

# Famous Australian Engineering

## Sydney Harbour Bridge

The Sydney Harbour Bridge, built 1923-32, is one of the most well-known structures in Australia. It officially opened on March 19, 1932. The bridge spans Sydney Harbour and connects Sydney with its northern suburbs. The Sydney Harbour Bridge is the world's heaviest steel arch bridge. About 53,000 tons of steel were used in its construction. Its total length is approximately 1,149 metres, and the top of the bridge stands 134 metres above the harbour.



In 2017 more than 200 trains, 160,000 vehicles and 1900 bikes used the bridge every day.

## Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House is one of the 20th century's most iconic buildings. It broke new ground for design and engineering around the world. Since its opening by Queen Elizabeth II on 20 October 1973 it has become a symbol the world immediately associates with Sydney and Australia.

The story of the Opera House is a drama that for more than 15 years grabbed national headlines and pitted the artistic vision of the architect Jorn Utzon against the politics and budgets of the New South Wales Government and the limits of architecture and construction.



## Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme, built 1949–74, is well recognised as not just an Australian but a world engineering feat. Producing hydro-electricity and water for irrigation, the scheme includes seven power stations, 16 dams and 225 kilometres of tunnels and aqueducts. The scheme helped create multicultural Australia: of the 100,000 workers on the scheme, two-thirds of them were from overseas, coming from 30 different countries.

The Snowy Scheme greatly developed Australia's manufacturing and technical capacities, and some of the technical breakthroughs on the scheme have since been exported around the world. The Snowy also brought in its wake a number of environmental problems, such as greatly reduced flows in the Snowy River and other streams.



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### Questions

1. When did the Sydney Harbour Bridge officially open?

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2. Which of the abovementioned engineering feats took the longest to build?

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3. The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme is recognised as a world engineering feat.

True / False

4. Who was the architect that designed and built the Sydney Opera House?

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5. The Sydney Harbour Bridge is the world's heaviest steel arch bridge.

True / False

6. Why was the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme attributed to creating the multicultural Australia we know today?

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