Steve Irwin
Unit Study

Subjects:
Reading, Science, Following Directions, Geography, Writing
Teacher Instructions

Thank you for downloading our Steve Irwin Unit Study! It was created to be used with the book: *Who Was Steve Irwin?* You may incorporate other books about Steve Irwin, as well. Here is what is included in the study:

**Pages 3-8:** A Biography of Steve Irwin: Notetaking sheets with answer key.

**Page 9-11:** Timeline of Steve Irwin’s Life: Students may write on timeline or cut and glue events provided.

**Page 12:** Create Your Own Zoo Signs: A template is provided to create a sign that one would display at an animal enclosure in a zoo to educate people about that animal. Feel free to create your own signs, as well.

**Pages 13-14:** Compare and Contrast: One page for comparing saltwater vs. freshwater crocodiles and one page for comparing alligators vs. crocodiles.

**Pages 15:** Australian Animals: Match the picture to the name with answer key.

**Page 16:** Australia Notebooking Page: Research Australia. Links to a video and website included in our post below.

**Pages 17-18:** Australia Following Directions: Practice following directions while learning Australian geography and a little bit about Steve Irwin’s life.

Also refer to our post, Steve Irwin FREE Unit Study, for:
1. Videos about Steve Irwin.
2. Resources about reptiles.
3. Resources about Australia.
4. Ideas for making your own zoo and studying animals in your backyard.

You May Also Be Interested In:

**Credits**

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# A Biography of Steve Irwin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
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<td>Parents</td>
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<td>Early Childhood</td>
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<td>Starting a Zoo</td>
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<td>Steve’s Teenage Years</td>
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<td>Steve’s Best Mate</td>
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A Biography of Steve Irwin (cont.)

Steve’s Time Living in the Bush:

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Sui: ____________________________________________
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Marriage: ______________________________________
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Crocodile Hunter: _______________________________
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Name: __________________________

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A Biography of Steve Irwin (cont.)

Working Around the World: ____________________________

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Children: ____________________________________________

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Steve’s Accidental Death: _____________________________

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Honoring Steve Irwin: _________________________________

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Name: ____________________________

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A Biography of Steve Irwin

Answer Key

Answers will vary. Below are possible answers.

Birth: Steve was born on February 22, 1962 in a small town near Melbourne, Australia. The town is named Upper Ferntree Gully.

Parents: His parents were Lyn and Bob Irwin. His father was a plumber and loved snakes and other reptiles. His mother was trained as a nurse and had cared for babies.

Early Childhood: The family had pet snakes and often brought home hurt animals to tend to. Steve went on outings into the woods with his father to look for animals. When Steve was six years old, he received a pet python.

Starting a Zoo: When Steve was 8 years old, his family bought some land to start a zoo. They lived in an RV while they built the zoo and a house. The zoo was named Beerwah Reptile Park. Steve went into the wild with his dad to rescue animals that were hurt or were in danger from new developments. Steve learned how to capture crocodiles as he got older.

Steve’s Teenage Years: Steve attended Caloundra State High School and he loved to surf. He also worked at the zoo in his free time.

Steve’s Best Mate: Steve became good friends with Wes Mannion, who was 8 years younger than him and ended up working at the zoo with Steve.

Steve’s Time Living in the Bush: Steve started camping in the bush. He often moved animals to safer places. He started videotaping himself with the animals and talked to the camera about what he was doing.
A Biography of Steve Irwin

Answer Key cont.

Sui: Steve decided he needed a friend with him in the bush so he adopted a puppy named Sui. She was a Staffordshire bull terrier and learned to help Steve with the animals.

Marriage: Steve’s future wife, Terri Raines, visited the park in 1991. She was from Oregon and she loved animals like Steve did. They married in June of 1992.

Crocodile Hunter: A filmmaker came to the park to record a commercial. Steve gave him some of the videos he had made of himself with the animals. The filmmaker showed the videos to a local TV station. In 1992, they made and showed ten episodes of a show called *Crocodile Hunter*, featuring Steve and Terri. Eventually, Animal Planet started showing the show as well and Steve Irwin became famous around the world.

Working Around the World: Steve often traveled to record and/or help animals around the world. For example, he went to Komodo National Park in Indonesia to record Komodo dragons for his TV show. He also went to an Air Force Base in Florida to help with a rattlesnake problem.

Children: In 1998, Steve and Terri had their first child, Bindi. In 2003, they had a son named Robert. At age 7, Bindi had her own show on Discovery Kids about animals.

Steve’s Accidental Death: In 2006, Steve was recording near the Great Barrier Reef with Phillipe Cousteau, Jr. for their show, *Ocean’s Deadliest*. Steve was stung in the heart by a stingray and quickly died.
Honoring Steve Irwin: At least 5500 people came to Steve Irwin’s funeral at the Crocoseum. The Australian government created the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve to honor him. The Queensland Museum named a rare species of tree snail after him.

Answer Key for Page 15:

- Crocodile
- Dingo
- Bilby
- Platypus
- Kangaroo
- Wombat
- Tasmanian Devil
- Koala

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# Events for the Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Family moves to Beerwah to open zoo.</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>The Irwins start the Wildlife Warriors to help people rescue wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Steve graduates high school.</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Steve and Terri’s son, Robert, is born.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>The zoo is renamed Queensland Reptile and Fauna Park.</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Steve is stung by a stingray and dies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Steve and his father start volunteering with the East Coast Crocodile Management Program.</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Steve becomes friends with Wes Mannion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>The Irwins build the Crocodile Environmental Park.</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Steve adopts his dog, Sui.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Steve adopts his dog, Sui.</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>The Irwins discover a new species of snapping turtle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td><em>The Crocodile Hunter</em> begins showing on Animal Planet and is seen around the world.</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>The Queensland Reptile and Fauna Park is renamed Australia Zoo.</td>
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Timeline of Steve Irwin’s Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.
Timeline of Steve Irwin’s Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.
Compare saltwater crocodiles to freshwater crocodiles. Write the similarities in the middle where the two circles overlap. Write the differences between the crocodiles in the other parts of the circles.
Compare and Contrast

Alligators

- Size: _________________________________________
- Weight: ______________________________________
- Shape of Snout: ______________________________________
- Teeth: _______________________________________
- Other Features: ________________________________
  ______________________________________________
  ______________________________________________

Color in where it lives:

Crocodiles

- Size: _________________________________________
- Weight: ______________________________________
- Shape of Snout: ______________________________________
- Teeth: _______________________________________
- Other Features: ________________________________
  ______________________________________________
  ______________________________________________

Color in where it lives:
Australian Animals

Match the picture to the name.

- Crocodile
- Dingo
- Bilby
- Platypus
- Kangaroo
- Wombat
- Tasmanian Devil
- Koala
Australia

Language Spoken:
___________________________________

Area: __________________________
Population: _____________________
Capital: ________________________
Currency: ______________________
Government: ___________________

Dominant Religion:
___________________________________

Australian Foods:
___________________________________
___________________________________
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Climate:
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Biomes/Terrain:
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History:
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Other Notes:
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Steve Irwin
Following Directions Around Australia

1. Australia is a country and a continent. To the west of this continent lies the Indian Ocean. Draw a few blue waves to the west of Australia and write Indian Ocean. (Modification: Help your child spell Indian Ocean or just have them write IO.)

2. The Pacific Ocean lies to the east of Australia. Draw a few blue waves to the east and write Pacific Ocean. (Modification: Help your child spell Pacific Ocean or just have them write PO.)

3. Steve Irwin was born near the city of Melbourne in the state of Victoria. Color Victoria green.

4. When Steve was eight, his family moved to Beerwah in Queensland to start a zoo. Circle Beerwah in yellow as it is part of the Sunshine Coast.

5. There are mountains south of Beerwah. Draw three small, brown mountains to the south of Beerwah.

6. People refer to the ‘bush’ in Australia to mean ‘out in the country’. Draw four green trees around the town of Beerwah to show the bush.

7. Draw a short blue river above Beerwah. The Ewen Maddock Dam was built in this area when Steve was a child and it disrupted the animal life there. Steve and his father went to help the animals.

8. When Steve grew up, he traveled to different areas for his show, the Crocodile Hunter. One place was Indonesia, which lies northwest of Australia. Draw a red arrow pointing northwest from the northwestern coast of Australia and write Indonesia next to it. (Modification: Help your child spell Indonesia or just have them write an I.)

9. He also worked on another show, the Ocean’s Deadliest, and filmed around the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Queensland. Circle the Great Barrier Reef with blue. Unfortunately, this is where Steve was killed by a stingray.

10. After his death, the Australian government decided to protect a large area of land that Steve loved in the northern part of Queensland and made it a wildlife reserve. Draw a blue box around the Wildlife Reserve.
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Thank you, Randi Smith