

Chapter 1

In the studio



“Kalinda, Dylan – you’re on!” called the TV studio director.

Ten-year-old Kalinda looked up from her laptop.

“Hi, everyone,” she smiled, “Welcome to *Kids on Continents*. Dylan and I are your hosts today.”

Dylan waved at the studio camera. “We’ve flown four lucky kids to mystery destinations. Each kid has a parent with them, and in one week they have to find their way to the capital city of the country they’re visiting,” said Dylan.

“In just a few minutes, we’ll cross live to interview our first contestant, Mitchell. But, first, Dylan will tell us where in the world Mitchell is!”

Dylan looked down at his laptop. The big studio screen zoomed in on his Google Earth map.

“Mitchell is right here,” said Dylan, “in Morocco, on the continent of Africa! That’s around 173 886 kilometres north-west from his home in Perth, Australia.”

“Africa is so big!” gasped Kalinda.

“Totally! Australia could fit four times into the continent of Africa!”

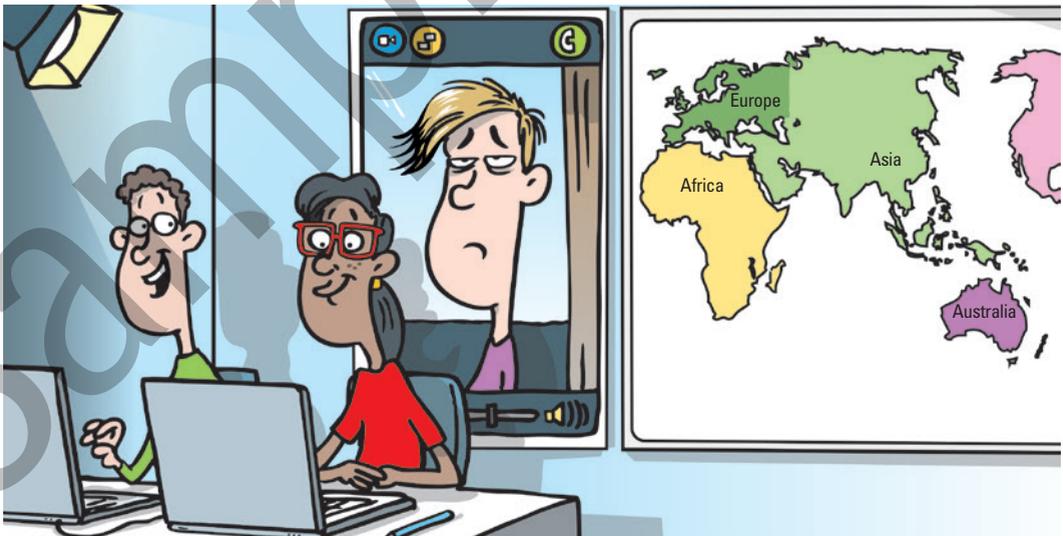
Kalinda’s laptop began beeping.

“Mitchell has been in Morocco for four days now,” she told her viewers, “and he’s online, right now, to talk to us.”

“Mum! Mum? Wake up! We’re on!” came a voice.

“Hello? Mitchell?” said Kalinda into her laptop mike.

“How are you going?”



Chapter 2

Mitchell



“Hi, Kalinda,” said Mitchell. “I’m fine, but Mum is tired. Morocco is 10 hours behind Australia, so it’s only 6 am, and we did a huge hike through the Atlas Mountains yesterday.”

“I thought Morocco was all sand,” said Dylan.

“It’s more than sand,” said Mitchell. “All through the Atlas Mountains is just bare dirt and rocks with thorny shrubs. But there are forests here, too, where there are lots of different oaks and eucalyptus, just like home! But, if you want to see sand, take a look at this photo I’m sending through. It’s of Mum and I riding on camels!”

“What do they grow over there?” asked Kalinda.

“There are wheat fields and vegetables all around us,” said Mitchell, “plus fields of grass for the milking animals. Everything is irrigated by little hand-built canals.”

“I thought you said the mountains were dry,” interrupted Kalinda.

“Down low there are rivers,” said Mitchell. “Look at this photo.”

“Wow!” said Kalinda. “The green stops so suddenly.”

“It’s been like this for hundreds of years,” said Mitchell. “If the people don’t ask too much of the land, and don’t keep too many animals, everything is in balance. There’s enough food and water for everyone. Sustainability magic!”

“Amazing. Where to next?” asked Kalinda.

“We’re heading down to the coast,” replied Mitchell.

“I can’t wait to taste the oranges they grow on the plains there!”

