Health Online



Written by Vaishali Batra

Health Online

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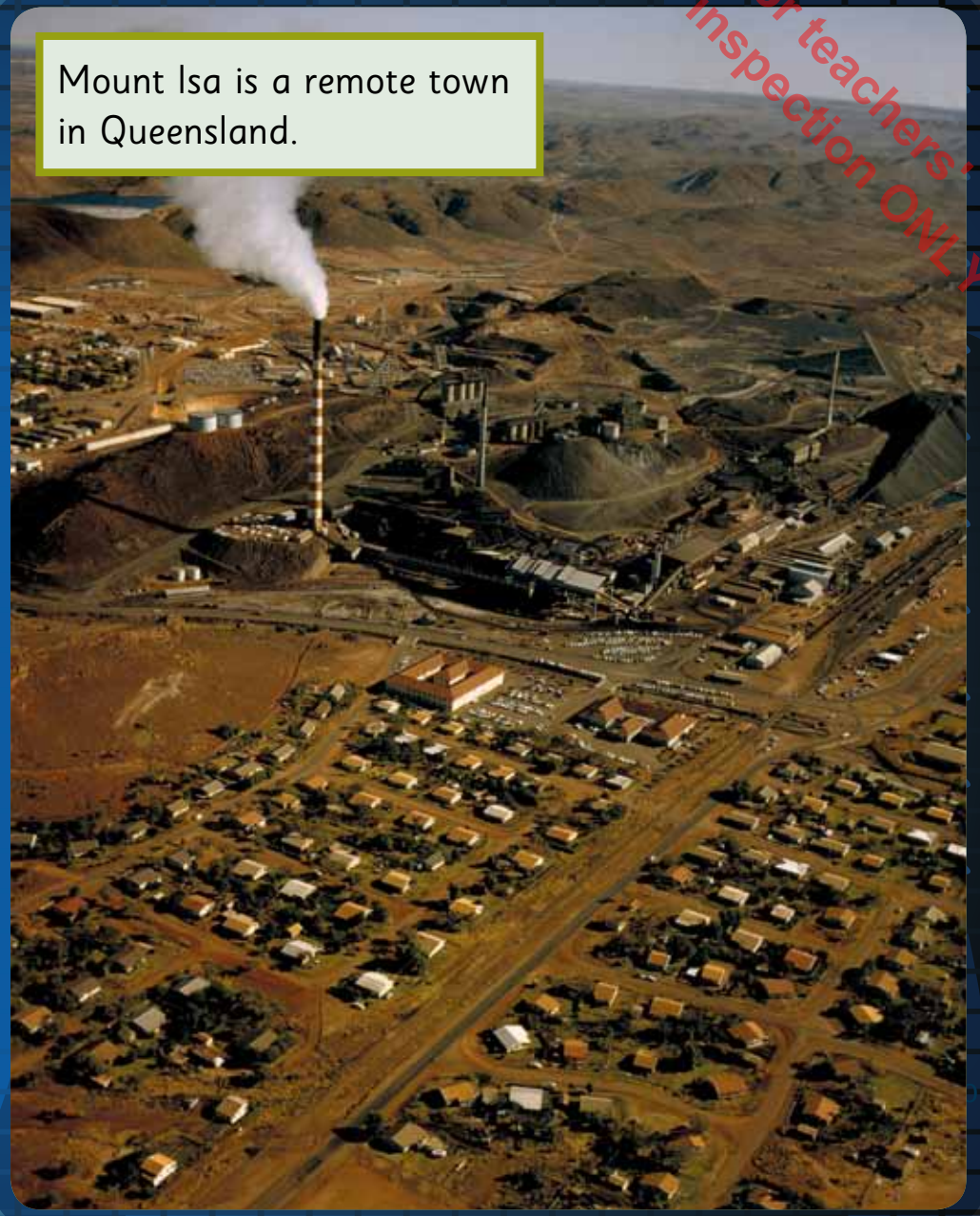
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Introduction

Australia is a big country.
A lot of people live there.
It has many big cities.
Most people live in the cities.
Many others do not.
They live in small towns far from the cities.
These towns can be hard to reach.
They are very **remote** places to live in.



Mount Isa is a remote town in Queensland.

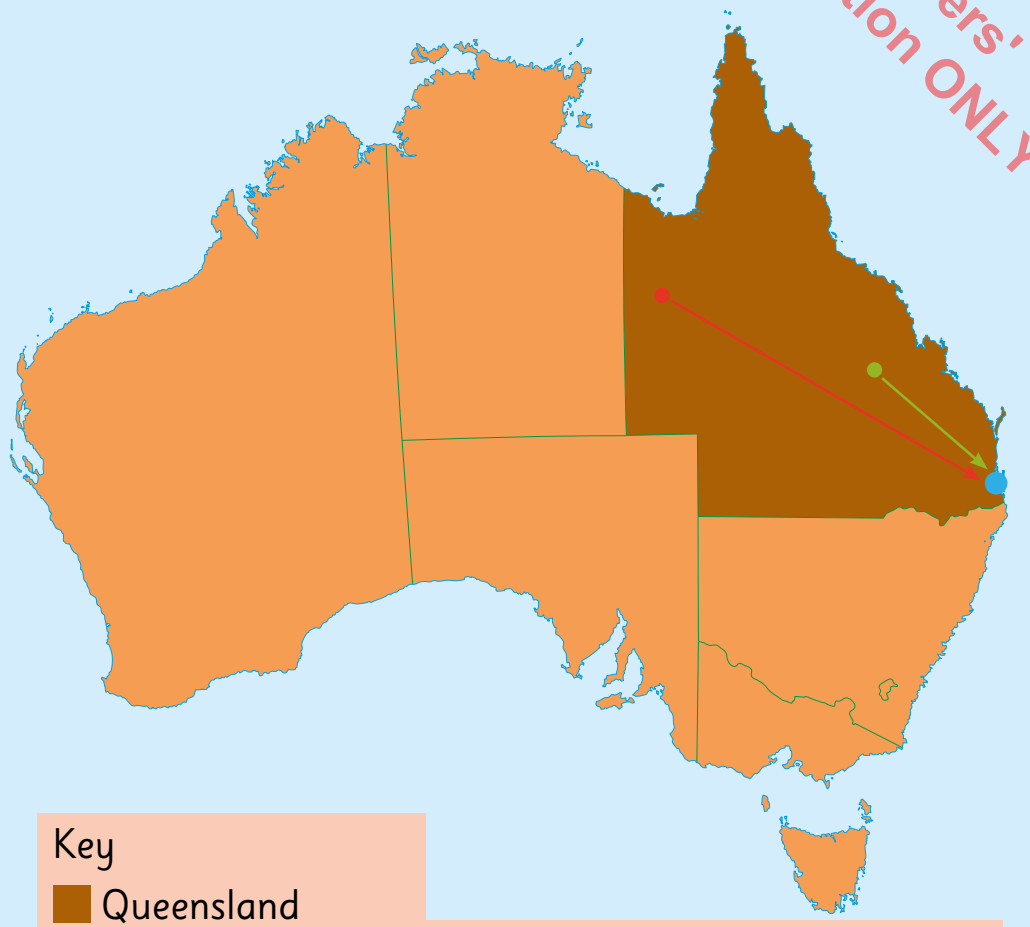
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Sometimes, people in remote towns
get very sick.
Their local doctor might want them
to see a special doctor in the city.
These special doctors study certain illnesses.
They know a lot about them.
These doctors are called **specialists**.
They can help very sick people.

Most specialists work in city hospitals.
These might be very far from remote towns.
How can people in remote towns
get to see a specialist?

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Distances in Australia



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Seeing a Specialist

In the past, people had to make long trips
to the city to see a specialist.
Now, in some remote towns in Queensland,
they do not have to.
Their local doctor can use the Internet.
This way, they can get help
from a specialist in the city.
They do not have to leave town.
This is called **telemedicine**.



This specialist uses the Internet to speak to
a doctor, his patient, and her mother in a remote town.