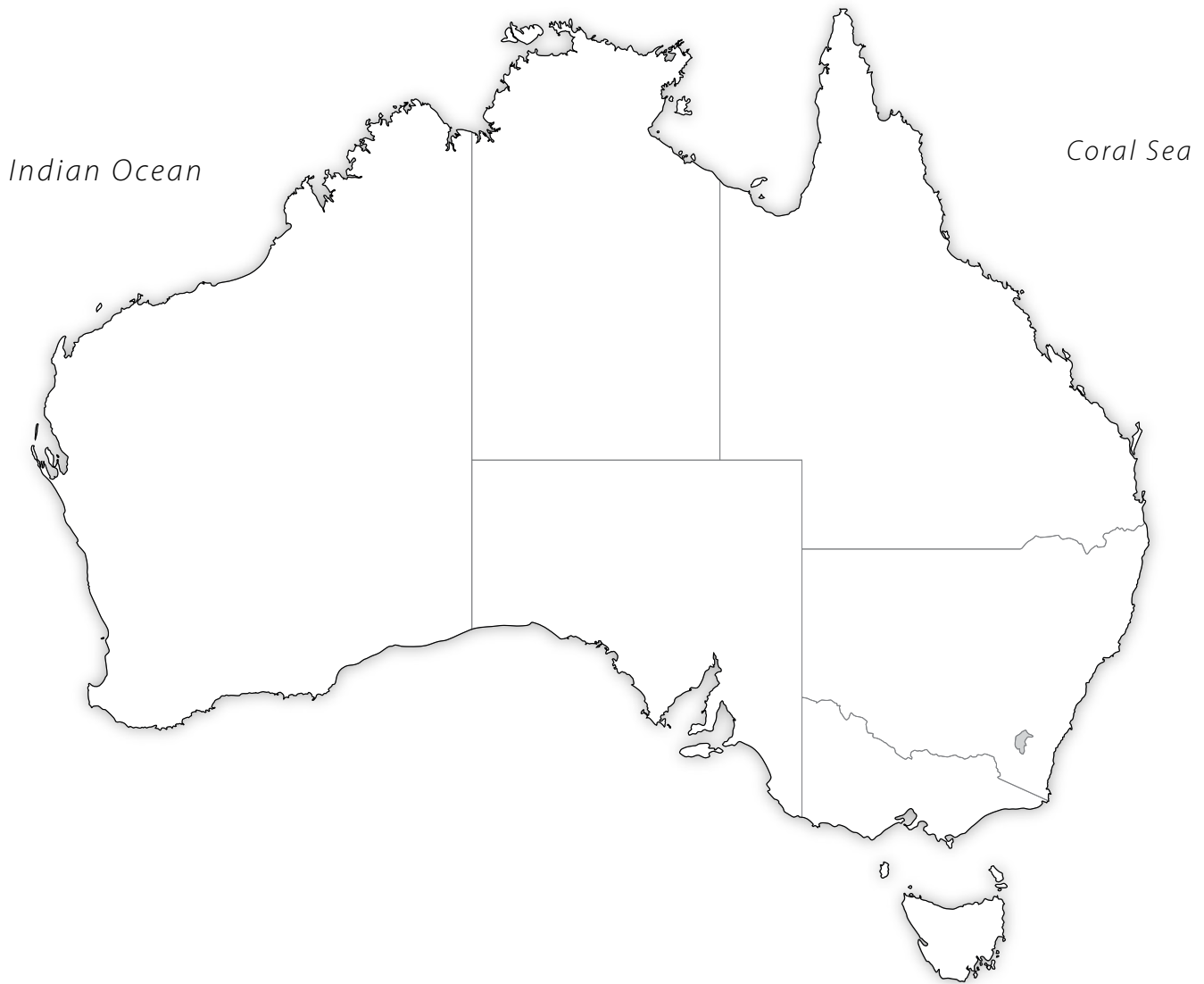
Visit 1 Map Australia

1. First go to page 7 to get the big picture, then come back here.



If you don't want to write the names, you can cut apart the names listed on page 87 and slide them into place to label your map.

-
2. Australia is made up of seven states and territories. Take a close look at the four that are highlighted on the map on the facing page: Western Australia, Northern Territory, South Australia, and Queensland. Copy them onto the map below and remember them for next time.



 **Recommended Reading**

Grades 1-3 or Family: Read *Are We There Yet? A Journey around Australia* (if you were able to find a copy) or *To the Top End: Our Trip Across Australia*.

Visit 2 Map Australia

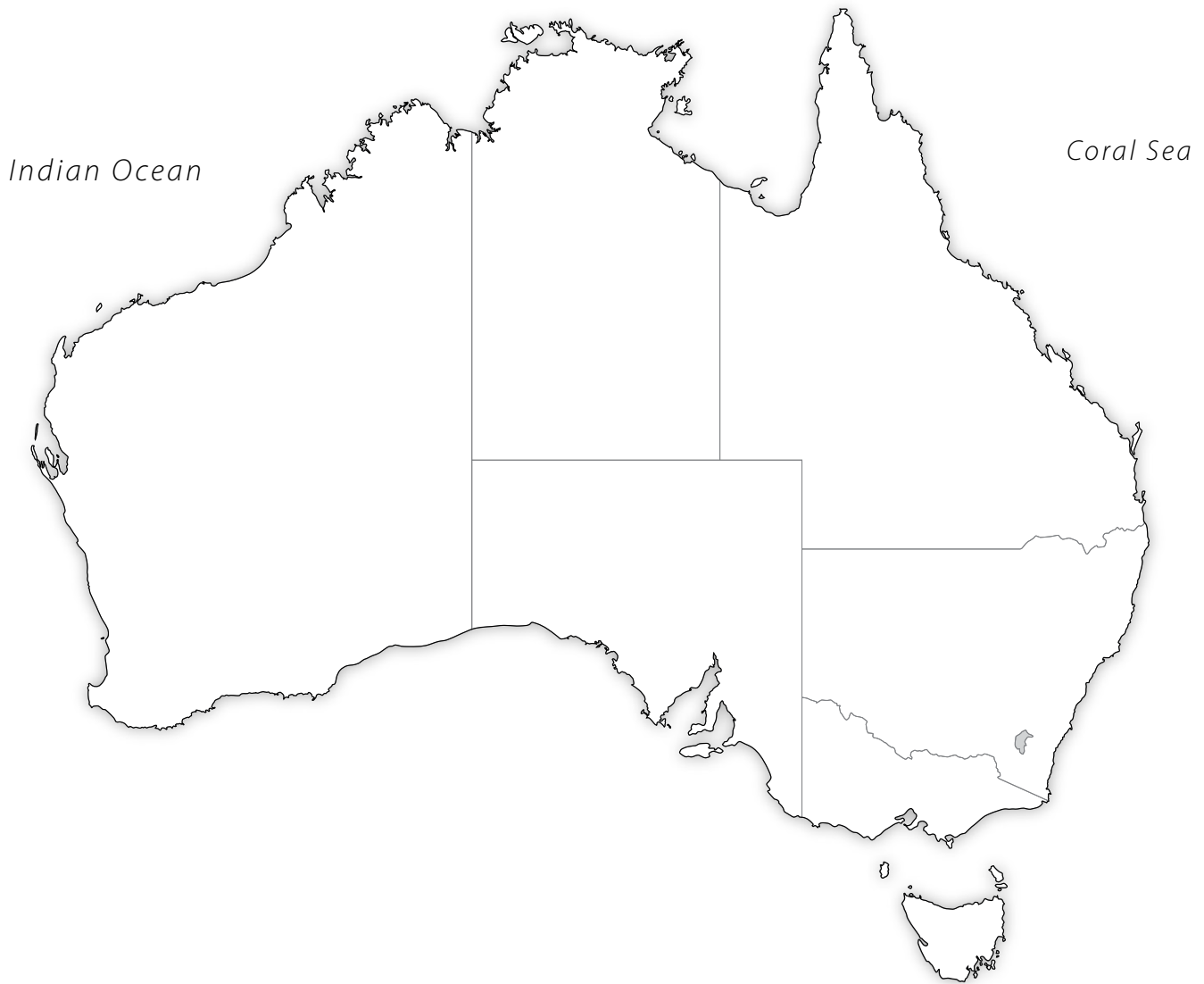
1. Fold back the book so the map on this page is out of sight.




4. Take a close look at the new states and territories highlighted on this map: New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania. Copy them onto your map and remember them for next time.

Be sure to check out the ideas for Extra Visits on page 6!

-
2. On the blank map below, label each state or territory in Australia that you know.
 3. Open the book back up and use the pre-labeled map to check your work.



 **Recommended Reading**

Grades 4–12: Read *Kon-Tiki*, chapter 1, “A Theory.”

Visit 3 Meet the Families

Get to know the Brown family, living in Australia. You'll find their story and pictures in *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, pages 22–29. The narration questions below will guide your visit. Discuss or write your answers.

1. Look closely at the photograph on page 22 of one week's worth of food. Can you identify everything? (Check the One Week's Food list for help.) How is the Brown family's food different from yours?

For an extra visit to Australia, you may want to try cooking and tasting the recipe for Marge Brown's Quandong Pie on page 28.

2. Read about the family's background in the outback on pages 23 and 24. (Stop before the final paragraph that begins, "Food stories figure prominently in the family lore.") Describe some of the experiences the Browns have had in the outback and in the city.

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3. Read the porcupine story on pages 24 and top of 28 and the Field Note on page 26. How would you describe life in the outback based on these stories?

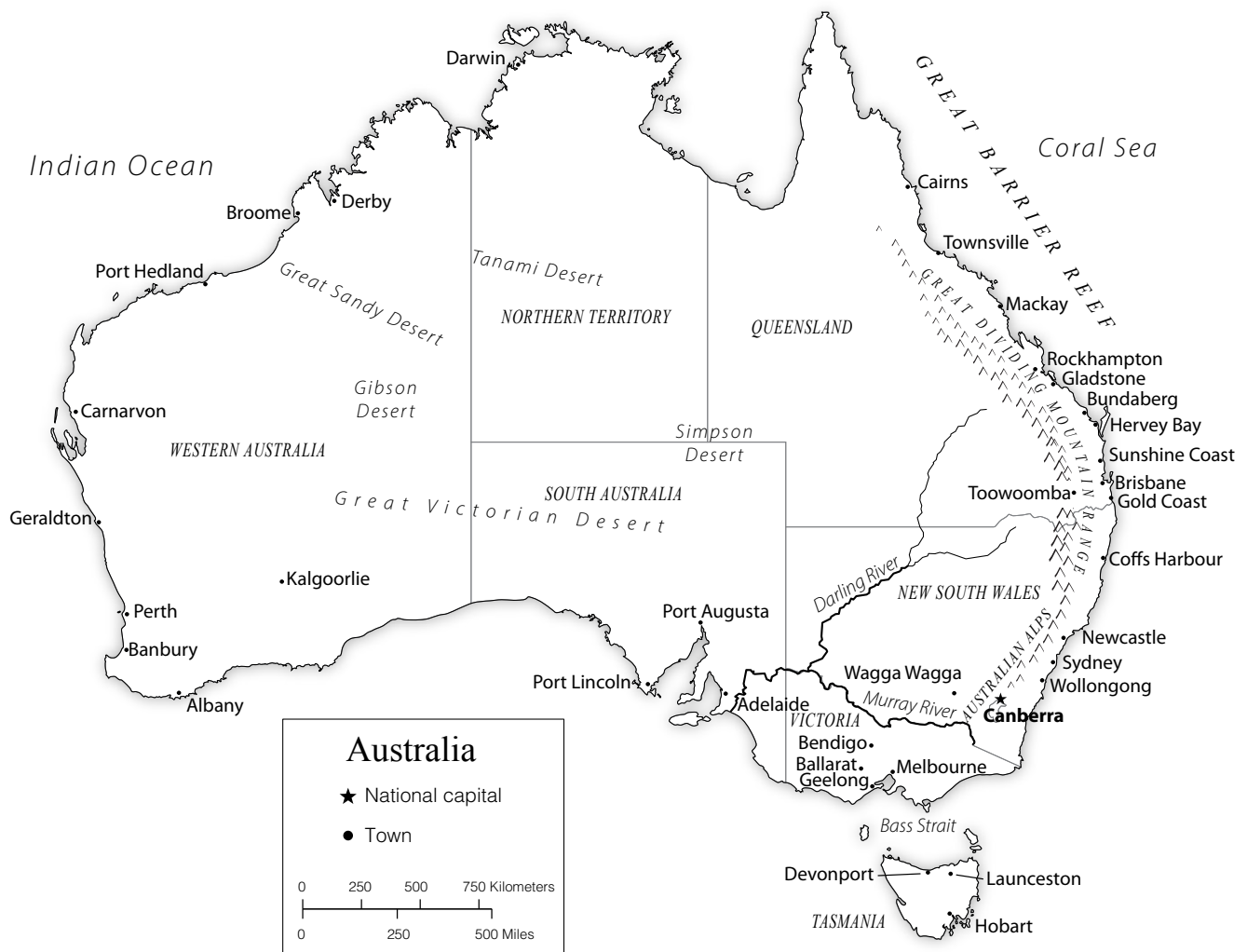
4. Read the rest of page 28 and look at the photos and captions about the Brown family's life. How would you describe their lifestyle?

Detailed Visits Project: Older students may want to create a spreadsheet that will record and compare some of the main statistics given about each country. You'll see some about Australia given on page 24 in Hungry Planet: What the World Eats, and you'll find similar lists as you visit other countries in the book. Simply label each column of your spreadsheet with one of the descriptive headings from the list on page 24 or from the lists in Material World. For example, you might want to compile each country's Population (as of the year the book was published), Life Expectancy, Literacy Rate, Meat Consumed Per Person Per Year, Food Expenditure for One Week, or any other statistic that interests you. As you read about the different families in different countries, you can add each country's name down the left side of the spreadsheet and its statistics across the row. Then sort the table according to the various columns' headings and compare the areas around the world.

Visit 4 Make Your Own Map

You'll need a pen, tracing paper, a soft pencil, and colored pencils to make your own map of Australia. Here's how.

1. Place a piece of tracing paper over the labeled map below. Use a pen to trace the border and any components of the map that you want to include on your copy: major rivers, lakes, cities, internal counties or provinces. It's your map; you decide.
2. Turn over the tracing paper and use a soft pencil to scribble carefully over all your traced lines and dots until you can no longer see them. (You are layering pencil graphite onto the paper which will be transferred to create your own map in the next step.)



-
3. Turn the tracing paper right side up again and lay it on this page. Retrace the whole map, going over all the lines you already traced. Be careful not to let the tracing paper slide out of place. As you trace, the graphite on the bottom side of the tracing paper should transfer to this page. Lift up the tracing paper, and you should have a copy of your map.
 4. Use your pencil, pen, and colored pencils to go over the lines again, then refer to the original map for the information to personalize your map. Label it. Make the rivers blue. Write in the towns and cities. Look especially for Brisbane, where live the Browns and the next family you will meet from Australia. Make it your own creation, and by the time you are done, you'll have a pretty good grasp of the region.

Visit 5 Meet the Families

Get to know another family living in Australia, the Molloy family. You'll find their story and pictures in *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, pages 30–35. The narration questions below will guide your visit. Discuss or write your answers.

1. Look carefully at the family photograph with one week's worth of food on page 30. How is it different from your family's groceries? How does it compare to the week's worth of food for the Brown family, whom you've already met? (See page 22.)

2. Read the narrative of the day the author spent at the Molloy family's house on page 31. Tell what you learned about their life.

3. Read the Field Note on page 34 and describe the weather in Brisbane in January.

For an extra visit to Australia, you may want to try cooking and tasting the recipe for the Molloy Family's Barbecued Prawns with Chiles, Coriander Leaves (Cilantro), and Lime Butter or making the recipe for Natalie Molloy's Avocado and Mango Salad on page 34.

4. Look at the photographs and read the captions on pages 32–35. What did you find out about Brisbane, Australia?
