



## **Aussie Art and Culture day a real corker, mate**



Yucca Valley resident Carleigh Fraser, 6, enjoys doing the coloring craft.

By Leslie Shaw Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA VALLEY — Did you know emus can swim? Did you know Australia is a country and a continent? Did you know Australians call McDonald's, Mackers? If you answered "no" to any of these questions, then you should have attended the Hi-Desert Nature Museum's Art and Culture Wednesdays.

This week, museum supervisor Lynne Richardson taught children about Australia. Kids learned countries below the equator have the opposite seasons than we do here. They learned some Australian slang, saw a photo of famous Ayers Rock in the Northern Territory, learned a little about the Great Barrier Reef, and learned about Australian wildlife like the koala bear, the platypus and the sugar glider. The sugar glider looks just like our continent's flying squirrel, but its actually a marsupial.

Following the brief slide show and lecture, the children colored and cut out pictures of Australian animals and pasted them on a cutout of the continent.

Art and Culture Wednesdays provide opportunities for kids to explore other countries through hands-on activities.

The last Art and Culture Wednesday will be held at 10 a.m. Aug. 8 and will be about Japan. The cost is \$2 per student. No pre-registration is required. Just pay at the door.