Life from Down Under
Our Experiential Learning Opportunity
Summer 2018
We went to the Land Down Under to learn about their culture and gain a global perspective.

We traveled over 10,000 miles to learn about *ourselves*. 
Sharpened Our Self Awareness

Gathering first-hand information about the world - seeing different landscapes, experiencing the challenges of certain cultures, listening to the opinions of people in other nations - provides a level of mindfulness that’s often tough to shake. Profound experiences give people a sense of place and purpose, and they establish lifelong values and priorities.
Fostered Our Independence

Living for any amount of time in a culture that’s different from home can help prepare students for college in more ways than any sleep-away camp or vacation can. This enriching experience challenges students to open their minds regarding food, friends, and basic needs. After all, it’s tougher to take things for granted in unfamiliar situations.
Independence

Traveling helps you learn about yourself and the world around you. Seeing different cultures makes you see your own culture in totally different way. It broadens your horizons, builds friendships, and definitely creates memories.
Independence

We learn how to travel.
Independence

We learn how to fly.
Independence

We learn how to connect with the different cultures of the world.
Strengthened Our Leadership Skills

A person who’s been there and done that simply has more credibility than those who rely on lip service. Instead of relying on others’ opinions, travelers establish perspective, confidence, and conviction that make it easier to gain the respect of others. Plus, international travel, especially with a group or through a program, provides students with a global network of contacts and references.
Connections

WCHS- 4 students, 2 adults

We were combined with other small high school groups:

- Bardstown, KY (Nelson County High School)
- Greensboro, North Carolina
- Naples, Maine

35 travelers in combined group
Enhanced Our Perspective

Exposure to the problems and perks of other lifestyles helps people break out of cultural-centric thinking. Having a broad awareness of how other people live and what other cultures prioritize can trigger solutions and ideas that don’t necessarily rely on familiar habits and comforts. Cultural immersion through travel can also help break down language barriers and open new channels of lifelong communication.
Māori people
Indigenous Australians
Demonstrated Our Courage

Traveling away from the comfort of friends, family, and familiar surroundings is tough. But doing it shows that a person is interested enough in the rest of the world, and confident enough in herself to venture out and discover other parts of the world. This is a character trait that’s very appealing to colleges and employers.
Physical Journey

Traveling to NZ:

- 2 days to get to New Zealand because we crossed the International Date Line (so we lost 24 hours- had no June 21\textsuperscript{st})
- Plus New Zealand is 16 hours \textbf{ahead} of us so the journey did feel a bit like time travel
- Left Louisville at 4pm our time on Wednesday and arrived in Auckland, NZ at 6am on Friday NZ time
- Took 2 flights to get there
  - 2.5 hours from Louisville to Houston, TX
  - 16 hours from Houston to Auckland, NZ

Returning home:

- 2 days
- 5 cities: Cairns, AU to Auckland, NZ (5 hours) to San Francisco, CA (12 hours) to Chicago, IL (4 hours) to Louisville, KY (1 hour)
- Which means it took 4 flights to get home
- Gained 24 hours because we crossed the International Date Line so we experienced two July 1\textsuperscript{st}'s
- But we got to spend the 12 hour layover in San Francisco touring the city
Physical Journey

During tour flights:

- Traveling from New Zealand to Australia took one 3.5 hour plane ride, but we also went back in time 2 hours.
- Traveling from Sydney to Cairns took 3 hours.
TOTAL FLIGHTS FOR THE ENTIRE TRIP
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**TOTAL FLIGHT TIME FOR THE ENTIRE TRIP**
TOTAL CITIES TOURED FOR THE ENTIRE TRIP

NEW ZEALAND:
- Auckland, North Island
- Rotorua, North Island
- Matamata, North Island

AUSTRALIA:
- Sydney, New South Wales
- Cairns, Queensland
- Kuranda, Queensland

UNITED STATES:
- San Francisco, California
We went on an adventure!

5 Benefits of Educational Travel
http://theyoungleader.experiencegla.com/5-benefits-of-educational-travel/