The Language Unit students have been looking at Information Texts. They have all completed their own about Australia. We have listed some of the interesting information we discovered about Australia and are now using our iPads to design Information Texts around maps.

- Tasmania is named after Abel Tasman.
- James Cook was born 27\textsuperscript{th} October 1728 and died 14\textsuperscript{th} February 1779. His ship was called the \textit{Endeavour}.
- Cook was a British explorer and Captain in the Royal Navy. He mapped a lot of the eastern parts of Australia.
- Matthew Flinders met George Bass, a ship’s doctor, when they were both sailing to Australia.
- Flinders went all around Australia by boat – so Flinders proved that Australia was a big island. It was Flinders who suggested the name Australia.
- Bass and Flinders sailed the \textit{Norfolk} through Bass Strait and around Tasmania proving that it was an island.
- Flinders was captured by the French on the island of Mauritius in 1803 until 1810. They thought he was a spy but he wasn’t. Then they let him go and he went back to England. When he got back he was 39. He was not healthy. While ill, he made a book of his travels and called it \textit{A Voyage to Terra Australis}. He died on the day his book was published. He proved that Australia was one island and his book was used for many years.
- The current population of Australia is around 22,700,000.
- Australia’s capital city is Canberra.
- Australia means ‘southern land’.
- It is the 6\textsuperscript{th} largest country and smallest continent.
- It has 6 states and 2 territories.
- Australian animals include the kangaroo, koala, emu, wombat, platypus.
- Alice Springs is the geographical centre of Australia and was discovered by John Stuart.
- Aboriginal people lived in Australia over 40,000 years ago.
- We enjoyed learning about Australia and the explorers – James Cook, Matthew Flinders, George Bass, Burke and Wills, John Stuart and Hume.