

DATELINE: May 2000 Lake Eyre, Australia's (and the world's) largest salt lake is full of water for only the fourth time in the last hundred years. The lake last filled in 1989. When full, it covers 9 500 square kilometres and reaches depths of 6 metres. The bed of Lake Eyre is 15 metres below sea level. The lake has filled as a result of heavy rain in Queensland's Channel Country in February. The flooding of the Georgina River, the Diamantina River and Cooper Creek as well as the Warburton Creek close to Lake Eyre has fed excess water into its vast drainage basin or catchment area. It is expected that water will remain in Lake Eyre for at least the next nine months.

- Using the map on page 60 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*, mark on the outline below the following: **South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Winton, Diamantina River, Georgina River, Cooper Creek, Warburton Creek, Lake Eyre**
- Using the scale on the map on page 60 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*, calculate the distance in a straight line from Winton to Lake Eyre. _____

- Using the information on page 94 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*, what is the size of the catchment area of Lake Eyre? _____

- Using the map on pages 94-95 and the satellite images on page 94 of the *Jacaranda Atlas* complete the following passage. Choose from the words given below.

Lake Eyre actually comprises two lakes: _____ Lake Eyre and _____ Lake Eyre, connected by a narrow _____. The pink colour on the map shows the area below _____. In February 1984, the satellite image shows Lake Eyre _____ of water with very little visible _____. In November 1984, the _____ part of Lake Eyre was _____ and the _____ was re-appearing. By March 1985, very little _____ remained as Lake Eyre once again became a _____.

(sea level, North, full, salt pan, South, salt crust, channel, northern, water, drying up, salt)

