

# Australia Fact Sheet



GIRL GUIDES  
AUSTRALIA



## Fun facts about Australia:

- Australia is the sixth largest country in the world. It has, however, a relatively small population of 25million people. There are more kangaroos in Australia than people!
- The name 'Australia' comes from the Latin word *Australis* meaning southern.
- Indigenous Australians are the most ancient civilisation on earth; they can be traced back 50,000 years.
- Over 200 different languages and dialects are spoken in Australia including 45 indigenous languages.
- There are 55 different species of kangaroos and wallabies in Australia.
- We also have more than 800 species of birds, about half of which cannot be found anywhere else.
- Australia has more venomous snakes than any other continent, 21 of the world's deadliest in fact.
- Koalas are not bears, they are marsupials and their babies are called Joeys. Joeys stay in their mums' pouch for approximately 6 months.
- Australia was the second country in the world to give women the right to vote in 1902.
- When Queen Elizabeth married Prince Philip in 1947 Britain was still reeling from World War 2 and rationing was still underway. Every girl in the Australian Girl Guides contributed to the ingredients and they were sent to England where they were used to make the wedding cake.

## Guiding in Australia:

- The first Girl Guide meetings in Australia were held as early as 1909, and a national organisation was formed in 1926.
- Over one million Australian women have been or still are Girl Guides.
- The Australian Guide Program focuses on four main elements – physical, people, practical and self.
- The program is girl-led which means the girls and their leaders decide on each unit's activities.

A song Girl Guides love to sing around the campfire here in Australia is

🎵 **'Cuddly Koalas'** (sung to the tune of Frere Jacques)

*\*Repeat the actions with each phrase*

**"Cuddly Koalas, Cuddly Koalas."**

*\*Cross arms like hugging something and swing torso left and right at waist*

**"Possums, too, Possums, too."**

*\*Hold hands up to eyes like looking through eye glasses.*

**"Wallabies and Wombats, Wallabies and Wombats."**

*\*Wallabies: Hold hands up in front like "doggie paws"*

*\*Wombat: Move "doggie paws" in a digging motion*

**"Kangaroos, Kangaroos."**

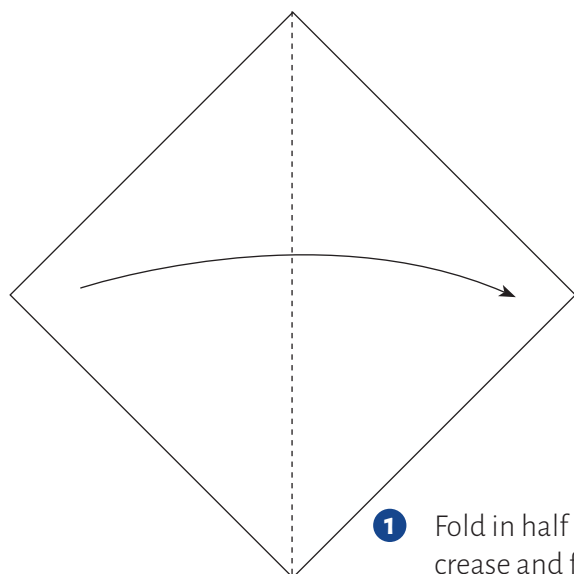
*\*Hold hands up in front like "doggie paws", then on "roos" syllable, hop and bend forward at waist and push paws forward in hopping motion.*



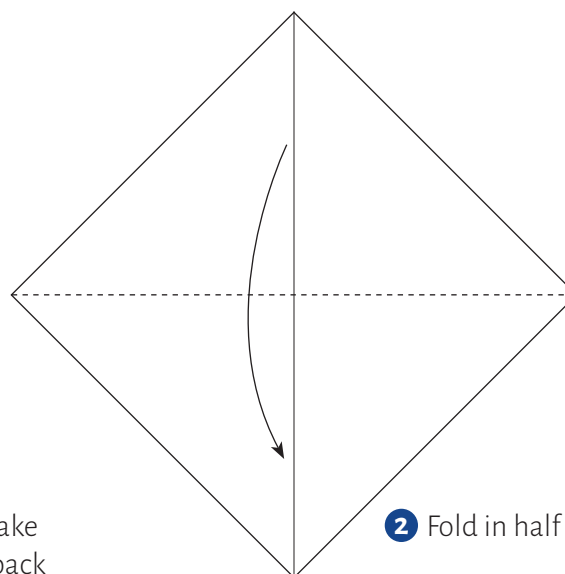
# Make a koala face!



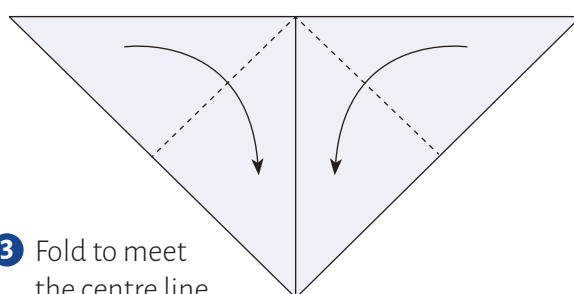
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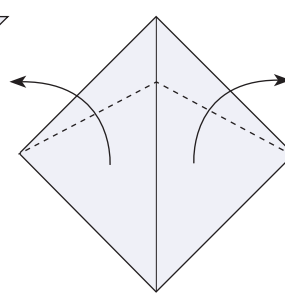
**1** Fold in half to make crease and fold back



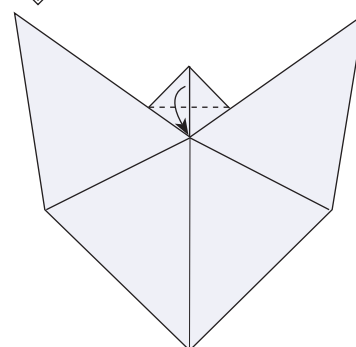
**2** Fold in half



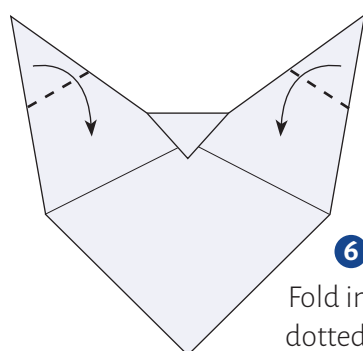
**3** Fold to meet the centre line



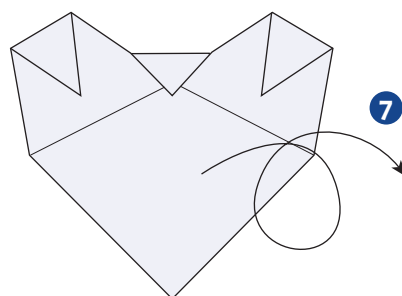
**4** Fold in the dotted line



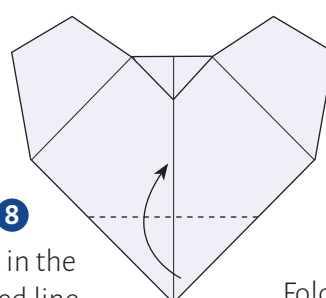
**4** Fold in the dotted line



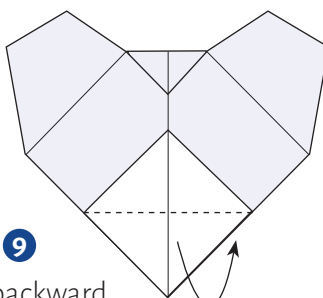
**6**  
Fold in the dotted line



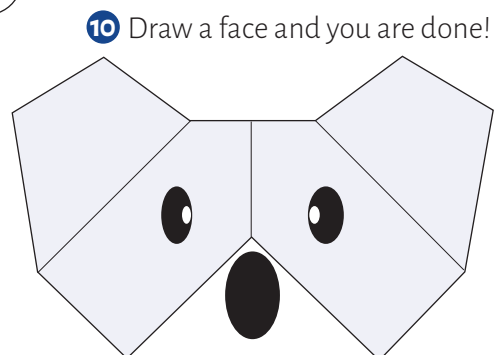
**7** Turn over



**8**  
Fold in the dotted line



**9**  
Fold backward in the dotted line



**10** Draw a face and you are done!