



## The Underground City



# The Underground City

by Claudio Ponti

Have you ever seen a house that is under the ground? Come visit a town called Coober Pedy!

About 3,500 people live in Coober Pedy, Australia. From the street, you might see only dirt and some trees. But under the ground, there are homes! More than half of the people in the town live in **underground** houses. These are regular houses that look a lot like yours!

The summer heat in Coober Pedy is **extreme**. But the underground homes are **efficient**. They stay cool during the hot months. That means people don't spend money on air conditioning. In the winter, the homes stay warm. That means people pay less for heat.

The underground houses look just like regular homes.



Opals are **native** to Coober Pedy. Most of the people who live there work in the opal **business**. They dig up opals from under the ground. Then they sell the opals to people all over the world.

◀ The first opal was found in Coober Pedy in 1915. Soon, **mining** became popular there. The miners noticed how cool the air was inside the mines. These men had slept in **trenches** in World War I, so they knew that living under the ground was cooler than living in the **desert** heat. That's how the underground homes began.

don't understand a word, phrase, or a language structure.



From: Meghan@example.com  
To: Max@example.com  
Subject: Coober Pedy

Hello Max,

I am in Coober Pedy. It is a special town in Australia. Many **visitors** come to see the underground **architecture**. The people who live in Coober Pedy work hard in the heat all day. They spend many hours drilling for opals. At the end of the day, they go to their nice, cool homes. They live in underground caves!

I'll see you soon!

Meghan



▶ I saw workers use large machines to dig opals out of the ground.



158-160

### Think It Over

1. **Recall** Where is Coober

**visitors** people who come to see a place or a person