Quirky fact:
Australia’s first Rodeo World Titles were held in Winton in 1958.

Background Information
So much of the Outback’s life and culture stems from the cattle industry. Pastoral grazing opened up new frontiers and helped to build the nation. Each year towns throughout western Queensland celebrate and pay tribute to the skills and strength of both man and beast when they gather for their local rodeos and musters. Spectators blend with contestants, decked out in uniform check shirts, blue jeans or moleskin trousers, Akubra hats and dusty RM Williams leather boots. Many contestants travel Australia and worldwide testing their opponents as they do the rounds of the circuit, pitching their skills against the best of them.

Queensland stages two of the largest rodeos in the country – the Mount Isa Rotary Rodeo and the Warwick Rodeo. Outback communities everywhere turn up for their show – be it Richmond, Winton, or Cloncurry. In 2008, the Mount Isa Rodeo reached a milestone, celebrating its 50th year. Now the largest rodeo in the southern hemisphere, the week-long festival attracts over 25,000 visitors to the mining town and some of the top local and international competitors in the world, who vie for prize money of more than $200,000. Each ride is fast and furious, only lasting a few seconds before the steer, horse or bull has its way, so the action is always thrilling and competition is fierce.

The Australian Professional Rodeo Association (APRA) was established in New South Wales in 1944 and is the national governing body for the professional side of the sport. The organisation is now based in Queensland on the Darling Downs. The APRA competition calendar runs for 11 months of the year, visiting all Australian states and territories with contestants competing in up to 13 events.

Australian Curriculum Links

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Watching a rodeo in action
Mount Isa Rodeo
### Inquiry Questions

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<td>How do leisure activities affect the liveability of a place? Why is rodeo popular in the Outback?</td>
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### Points of Interest
- **Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo, Mount Isa**
  - The Mount Isa Rodeo is the largest rodeo event in the Southern Hemisphere located in the Outback Queensland city of Mount Isa.
  - Outback at Isa, 19 Marian Street, Mount Isa QLD 4825
  - **Hours:** Three-day event held annually on the second weekend of August
  - **Cost:** Fees apply
  - **Phone:** (07) 4743 2706
  - **Email:** enquiries@isarodeo.com.au
  - **Website:** www.isarodeo.com.au
- **Hard Times Mine, Riversleigh Fossil Centre and Isa Experience Gallery – Outback at Isa, Mount Isa**
- **Underground Hospital & Museum, Mount Isa**

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
- **Australian Rodeo Heritage Centre A.P.R.A.**
  - PO Box 264, Warwick QLD 4370
  - Phone: (07) 4661 8183
  - Email: apra@prorodeo.asn.au
  - www.prorodeo.asn.au/arhc/index.htm

### REFERENCES
- The Australian Professional Rodeo Association
  - www.prorodeo.asn.au

- **ABC Western Queensland**
  - www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2012/08/13/3566541.htm

### FURTHER INFORMATION
- Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo
  - Outback at Isa, 19 Marian Street, Mount Isa QLD Australia 4825
  - Phone: (07) 4743 2706
  - Email: enquiries@isarodeo.com.au
  - www.isarodeo.com.au