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Title: My Experiences in Sydney

Twelve days we spent in Sydney went by so quickly. I experienced things I never had before, and discovered many differences between Japan and Australia.

During the first three days, we went to Cherrybrook Technology High School. We each had our own buddies there and they showed us around the school by taking us to their classes. I got to take a Japanese class on the first day. I was awed because so many students were speaking up during class and discussing problems with people around them. I thought that we should learn from the classes in Sydney and do more “active learning” in Japan, too. They used their own computers for many things, such as taking notes, doing homework, and looking up things on the internet. My buddy showed me netball on sports day. It’s a sport that’s popular in Australia but not well known in Japan. It’s close to basketball, but the biggest difference between the two is that netball doesn’t have a board behind the hoop or even a net around it. The time we spent there was short, but because the students welcomed us kindly and listened carefully to what we were trying to say, I truly felt as if I was also an Aussie learning there.

After that, we went to Jamberoo to stay at our host family's house. My host family was kind, and talked about many things with us. They also took us for a walk around the beach. The fish and chips we ate then were so delicious that I want to eat it again so badly. They even let us ride their horse! The horseback riding was wonderful, thanks to the astonishing view we could also enjoy during that. Jamberoo is a place with many green places, so we even saw some wild kangaroos.

We went to Taronga Zoo on the last day in Australia. We saw many rare animals there. How the animals were kept surprised me, also. The most surprising was the way that birds were kept. In Japan, they are usually kept in a large cage. In Taronga, however, I did not find anything like that but just a knee-high stone barrier. I couldn’t believe my eyes. We also got to take pictures close to koalas. It was a wonderful experience.

We did many things we couldn’t have if not for this trip. We saw and learned things we could only learn by actually experiencing them. I’m so lucky to have been chosen for this trip, and I want to express my gratitude to the people who made this trip possible.