

24 Australian English

When Europeans started living in Australia at the end of the eighteenth century, there were over 200 different native languages spoken there, by the Aboriginal people or original inhabitants of the country. From these native languages a number of words came into English such as *didgeridoo* and *billabong*.



GETTING STARTED

Match up the following words with the definitions below.

dingo

kangaroo

koala

boomerang

kookaburra

WORD	DEFINITION
1.	A curved piece of wood that can be thrown so that it returns to the thrower.
2.	An Australian wild dog.
3.	An Australian animal that looks like a small bear.
4.	A large Australian kingfisher with a loud call.
5.	An Australian animal that jumps around on its strong hind legs.



MOVING ON

Work out whether the following definitions for Australian English words are true or false.

- Billabong* is a bundle carried by a man in the bush. T / F
- Cobber* means friend or companion. T / F
- Dinkum* means false or dishonest. T / F
- Fossick* is an Australian word for an old person. T / F
- Crook* means sick or unwell. T / F

Circle
your
answer