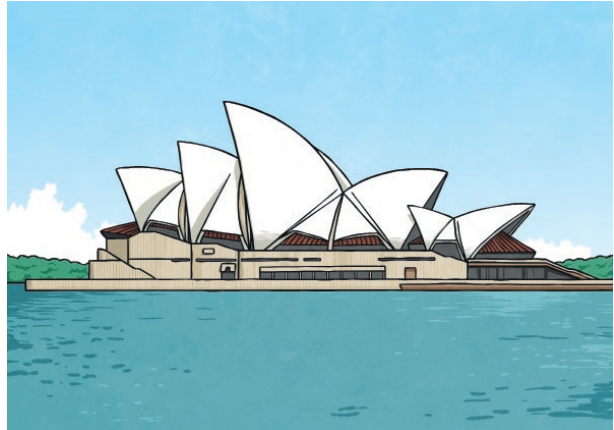


Sydney Opera House

What Is It?

The Sydney Opera House is an instantly recognisable and iconic building located in Sydney, New South Wales. It sits on the backdrop of Sydney Harbour, surrounded by the city of Sydney and other landmarks such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Australians are proud of their landmark and it is visited every year by millions of overseas tourists and locals.



How Was It Designed?

It was decided that the only performance hall, the Sydney Town Hall was not big enough to hold the performances and audiences of Sydney. A bigger and better theatre was needed. In 1956, the New South Wales government announced a building design competition. Anyone from anywhere in the world could enter. In 1956, the winning entry was announced as being that by Jorn Utzon, a talented young Danish architect. He arrived in Sydney in 1957 to supervise the project.

When Was It Built?

Construction of the building began in March, 1959. First, the upper podium was built. Next, the outer shells were constructed and installed. Finally, the interior design was finished. The construction was completed in 1973, meaning that it took a staggering 14 years to complete!

There were several problems while building the Opera House. Weather issues regularly stopped construction. There was a change in government and the leaders made many design changes which annoyed Jorn Utzon. He quit the project and left Australia before it was completed. A new architect named Peter Hall was hired to complete the job.

The Official Opening

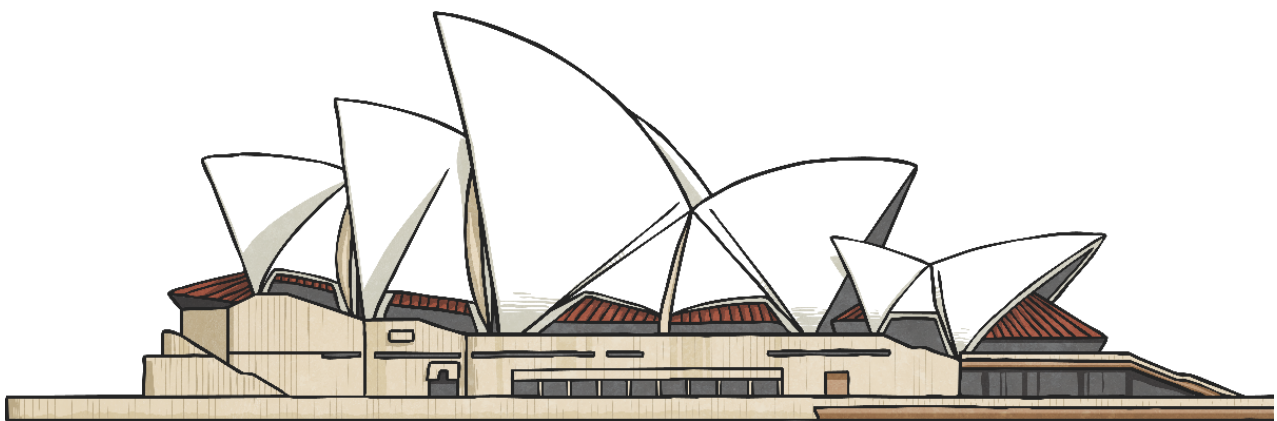
The Opera House was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 20th October 1973. An enormous crowd attended this important event. Utzon was not invited to the ceremony and his name was not mentioned at all during the proceedings. The event was broadcast live on television and included a fireworks display.

Purpose of the Opera House

Due to its central location in Sydney and its beautiful backdrop of the Sydney Harbour, the Sydney Opera House is the location of many events throughout the year. These include concerts, important meetings and celebrations. Some people have parties and get married there. The most popular event is the New Year's Eve fireworks. Many thousands of people travel long distances to attend this important celebration each year.

Interesting Facts

- The Opera House is 185 metres long and 120 metres wide.
- It has 1 million tiles on the roof.
- It has a total of 1,000 rooms.
- Each year the Opera House has an audience of 2 million people for various performances.
- It provides guided tours to over 200,000 people every year.
- It cost \$102 million to build.
- Over 10,000 workmen were used to build it.



Questions

1. In which state is the Sydney Opera House?

2. Which important event occurred in 1956?

3. How long did the Opera House take to build?

4. What problems occurred while building the Opera House?

5. True or false? The Prime Minister of Australia officially opened the Sydney Opera House.

Tick one.

☐ true

☐ false

6. List two interesting facts about the Sydney Opera House.

1.

2.

Answers

1. In which state is the Sydney Opera House?
The Sydney Opera house is in the state of New South Wales.
2. Which important event occurred in 1956?
In 1956, the New South Wales government announced a building design competition.
3. How long did the Opera House take to build?
The Sydney Opera House took 14 years to build.
4. What problems occurred while building the Opera House?
Weather issues and leaders that made many design changes were problems that occurred while building the Opera House.
5. True or false? The Prime Minister of Australia officially opened the Sydney Opera House. Tick one.

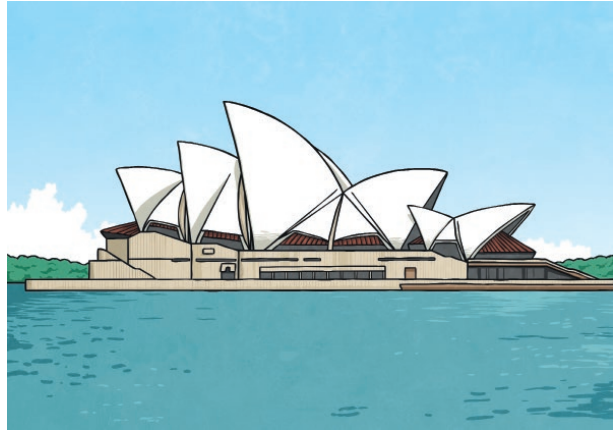
☐ true

☒ **false**
6. List two interesting facts about the Sydney Opera House.
Accept any two of the following: The Opera House is 185 metres long and 120 metres wide, It has 1 million tiles on the roof, It has a total of 1,000 rooms, Each year the Opera House has an audience of 2 million people for various performances, It provides guided tours to over 200,000 people every year, It cost \$102 million to build, Over 10,000 workmen were used to build it.

Sydney Opera House

What Is It?

The Sydney Opera House is a unique example of architectural work. It is an instantly recognisable and iconic building located in Sydney, New South Wales. It sits on the stunning backdrop of Sydney Harbour, surrounded by the city of Sydney and other landmarks such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Australian people are extremely proud of their landmark and it is visited every year by millions of overseas tourists and locals.



How Was It Designed?

It was recognised that the only performance hall, the Sydney Town Hall, was much too small to accommodate the performances and audiences of Sydney. A bigger and better venue was needed. In 1956, the New South Wales government announced a building design competition. The instructions for the competition were very broad. This was so they could attract a wide range of the best designers in the world with different design styles. The main pre-requisite for the design was for it to include two performance halls- one for opera and one for concerts. In 1956, the winning entry was announced as being that by Jorn Utzon, a talented young Danish architect. He arrived in Sydney in 1957 to supervise the project.

When Was It Built?

Formal construction of the building began in March, 1959. First, the upper podium was built. Next, the outer shells were constructed and installed. Finally, the interior design was finished. The construction was completed in 1973, meaning that it took a staggering 14 years to complete!

There were several problems while building the landmark. Many weather issues, including torrential rain and winds, regularly brought construction to a halt. A change in government occurred and the leaders made many significant design changes which annoyed Jorn Utzon. He resigned from the project before it was completed. A new architect named Peter Hall was hired to complete the job.

The Official Opening

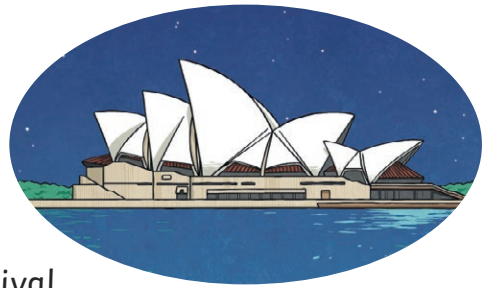
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Lighting up the Opera House

An important cultural event of which the Opera House plays a big part, is 'Vivid'. This event began as a lighting festival in 2009 to promote energy efficiency and light painting was projected onto both sides of the Opera House.



Vivid Sydney is a yearly outdoor lighting festival with immersive light installations and projections in Sydney. This winter event takes place over the course of three weeks in May and June.

Interesting Facts

- The Opera House is 185 metres long and 120 metres wide.
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Questions

1. In which important location is the Sydney Opera House?

2. Which important event occurred in 1956 and why did it happen?

3. Why were the competition rules broad?

4. What problems occurred while building the Opera House?

5. True or false? The Prime Minister of Australia officially opened the Sydney Opera House.

Tick one.

☐ true

☐ false

6. Do you think it would take 14 years to build a similar structure today? Why?

Answers

1. In which important location is the Sydney Opera House?
The Sydney Opera house is in Sydney Harbour.
2. Which important event occurred in 1956 and why did it happen??
In 1956, the New South Wales government announced a building design competition. This was because the Sydney Town Hall was too small for the performances and audiences of Sydney. A bigger and better venue was needed.
3. Why were the competition rules broad?
The competition rules were broad to attract designers from all over the world.
4. What problems occurred while building the Opera House?
Weather issues brought construction to a halt. There was a change in government and the leaders made many significant design changes.
5. True or false? The Prime Minister of Australia officially opened the Sydney Opera House. Tick one.

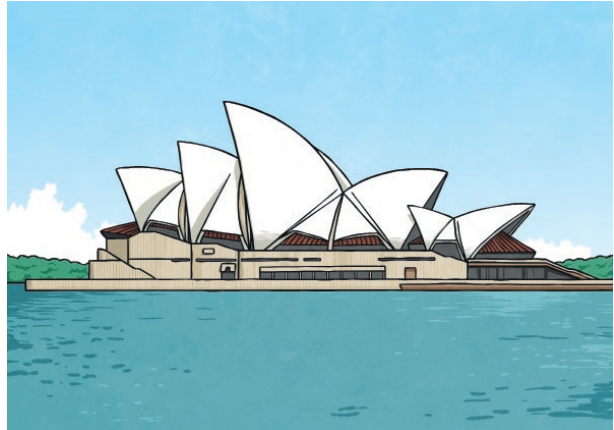
☐ true

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6. Do you think it would take 14 years to build a similar structure today? Why?
Accept answers that imply: No, it wouldn't take 14 years to build a similar structure today because there are many more advances in technology and equipment to make building quicker.

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Jorn Utzon

In the late 1990s, the government reached out to Jorn Utzon. Communication was re-established and Utzon became involved in refurbishment and further design projects on the building. There is now a room named after him, called 'The Utzon Room' in the Opera House. Utzon received a state memorial service when he died in 2008 to recognise his contribution to Australian culture.

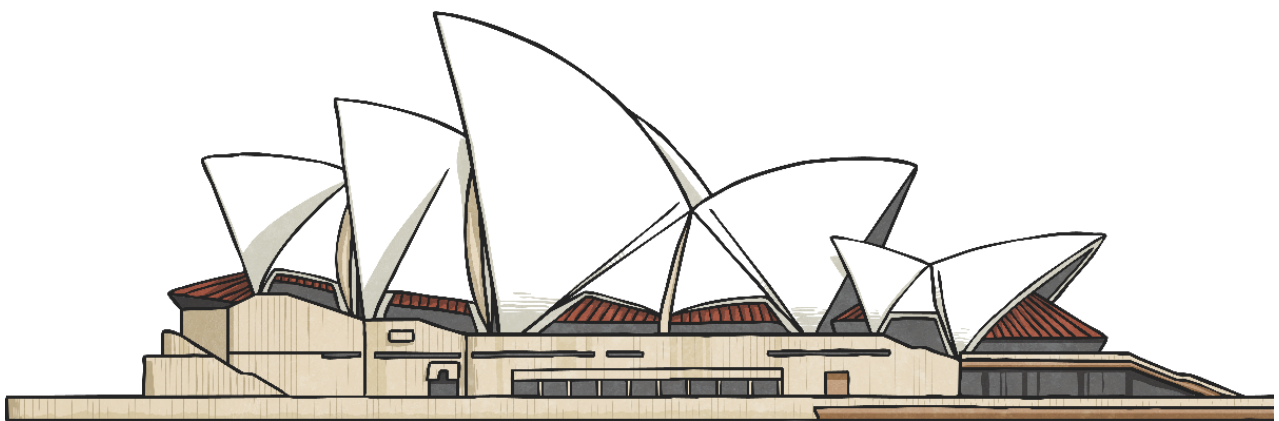
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Questions

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2. Which important event occurred in 1956 and why did it happen?

3. Why do you think Australians are proud of this landmark?

4. Why were the building competition rules broad?

5. True or false? The Prime Minister of Australia officially opened the Sydney Opera House.
Tick one.

☐ true

☐ false

6. Do you think it would take 14 years to build a similar structure today? Explain your answer.

7. Why do you think the Opera House was used for the first Vivid festival?

8. What do you think makes the Sydney Opera House an iconic landmark?

Answers

1. In which important location is the Sydney Opera House?
The Sydney Opera house is in Sydney Harbour.
2. Which important event occurred in 1956 and why did it happen?
In 1956 the government announced a design competition for a new theatre because Sydney Town Hall was too small.
3. Why do you think Australians are proud of this landmark?
Australians are proud of this landmark because it is instantly recognisable, unique and visited by many people every year.
4. Why were the building competition rules broad?
The building competition rules were broad to attract designers from all over the world.
5. True or false? The Prime Minister of Australia officially opened the Sydney Opera House. Tick one.

☐ true

☒ **false**
6. Do you think it would take 14 years to build a similar structure today? Explain your answer.
No, it wouldn't take 14 years to build a similar structure today because there are many more advances in technology and equipment to make building quicker.
7. Why do you think the Opera House was used for the first Vivid festival?
The enormous size and white coloured shells would make it easy to project light onto the Sydney Opera House.
8. What do you think makes the Sydney Opera House an iconic landmark?
The Sydney Opera House is an iconic landmark because it is unique, instantly recognizable, in a central location and a place of cultural significance.