

Sky Safari

ACT ONE		
TIMECODE	VIDEO	NARRATION
10:00:05	MONTAGE OF AUSTRALIAN AERIALS	When a continent is cut adrift for millions of years...
10:00:11	MONTAGE OF AUSTRALIAN AERIALS	...It becomes a world unto itself.
10:00:16	MONTAGE OF AUSTRALIAN AERIALS	That world is called Australia.
10:00:21	MONTAGE OF AUSTRALIAN AERIALS	It is a place of bizarre beauty...
10:00:25	MONTAGE OF AUSTRALIAN AERIALS	...Earth's alternate reality...
10:00:29	AERIAL CROCODILE IN SHALLOW WATER	...And evolution's test kitchen.
10:00:34	ANIMAL MONTAGE	Here, unique landscapes inspire radical designs...
10:00:39	ANIMAL MONTAGE	...And animals too strange for the rest of the world make perfect sense.
10:00:46	AERIAL MONTAGE	Taking to the sky over Australia, we get the whole picture...
10:00:52	AERIAL MONTAGE	...How the pieces fit together...and how the land made the life.
10:00:59	GRAPHIC	MAP OF AUSTRALIA
10:00:59	CG Z/O MAP OF AUSTRALIA	Up here, there's a new perspective.
10:01:03	OPENING TITLE	Sky Safari Australia
10:01:16	ULURU AERIAL	The journey begins here
10:01:19	ULURU AERIAL	...The spiritual and symbolic heart of the continent.
10:01:28	ULURU AERIAL	Uluru stands like an iceberg in a barren sea.
10:01:33	ULURU AERIAL Z/O	A single slab of rock extending underground for up to three and a half miles [five and a half kilometers].
10:01:40	ULURU AERIAL Z/O	All that remains after millions of years of slow erosion.

10:01:49	ULURU AERIAL Z/I	More than a landmark, Uluru is the embodiment of a continent.
10:01:56	RED DESERT AERIALS	Dry...vast...and isolated.
10:02:07	DESERT AERIALS	For thirty million years or more, Australia has been left to follow its own path.
10:02:17	DESERT AERIALS	Over one third of the continent – more than a million square miles [two and half million square kilometers] – is desert.
10:02:28	KANGAROO AERIALS	These challenging conditions demanded an animal that can easily cover distances like this in search of food and water.
10:02:39	Red Kangaroos (<i>Macropus rufus</i>) KANGAROO HOPPING TOWARDS CAM	And the red kangaroo rose to meet the challenge.
10:02:47	CU KANGAROO FACE	Kangaroos are the quintessential Aussie animal for two key reasons.
10:02:54	CU BABY KANGAROO CLIMBS FROM POUCH	They're marsupials – mammals that bring up their babies in pouches.
10:03:02	WS 4 KANGAROO ON SKYLINE	And they're macropods...
10:03:04	KANGAROO HOPPING RIGHT	...Literally meaning “long foot.”
10:03:11	GROUP OF KANGAROO MOVING RIGHT	They're not native to any other continent, but they rule this one.
10:03:17	GROUP OF KANGAROO MOVING RIGHT	Those hind legs are an engineering marvel forged in the outback.
10:03:34	SLOW MO LAMGARPP HOPPING	When a kangaroo hops, spring-like tendons capture the energy from each landing and use it for the next launch.
10:03:48	KANGAROO HOPPING TO RIGHT	An equal-sized mammal running on four legs would have to spend about thirty percent more energy to cover the same ground.
10:03:56	KANGAROO	That efficiency is critical in a place where food and water

	FEEDING IN DESERT	can be a long way off.
10:04:10	PAN RIGHT TO DEAD KANGAROO	But even with their advantages, some don't make it to the water in time.
10:04:35	Perentie Lizard (<i>Varanus giganteus</i>) Perentie CU PERENTIE LIZARD TONGUE, WS LIZARD IN DESERT	A perentie lizard has a different strategy—grabbing any opportunity it can.
10:04:42	LIZARD MOVING TOWARDS KANGAROO CARCASS	Hunting live prey or sniffing out carrion with a snake-like tongue.
10:04:49	WS LIZARD FEEDING ON CARCASS, CU LIZARD FEEDING ON CARCASS	It is over six feet [two meters] long—the largest lizard in Australia.
10:04:55	CU LIZARD COVERED IN FLIES	But even a small kangaroo will provide several meals.
10:05:06	O/H LIZARD MOVES DOWN SHOT	A perentie can live on less because it doesn't need to spend energy regulating its body temperature.
10:05:14	LIZARD MOVES TO RIGHT	As the day heats up, it raises its body off the scorching sand to stay a bit cooler.
10:05:23	LIZARD MOVES INTO BURROW	Hot days and chilly nights, it ducks into its burrow.
10:05:31	ZO AERIAL KANGAROOS	Hiding from the elements or staying on the move—that's how to deal with life in the Australian desert.
10:05:41	DESERT AERIAL	But Australia wasn't always this way.
10:05:46	DESERT AERIAL	For the last thirty million years the lone continent has been slowly inching toward the equator, growing ever hotter and drier.
10:05:58	DESERT AERIAL	Once upon a time it was a greener, wetter place.
	GRAPHIC	MAP – ULURU, ZOOM OUT PAN EAST TO DAINTREE RAINFOREST
10:06:07	MAP PAN EAST TOWARDS	Leaving the arid center and heading a thousand miles [seventeen hundred kilometers] to the Queensland coast—

	COAST	there is one remaining sliver of this bygone era.
10:06:16	MAP ZOOM IN TO DAINTREE RAINFOREST	It is called the Daintree.
10:06:22	RAINFOREST AERIALS	Three and a half thousand square miles [nine thousand square kilometers] of tablelands, estuaries and coast, most of it cloaked in tropical rainforest.
10:06:36	RAINFOREST RIVER AERIALS	It may be small, but it's older than the Amazon, perhaps 180 million years old.
10:06:47	RAINFOREST AERIALS	Some say it's the oldest rainforest on earth.
10:07:03	PAN DOWN TREE ROOTS	Descending from the canopy is like stepping into a time machine.
10:07:12	CU FOREST FLOOR	Most of the animals that now populate Australia started out in a climate like this.
10:07:23	Musky Rat-Kangaroo (<i>Hypsiprymnodon moschatus</i>) CU MUSKY RAT-KANGAROO	Some never left.
10:07:29	CU MUSKY RAT-KANGAROO	This is kangaroo, version 1.0
10:07:36	MUSKY RAT-KANGAROO HOPPING OUT OF SHOT	The musky rat kangaroo is the most ancient living line of the macropods that conquered Australia.
10:07:45	SLOW MO MUSKY RAT-KANGAROO HOPPING	He's got the legs, but the hop wasn't perfected until kangaroos left the forest.
10:08:03	Southern Cassowary (<i>Casuarius casuarius</i>) PAN UP TO CASSOWARY	Other pre-historic animals really look the part.
10:08:10	CASSOWARY MOVES LEFT	Flightless birds likely evolved from dinosaurs.
10:08:14	CASSOWARY MOVES LEFT	They began gardening this forest around sixty five million years ago.
10:08:19	CASSOWARY	The cassowary is their direct descendant.

	IN FOREST	
10:08:24	CASSOWARY IN FOREST	It still can't fly, but it can find everything it needs on the forest floor...
10:08:34	CU FRUIT ON FOREST FLOOR	...Mostly fruit.
10:08:37	CU CASSOWARY	Some contain seeds too big for other animals to ingest.
10:08:42	CASSOWARY EATING FRUIT	But the cassowary—manages.
10:08:54	CASSOWARY DUNG WITH FRUIT	And that's good for the forest.
10:09:01	PLANTS SPROUTED FROM CASSOWARY DUNG	A detour through a cassowary's gut can improve some seeds' chances of sprouting as much as twenty-fold.
10:09:09	CU SMALL PLANT	Rainforest and cassowary have been partners for so long each needs the other to survive.
10:09:19	FLYING FOXES IN TREES	Where birds patrol the ground, mammals take to the trees.
10:09:25	CU BAT MOVING ABOUT IN TREE	Flying foxes have access to fruit that the cassowary can't reach.
10:09:32	BATS ROOSTING IN TREE	By day, they roost in colonies numbering in the thousands.
10:09:39	BATS HIGH IN TREE, BATS IN TREE NEAR WATER	Older, more dominant males seize the higher branches, forcing younger bats to roost near the water.
10:09:54	Saltwater crocodiles <i>(Crocodylus porosus)</i> U/W LOOKING TOWARDS SKY	They have good reason to be so cautious...
10:10:04	CROC MOVING AWAY FROM CAM	...A hunter nearly as old as the forest itself.
10:10:13	UW CROC	Seventeen feet [five meters] long and half a ton [four hundred fifty kilos] is average size—for a saltwater crocodile.
10:10:25	CU CROC EYE	They're the largest living reptile in the world.
10:10:32	WS CROC MOVING T/W CAM ON TOP	Eighty million years ago, their ancestors began to prowl the murky fringes where land and water meet.

	OF WATER	
10:10:42	O/H CROC MOVING T/W CAM	They're so well suited to the job their basic designs have changed very little since then.
10:10:52	CU CROC EYE	Eyes and nostrils sit high, just above the water line.
10:10:57	CROC JUST BELOW WATER	With all but the very top of its body submerged, it can take its time picking out a target.
10:11:11	CROC LEAPS OUT OF WATER, TAKES BAT	Sweeping its tail like a massive oar, the crocodile launches eight feet [two and a half meters] out of the water.
10:11:24	CROC TAKES BAT	One of the strongest bites ever measured does the rest.
10:11:31	CROC SUMBERGES INTO WATER	Going airborne isn't the only boundary this predator can break.
10:11:36	WATER RIPPLING	Even the coast is no limit.
10:11:40	CU CROC SWIMS PAST CAM	True to name, "salties" are more at home in salt water than any of their relatives...
10:11:48	AERIAL CROC IN SHALLOW WATER	...Allowing them to hunt outside the brackish estuaries...
10:11:55	CROC SWIMS INTO DEEP WATER	...Venturing beyond the confines of the coast...
10:12:00	AERIAL COAST LOOKING OUT TO SEA	...And into another world.
		END OF ACT ONE

10:12:03*** BREAK 1**

TIMECODE	VIDEO	NARRATION
10:12:05	RAINFOREST AERIALS	Australia's Daintree rainforest is a brilliant flash of green in an often barren continent.
10:12:14	AERIAL GREAT BARRIER REEF	Just ten miles [sixteen kilometers] offshore is a place equally rich, and far more vast...
	GRAPHIC	MAP – DAINTREE RAINFOREST ZOOM OUT TO SHOW GREAT BARRIER REEF
10:12:21	MAP – GREAT BARRIER REEF	...An explosion of life that stretches from the tip of the continent twelve hundred miles [two thousand

		kilometers] to the south...
10:12:32	AERIAL GREAT BARRIER REEF	...The Great Barrier Reef.
10:12:36	AERIAL GREAT BARRIER REEF	From above, the patchwork pattern reveals its origins.
10:12:42	AERIAL GREAT BARRIER REEF	Twenty thousand years ago, this was dry land.
10:12:48	AERIAL GREAT BARRIER REEF	Then ocean levels rose and coral began to grow...
10:12:55	AERIAL GREAT BARRIER REEF	...First gathering around islands, then building on its own skeleton.
10:13:06	AERIAL GREAT BARRIER REEF	In these nutrient poor tropical waters, the Great Barrier Reef is like an oasis in a desert...
10:13:15	AERIAL TURTLE IN OCEAN	...Drawing in oceanic travelers...
10:13:21	AERIAL SHARKS IN REEF	...And predators that use the reef for cover.
10:13:29	Green Sea Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> UW GREEN SEA TURTLE	In the calm water between reef and land, beds of sea grass beckon green sea turtles.
10:13:38	UW TURTLE FEEDING	They spend their young lives in deep water, eating small sea creatures.
10:13:43	UW TURTLE FEEDING ON SEA GRASS	But as adults, they go vegetarian.
10:13:48	TURTLE SWIMS AMONGST FISH	Weighing an average of four hundred and fifty pounds [two hundred kilograms] and protected by a tough shell, it has little to fear from most residents of the reef.
10:13:57	TIGER SHARK <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i> CU TIGER SHARK	But there's one very big exception.
10:14:08	TIGER SHARK SWIMS RIGHT, TURTLE SWIMS	A tiger shark has a reputation for eating just about anything.
10:14:16	CU TURTLE, SHARK	But it's especially well equipped for hunting turtles.
10:14:25	TURTLE SWIMS ON SEA FLOOR	As long as the turtle hugs the bottom, it's safe.
10:14:31	TURTLE SURFACES	But it has to surface to grab a breath.
10:14:41	SHARK ATTACKS TURTLE	The turtle can't pull in its head or flippers. But even if it could, the tiger's shear-like jaws slice right through the shell.

10:14:59	SHARK SWIMS AWAY WITH TURTLE	Collisions like these are inevitable in a place where such a huge number of animals all come together.
10:15:08	UW VARIOUS FISH SWIM IN REEF	This single reef supports over sixteen hundred species of fish...
10:15:14	SHARK, RAY IN SWIM IN REEF	...One hundred thirty three species of sharks and rays...
10:15:19	CU MOLLUSKS	...Three thousand kinds of mollusks.
10:15:25	SEA SNAKE IN REEF	Many creatures live their entire lives in or near the reef walls.
10:15:38	AERIAL OF GREAT BARRIER REEF	The world's largest coral reef could only have formed under just the right conditions.
10:15:45	AERIAL TROPICAL ISLAND	The first coral grew on a sunken plateau of built up sediment—sediment that had to come from somewhere.
10:15:55	RIVER AERIALS	It took the power of erosion, flowing fresh water, and mountains of rock to scour and wash downstream.
	GRAPHIC	MAP – QUEENSLAND ZOOM OUT HIGHLIGHT THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE
10:16:09	MAP – GREAT DIVIDING RANGE	In Australia, all that is delivered by the Great Dividing Range.
10:16:16	MAP – GREAT DIVIDING RANGE	These mountains tower over the east coast for two thousand three hundred miles [three thousand seven hundred kilometers].
10:16:22	WATERFALL AERIAL	To this day, they capture rain, sending water and fertile soil downstream.
10:16:31	SYDNEY AERIALS	Not surprisingly, most of the country's human inhabitants live in the fertile east.
10:16:39	BLUE MOUNTAIN AERIALS	Just beyond Sydney, the Blue Mountains hold temperate rainforests and tall stands of eucalyptus.
10:16:47	BLUE MOUNTAIN AERIALS	But this is Australia. Heat and drought are never far away.
10:16:56	BUSH FIRE AERIALS	These forests must face the possibility of destruction—in order to survive.
		END OF ACT TWO

10:17:06***** BREAK 2

TIMECODE	VIDEO	NARRATION
10:17:13	BUSH FIRE AERIALS	In New South Wales the hills are ablaze.
10:17:17	BUSH FIRE AERIALS	In a typical year as much as ten percent of Australia's forest goes up in flames.
10:17:25	BUSH FIRE	And this fire is especially intense—because these trees are eucalyptus.
10:17:33	CU EUCALYPTUS LEAVES FIRE IN BG	They contain volatile oils that burn twice as hot as oak.
10:17:39	BUSH FIRE	A bushfire can rage at one thousand eight hundred degrees Fahrenheit [one thousand degrees Centigrade]—hot enough to melt glass.
10:17:54	BUSH FIRE	But the inferno doesn't mean the end of this forest.
10:18:00	BUSH FIRE SMOULDERING	Eucalyptus trees have evolved not just to survive fire, but to exploit it.
10:18:09	SMOKE RISES IN BUSH	The heat triggers dormant shoots under the bark to awaken.
10:18:19	NEW SHOOTS ON TREES	The trees burst back to life, while competing plants are thinned out.
10:18:26	AERIAL ZO EUCALYPTUS TREES	The first eucalyptus began developing these abilities over thirty million years ago in a much wetter climate.
10:18:35	BUSH AERIALS	When Australia grew hotter and drier, the trees seized their moment and spread across the continent.
10:18:45	AERIAL, Z/I KOALA IN TREE	As the eucalyptus was evolving to make the most of bushfires, a unique animal was evolving to make the most of the eucalyptus.
10:18:57	Koala (<i>Phascolarctus cinereus</i>) CU KOALA IN TREE	The oils that make the leaves so flammable also make them hard to digest.
10:19:03	CU KOALA EATING	But a koala eats almost nothing else.
10:19:07	KOALA	Like most Australian mammals, she's a marsupial but

	FEEDING ON BRANCH	one that rose to meet a different set of challenges.
10:19:16	KOALA FEEDING	Her liver is able to deactivate the toxic compounds...
10:19:22	KOALA FEEDING	...And her gut is fortified with microbes to extract the most nutrition from the leaves.
10:19:31	KOALA WITH JOEY ON BACK	But such specialization doesn't come easy.
10:19:39	JOEY SNUGGLES INTO MOTHER	This little joey may live for eighteen years.
10:19:43	JOEY SLEEPS ON MOTHER	But he'll spend the equivalent of thirteen of them asleep.
10:19:52	KOALA SLEEPS IN TREE	A koala's diet is so low in nutrients that it can only afford to be awake for about six hours a day.
10:20:02	KOALA MOVES DOWN BRANCH	And when awake, koalas only move when they have to.
10:20:07		Their home, their food, and most of the water they need can all be obtained in the branches.
10:20:19	AERIAL WS KOALA IN TREE	Their bond with the trees consigns koalas to the country's milder east coast.
10:20:29	FOREST AERIALS	Beyond the Great Divide, forests give way to scrub.
10:20:36	DESERT AERIALS	The highlands that send rain to the east rob the land to the west of its water...
10:20:45	DESERT AERIALS	...At least, on the surface.
10:20:51	DESERT AERIALS	Far below some of the world's driest land, lies one of its biggest reservoirs.
	GRAPHIC	MAP – CANBERRA, ZOOM OUT TO SHOW GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN
10:21:00	MAP – GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN	From the mountains to the arid center, Australia's Great Artesian Basin spans six hundred and fifty six thousand square miles [over one and a half million square kilometers].
10:21:12	AERIAL DESERT WITH GORGE RUNNING THROUGH	The water flowing beneath it could fill all of North America's Great Lakes two times over.
10:21:20	DUNE AERIALS	In the Simpson Desert, the longest parallel dunes in the world stretch up to one hundred and twenty miles [two hundred kilometers] across the surface.
10:21:30	DUNE AERIALS	Beneath the sand, water creeps at a pace of about half an inch [ten millimeters] a day...

10:21:36	DUNE AERIALS	...Until it finds an outlet.
10:21:42	UW BUBBLES IN WATER	The water that bubbles up in some springs fell as mountain rain two million years ago.
10:21:51	DESERT OASES	Desert oases such as Dalhousie Springs are gathering points for all kinds of thirsty animals...
10:21:58	DESERT OASES	...Including a newcomer from a far-away land...
10:22:03	CAMEL FEET, CU CAMEL EYE	...Who happens to fit in—a little too well.
		END OF ACT THREE

10:22:08***** BREAK 3

TIMECODE	VIDEO	NARRATION
10:22:11	AERIAL BIRD FLY OVER DESERT	Everywhere there is desert animals have found ways of adapting to the environment.
10:22:21	AERIALS ANIMALS RUN THROUGH DESERT	Australia's separation from the other continents allowed some unique adaptations to flourish.
10:22:30	AERIAL CAMELS IN DESERT	But traditional designs can work just as well.
10:22:36	AERIAL CAMELS IN DESERT	And something totally out of place can make itself right at home.
10:22:44	Dromedary Camel AERIALS OF CAMELS IN DESERT	Dromedaries—one humped camels—were imported here in the 1800's as a tried-and-true way of getting around.
10:22:54	GROUP OF CAMELS	With the rise of the automobile, the camels were abandoned.
10:23:00	CAMEL WITH 2 BABIES	They were well equipped to take advantage of the situation.
10:23:06	Cu CAMEL EYE	To keep out the sand they've got double eyelashes...
10:23:10	CU CAMEL NOSTRIL	...And nostrils that can seal up tight.

10:23:16	WS CAMEL	And of course, there's the famous ability to go without a drink—thanks in part to kidneys and to intestines that retain water.
10:23:27	CAMEL MOVES TO RIGHT	The hump actually has nothing to do with water conservation.
10:23:31	GROUP OF CAMELS MOVE AWAY FROM CAM	It serves as fat storage for times when food is in short supply.
10:23:38	CAMEL FEEDING	Wild dromedaries have long been extinct in their natural range.
10:23:43	CAMEL FEEDING	Australia is now the only place where they still exhibit wild behavior...
10:23:48	CAMEL FEEDING	...Including a very creative courtship ritual.
10:23:59	CU CAMEL MOVES RIGHT TONGUE OUT	For a dominant male, the goal is to look seductive to females and intimidating to other males.
10:24:07	CU CAMEL WITH FROTHY MOUTH	That's achieved in a few different ways.
10:24:14	CAMEL WITH DULLA OUT	First he inflates a bubble-gum-like sack called a dulla...
10:24:20	CAMEL WITH FOAMY SALIVA	...Then he adds a few flourishes: grunts, gurgles and a liberal amount of foamy saliva.
10:24:32	CAMELS FIGHTING	And if rivals don't back down, a good body check is always an option.
10:24:46	CAMELS AT WATERING HOLE	Bizarre courtship aside, feral camels are so good at reproducing that they've become a problem.
10:24:56	GROUP OF CAMELS WALKING AWAY FROM CAM IN HAZE	There are about three hundred thousand camels at last count, and without official population control, their numbers could double every ten years.
10:25:11	CAMELS RUN TO RIGHT	There are no native camel predators in this new world.
10:25:17	WS MOUNTAINS	But there <i>is</i> a voracious hunter of another kind.
10:25:23	CU THORNY DEVIL SPINES	It's built like a tank, with armored spines able to take whatever the desert can dish out.
10:25:31	CU THORNY DEVIL SPINES	So fearsome in appearance and demeanor it earned the name—thorny devil.
10:25:39	PAN DOWN TO	It's equipped to kill its victims by the hundreds.

	THORNY DEVIL	
10:25:47	Thorny Devil MCU THORNY DEVIL	Luckily, it's only four inches [ten centimeters] long.
10:25:52	THORNY DEVIL MOVES LEFT OUT OF SHOT	Desert life is good for this little devil.
10:25:58	O/H ANTS MOVING PAST LIZARD	Most mornings, after warming up in the sun, it locates a trail of foraging ants—not a difficult task in the desert.
10:26:09	LIZARD EATS ANTS	Then it lets the conveyor belt deliver food, one bite at a time.
10:26:16	CU LIZARD EATS ANTS	A single ant isn't that nutritious, so the thorny devil has to eat a lot of them—around seven hundred and fifty a day.
10:26:32	PAN DOWN TO LIZARD WITH FEET IN WATER	This sit-and-wait approach to eating works for drinking as well.
10:26:38	CU LIZARD	Those thorny scales aren't just for protection. They're one of the most ingenious desert adaptations.
10:26:46	LIZARD FOOT IN WATER	Whenever the little devil encounters water, all it has to do is touch it.
10:26:52	CU LIZARD SCALES	The scales on its body work on the capillary principle, channeling water through grooves toward its mouth—even against gravity.
10:27:02	CU LIZARD HEAD	The lizard only has to get its feet wet to receive a sip of water.
10:27:10	LIZARD MOVES AWAY FROM CAM	It may be one of the heartiest desert survivors on the planet, but in Australia, there are places too inhospitable, even for devils.
	GRAPHIC	MAP – ZOOM IN FROM SIMPSON DESERT TO KATI THANDA – LAKE EYRE
10:27:22	MAP – ZOOM IN ON KATI THANDA - LAKE EYRE	Such a place is less than two hundred miles [three hundred kilometers] south of the Simpson Desert.
10:27:28	MAP – ZOOM IN ON KATI THANDA - LAKE EYRE	At fifty feet [fifteen meters] below sea level, it's the lowest point of the continent.
10:27:34	MAP – KATI THANDA - LAKE EYRE	Kati Thanda—Lake Eyre.
10:27:39	SALT FLAT AERIAL	European settlers called it “the dead heart.”

10:27:47	DESERT AERIALS	Once this was a lush inland sea, fed by rivers.
10:27:55	CANEL AERIALS	From above, the channels of ancient waterways are still visible.
10:28:02	AERIALS	As Australia drifted toward the tropics, the climate warmed and the rivers dried.
10:28:09	SALT FLAT AERIALS	Now all that remains is three thousand seven hundred square miles [nine thousand three hundred square kilometers] of salt crust and sand, burning as hot as one hundred and twenty [fifty] degrees in the summer.
10:28:23	SALT FLAT AERIALS	In a year, Lake Eyre might only receive five inches [thirteen centimeters] of rain.
10:28:30	DESERT AERIALS	But every so often, the past returns.
10:28:34	CLOUDS BLOWING IN	Weather and geography conspire...
10:28:37	STORMY CLOUDS	...And together awaken a sleeping giant.
END OF ACT 4		

10:28:43***** BREAK 4

TIMECODE	VIDEO	NARRATION
10:28:47	STORM CLOUDS	When rain finally comes to Australia's deserts, it arrives as an explosion.
10:28:55	RAIN FALLING N RED EARTH	Minor floods can strike every few years.
10:28:59	HEAVY RAIN IN DESERT	A few times a century, things get Biblical.
10:29:08	FLOODED RIVER	When a storm of the decade hits, much of the water doesn't flow toward the sea.
10:29:17	RIVER AERIALS	Instead, rain that falls over nearly one sixth of the continent pours into ancient river channels...
10:29:24	RIVER AERIALS	...Rushing inland towards the lowest elevation.
10:29:30	RIVER AERIALS	Lake Eyre regains its title.
10:29:37	AERIAL OF LAKE EYRE	Suddenly it's the largest lake in Australia and—when it's full—about as salty as the ocean.

10:29:46	AERIAL BIRD LIFE ON LAKE EYRE	The transformation sets off a chain reaction.
10:29:53	AERIAL BIRD LIFE ABOVE LAKE EYRE	Somehow, birds from hundreds of miles [kilometers] away can sense the change.
10:29:59	AERIAL BIRD LIFE ABOVE LAKE EYRE	Whether they can smell the water, or are guided by some other force, no one knows.
10:30:06	Corellas COREELLAS FLYING IN GROUP	Corellas arrive by the thousands.
10:30:13	Flying eagle FLYING EAGLE FLYING AND FEEDING	Wedge-tailed eagles follow the promise of abundant prey.
10:30:20	PELICANS LANDING, SWIMMING ON LAKE	Australian pelicans from the coast seize the moment and launch a spontaneous festival of feasting and breeding.
10:30:30	PELICANS FEEDING	Strange as it may seem, there is suddenly plenty to eat.
10:30:36	UW FISH FEEDING	Hardyheads, perch and other fish, flushed from upstream, have spawned and multiplied in a matter of days.
10:30:46	PELICANS MOVING AS GROUP TO RIGHT	The pelicans operate as a team, driving fish into shallow water, then scooping them up with the longest bill of any bird.
10:30:59	PELICANS FEEDING	They're not just eating for themselves.
10:31:08	PELICANS FEEDING YOUNG	Pelicans breed whenever the time feels right...
10:31:15	PELICANS FEEDING YOUNG	...And already, the clock is ticking.
10:31:25	SALT FLAT/DESERT AERIALS	Lake Eyre began evaporating as soon as it filled up.
10:31:30	SALT FLAT/DESERT AERIALS	Over the next two years, the lake slowly vanishes.
10:31:37	BIRDS FLY ON HORIZON	The raucous visitors move back to the coast.
10:31:44	DESERT BUSHES ON LEFT	Silence descends upon the desert...
10:31:48		...But not completely.
10:31:56	DINGO MOVES	Not all the opportunists have departed.

	THROUGH DESERT	
10:32:01	CU DINGO	One animal hangs on without any special adaptations—just brains and tenacity.
10:32:11	Dingo (<i>Canis Lupus dingo</i>) DINGO MOVES TO LEFT	The Dingo has carved out a niche for itself, even in Australia’s harshest places.
10:32:20	DINGO MOVES RIGHT LOOKS AT CAM	But its presence here is controversial.
10:32:24		DNA evidence confirms their ancestors were Asiatic wolves.
10:32:30	CU DINGO FACE	So it’s likely they arrived here in the company of Asian voyagers three thousand five hundred years ago or more.
10:32:39	DINGO HEAD	When the travelers left, the dogs stayed behind.
10:32:48	DINGO WALKS WITH NOSE TO GROUND	Australia’s animals had faced marsupial carnivores—but they’d never seen anything like this.
10:32:56	DINGO HUNTING, PACK OF DINGOS TAKES A KANGAROO	A versatile predator that can hunt alone—or in packs.
10:33:15	PACK OF DINGOS EATING KANGAROO	And a family structure where sharing the spoils of the hunt increases everyone’s chances of survival.
10:33:25	MOB OF SHEEP	When European settlers arrived, dingoes quickly adapted to a new source of prey.
10:33:34	DINGO CHASING MOB OF SHEEP	The temptation has been their undoing.
10:33:45	SHEEP RUNNING AWAY FROM CAM, DINGO ATTACKS SHEEP	There will always be people who want them dead—or at least confined to the Outback.
10:33:58	DINGO BEHIND FENCE	In a land where few Australians tread, there stands an impressive human creation.
10:34:07	AERIAL DOG FENCE IN DESERT	The dog fence slices through more than three thousand miles [five thousand kilometers] of the country...

10:34:15	AERIAL DINGO RUNS IN DESERT	...An early twentieth century solution intent on banishing dingoes to the desert.
10:34:23	DESERT AERIALS	And heading west, its desert for days.
10:34:31	DESERT AERIALS	The colors change from the salt white of Lake Eyre to the iron oxide red of the Great Victoria Desert.
	GRAPHIC	MAP – LAKE EYRE PAN LEFT TO SOUTH WEST COAST
10:34:41	MAP PAN LEFT ACROSS GREAT VICTORIAN DESERT	It's the largest desert in Australia, four hundred and thirty five miles [seven hundred kilometers] across.
10:34:49	MAP PAN LEFT TO SOUTH WEST COAST	Beyond the Great Victoria, the Southwest coast brings relief at last.
10:34:58	MOUNTAIN AERIALS	The Stirling Range is cloaked in morning mist.
10:35:06	COASTLINE AERIALS	Below the mountains lie heath lands and coastal dunes.
10:35:14	AERIALS OF SANDDUNES	In the sandy soil, wildflowers bloom.
10:35:20	FLOWERING PLANTS	Western Australia boasts over twelve thousand species of flowering plants, with the Southwest being especially rich.
10:35:30	PAN UP TO BLOSSOM IN DUNES	At any time of year there will be blossoms.
10:35:36	POSSUM IN BLOSSOM	That's critical for one animal.
10:35:41	POSSUM FEEDING IN BLOSSOM	The marsupial honey possum eats only nectar and pollen—one of only a few mammals to do so.
10:35:50	POSSUM MOVING FROM BRANCH TO BRANCH	Without year-round blooms, it couldn't survive.
10:35:59	CU POSSUM FEEDING ON POLLEN	Its tongue is a specialized tool, outfitted with a brush-like surface to dip into flowers and scrape off the pollen.
10:36:09	POSSUM FEEDING ON YELLOW BLOSSOM	In return, honey possums pollinate the plants, just as a honeybee would...
10:36:19	POSSUM FEEDING ON YELLOW BLOSSOM	...Plants that keep the dunes from blowing into the sea.
10:36:25	POSSUM FEEDING ON	In Australia, there may be no better example of the interconnection of the land and the life it holds.

	YELLOW BLOSSOM	
10:36:35	COASTLINE AERIALS	On the southern coast, gentle dunes are the exception to the rule.
10:36:41	MOUNTAIN AERIALS	The land looms ever higher and more rugged.
	GRAPHIC	MAP – AUSTRALIA PAN EAST TO GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT
10:36:46	MAP GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT	Heading back eastward...
10:36:49	COASTLINE CLIFF AERIALS	...Where the barren Nullarbor Plain is cut off in a long arch, it forms a broad open bay, called the Great Australian Bight.
10:36:59	COASTLINE CLIFF AERIALS	One of Australia's most remote places is also one of its most dramatic.
10:37:07	COASTLINE CLIFF AERIALS	Bunda Cliffs plunge three hundred feet [a hundred meters] down, part of the longest stretch of coastal cliffs in the world.
10:37:20	COASTLINE CLIFF AERIALS	Beyond land's end, a warm coastal current collides with cooler water from the Southern Ocean.
10:37:29	AERIALS OF COAST WITH FOG	When summer winds push the warm water offshore, a cold upwelling rises to replace it, whipping up banks of coastal fog...
10:37:39	AERIALS OF COAST WITH FOG	...And creating a sea rich in life.
10:37:44	Fur Seal (Arctocephalus sp.) FUR SEAL AERIAL	Fur seals live here year-round to take advantage of plentiful fish and squid.
10:37:51	FUR SEAL AERIAL SWIMMING	When they're not hunting, they stick close to rocky islands and coves...
10:37:56	FUR SEAL AERIAL SWIMMING IN SURF	...Enjoying prime access to Australia's best surfing.
10:38:09	AERIAL OVER CHOPPY OCEAN	Heading eastward from the Australian Bight, the ocean continues to cool.
10:38:15	COASTLINE AERIAL	Until it meets the shores of a green island...
10:38:18		...A world apart and a last refuge.
		END OF ACT FIVE

10:38:22***** BREAK 5

TIMECODE	VIDEO	NARRATION
10:38:25	TASMANIA MOUNTAIN AERIALS	Australia's geographic isolation has defined the evolution of its wildlife.
10:38:33	TASMANIA MOUNTAIN AERIALS	As Australia is to the world, the Island of Tasmania is to Australia.
	GRAPHIC	MAP – GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT, ZOOM OUT AND DOWN TO TASMANIA
10:38:39	MAP PAN DOWN TO TASMANIA	More than a thousand miles [fifteen hundred kilometers] from the Great Australian Bight...
10:38:44	MAP PAN DOWN TOWARDS TASMANIA	...Once it was the mountainous southeastern corner of the continent...
10:38:49	MAP ZOOM IN ON TASMANIA	...Until rising seas cut it off from the mainland.
10:38:55	MOUNTAIN AND COASTAL AERIALS	Separated for fourteen thousand years, Tasmania has avoided some of the new species introduced to the north...
10:39:05	SNOW COVERED MOUNTAIN AERIAL	...And a southerly location makes it the most cool temperate part of the country.
10:39:11	MOUNTAIN STREAM	The streams still run cold in the highlands around Cradle Mountain, offering the perfect safe haven for one quintessential Aussie creature.
10:39:25	duck-billed Platypus <i>(Ornithorhynchus anatinus)</i> UW PLATYPUS SWIMS	The duckbilled platypus is not uncommon in Australia, but it's a rare thing in the world at large.
10:39:38	PLATYPUS SWIMS ON WATER SURFACE	It's one of only two living types of monotreme—platypus and echidna—an ancient kind of mammal that lays eggs, only found in Australia and New Guinea.
10:39:50	PLATYPUS SWIMS ON WATER SURFACE	When the first platypus specimen was sent back to Europe, biologists checked it for stitches, convinced it was a hoax.
10:39:59	PLATYPUS SWIMS ON	It may look like an animal built out of spare parts...

	WATER SURFACE	
10:40:04	PLATYPUS FLOATS ON WATER SURFACE	...But the world's weirdest creature is no evolutionary mix-up.
10:40:09	PLATYPUS FLOATS ON WATER SURFACE	It's actually a highly evolved hunter.
10:40:19	PLATYPUS CLIMBS ONTO BRANCH	More than just a mouth, that duck-bill is a sophisticated sensory device...
10:40:26		...A bit like a personal metal detector.
10:40:32	UW PLATYPUS SWIMS AWAY FROM CAM	As the platypus hunts, electroreceptors on the bill pick up minute impulses from its prey...
10:40:41	UW CU INVERTEBRATES IN ROCKS	...Tiny invertebrates hiding under the rocks and leaf litter.
10:40:47	UW PLATYPUS SWIMS AWAY FROM CAM	Some species of fish have this ability, but the platypus is the only mammal that can hunt underwater this way.
10:41:01	MOUNTAIN SCENICS	Protecting the last strange creatures is Tasmania's gift to the world.
10:41:14	PAN DOWN THROUGH TREE TO GRASSLAND	The island is the only place where these screams still pierce the quiet of a wild forest.
10:41:26	Tasmanian Devil (<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>) TASMANIAN DEVIL SNIFFING GROUND	A female Tasmanian devil homes in on the unmistakable sound of her own kind.
10:41:34	TASMANIAN DEVIL SNIFFING GROUND, DEVIL FEEDING ON WALLABY	She follows her ears—and nose—to the source of the noise...
10:41:40	CU DEVILS FEED ON WALLABY	...A dead wallaby has attracted a crowd.
10:41:46	CU DEVILS FEED ON WALLABY, GROWLING	Sharing is not a Tassie devil strong point.
10:41:53	DEVILS FIGHT OVER CARCASS	Their vocal threats are supposed to keep her off the carcass.
10:41:59		But she gives as good as she gets—and then some.
10:42:12	DEVILS FIGHT	They're no bigger than a small dog, but ferocity makes

	OVER CARCASS	up for stature.
10:42:19	DEVILS EAT CARCASS	Oversized heads and muscular jaws deliver one of the most powerful bites of any mammal for its size...
10:42:28	TIMELAPSE DEVILS DEVOUR CARCASS	...Easily ripping through muscle and crushing bone.
10:42:32		In just over an hour, five devils strip the carcass to nothing.
10:42:43	DEVILS PICK OVER BONES	Today, Tasmanian devils are the largest living marsupial carnivore.
10:42:49	DEVIL SNIFFS GROUND	But now they're battling disease.
10:42:54	CU DEVIL LICKING GROUND	So devils are being re-introduced to nearby islands to create separate populations...
10:43:03	DEVIL SNIFFS AIR	...And plans are afoot to restore them to the mainland.
10:43:09	AERIAL FOREST	The island isolation that once protected its creatures also leaves them vulnerable to sudden change.
	GRAPHIC	MAP – TASMANIA ZOOM OUT TO SHOW ENTIRE MAP OF AUSTRALIA
10:43:18	TASMANIA MAP ZOOM OUT	It is a story told across all of Australia.
10:43:22	MAP ZOOM OUT TO SHOW ALL OF AUSTRALIA	From the deserts of the interior, to the green fringe, to the wild reef beyond.
10:43:33	ANIMAL MONTAGE	In fragile realms offering glimpses of the past...
10:43:38	ANIMAL MONTAGE	...And evolutionary paths that the rest of the world never tried...
10:43:46	AERIAL MONTAGE	...Australia's life is balanced on the edge of time and place...
10:43:52	AERIAL MONTAGE	...And truly one of a kind.
10:43:59		END OF ACT SIX