

MY NAME

Greetings from London pg 10

POSTCARD

*Greetings from London
(and Paris)*

Filmmaker and actor Leah Purcell and her partner Bain Stewart dropped us a line from Europe

Well, we're finally in London! I've known for ages that I was coming, but it seems like it's taken forever for this day to come, me being in London in a play with one of the greatest theatre companies on the planet... Deadly!!! The weather is brilliant right now. We had an extended break over Easter because we were way ahead with the play, so the director gave us four days off.

Decided to go to Paris on a whim. Caught the Eurostar train from London to Paris under the English Channel. Bain got us in to a flash carriage where we had a deadly feed and great seats with a big fold-down table. We travelled in style and we were there before we knew it. Bain also got us in to a flash hotel for the three-night stayover. It was very close to the Eiffel Tower. We were pretty tired the first night, so went and got a good feed: snails and frogs legs from a real French restaurant. No, gammon, we went to a cafe around the corner and ordered two cheeseburgers, French fries and a Coke!

Next day we did the tourist thing and walked around to the Eiffel Tower, but the crowds were too big so we jumped on a red double-decker tour bus and did a two-hour lap of Paris. It was brilliant.

Highlights were Champs-Elysées and all of the old architecture and buildings. There were hardly any new buildings – brilliant. Saw palaces, parliament house, opera houses, concert halls and Bastille Square where they chopped everyone's heads off with the guillotine, such as Marie Antoinette and King Louis and all that rich mob during the French Revolution.

Last day we finally went up to the near top of the Eiffel Tower. We were going to go to the top but it was too high. We goonahed our pants at the second highest level and decided not to go the very top, bugger that.

Back in London now and the play is rolling along well, on top of things. Our film *Aunty Maggie and the Womba Wakun* is being considered for Cannes Film Festival... impatiently waiting to hear from them about that. We are shattered we can't be at the world premiere for *Aunty Maggie* at the Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival at the Sydney Opera House on May 10.

In London, we've been going to see a few West End musicals, Bain is keen to see as many as he can while we're here. First one we saw was *Jersey Boys*, absolutely brilliant!!!! Then we went to see another musical called *Spring Awakening*, with a young cast, most of them making their professional debuts. It reminded me a lot of my students at ACPA in Brisbane.

Bain heard a whisper that my director's dad, Sir Richard Attenborough (remember the old grey bearded professor in *Jurassic Park*? That's him), is the Life President of Chelsea Football Club in London. Bain was straight on to him for tickets to go see a Premier League home soccer match, so we went and sat in the director's box with Clive Owen and a bunch of other famous Pom celebrities. Game was great, fast and tough.

Went to Bath yesterday (where we took this photo of me with the Roman columns), the famous old Roman city about 120km west of London. It's famous for its huge Roman baths built around 200 AD. Pretty old, but only new compared to our mob, hey!

Well that's all from me over here in old London town. I'll send another postcard soon with more London pics next time. Keep well. Talk soon.

*Love,
Leah & Bain xx oo*

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Film maker and actor Leah Purcell and her partner Bain Stewart are visiting Europe while Leah rehearses for a play. They have already spent time in London and Paris.

While in Paris they saw the Eiffel Tower, the Champs-Elysees, parliament house, opera houses and Bastille Square. They even went to a Premier League football match.

The main photo is taken at Bath, about 120km west of London. It's famous for its huge Roman baths built in 200AD.



Activity 1

Locate London and Paris on the map of Europe.



Activity 2

Understanding what you read

Read *Greetings from London (and Paris)* on page 10.

Shade one bubble.

1. Leah and Bain are visiting

- the English Channel.
- Marie Antoinette.
- London and Paris .
- the Cannes Film Festival.

2. Leah says that they decided to go to Paris on a whim. By this, she means

- they planned the trip to Paris carefully.
- it was fun.
- it was a last minute decision to go to Paris.
- they travelled by train.



3. According to the text, why didn't they climb to the very top of the Eiffel Tower?

- They got a bit tired.
- They were too frightened to go any further.
- They ran out of time.
- The bus was cancelled.

4. Leah says the Roman city of Bath was Pretty old, but only new compared to our mob, hey! This suggests that

- the Roman baths were newly built.
- the city is famous.
- the Roman baths were built in 200AD.
- the baths are not really that old when compared to Aboriginal history.

5. What type of language does Leah use in her postcard?

- formal
- colloquial
- Aboriginal
- technical jargon

6. What is the main purpose of this text?

- to warn
- to argue
- to inform
- to criticise

Activity 2 Language conventions

Spelling

Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.

Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

1. They finaly arrived in London.
2. Leah describes the wether as "brilliant".
3. They desided to go to Paris.
4. They traveled in style.
5. They were tyred on the first night.
6. They saw some great turist spots.



Activity 3 Language conventions

Which of the following correctly completes the sentence?
Shade one bubble.

1. It seemed like it ***** forever for their trip to start.

- takes
- taking
- took
- taked

2. They ***** the Eurostar train last month.

- catch
- catching
- catches
- caught

3. They knew for a long time that the trip was coming ***** it seemed to take forever to finally be in London

- but
- because
- except
- so

Activity 4 Writing a postcard

Leah wrote about her experiences of visiting London and Paris.

Write a postcard to describe your favourite towns and cities.

Use colloquial, everyday language like Leah does to engage her audience.





Activity 5 Writing a narrative

The common Stages and phases of an effective narrative often include:

Stages	phases
Orientation	This sets the scene, creating a visual picture of the setting, atmosphere and time of the story. Characters are introduced and clues are set in place for the coming complication.
	Sequence of events that is expected
Complication	An unexpected problem or complication occurs that affects the main character. This usually creates tension.
	Characters react to the problem.
	Problem seems to be resolved.
	A new problem occurs, which is now often worse than before.
Resolution	The problem is solved and the story ends.
Evaluation	Characters reflect on what has happened.

VIBE SCHOOL

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Write a narrative.

The idea for your story is DANGER.



Your story might be about a dangerous person, being in a dangerous situation, or something dangerous that is about to happen.

Your story could be about how people in dangerous situations find courage, help or understanding.

Think about:

- The characters and where they are.
- The complication or problem to be solved.
- How the story will end.

Remember to:

- Plan your story before you start.
- Write in sentences.
- Pay attention to the words you choose, your spelling and punctuation.
- Check and edit your writing when you have finished.