



The

# Observe

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## Students spend day 'down under'

By Belén Ramirez  
Staff Writer

Kangaroos, koalas and sharks.

That's what most people think about when they hear the word Australia, but Darren Liebman is on a mission to add to that knowledge.

He travels around the country teaching kids with an Australian-themed education and musical entertainment session called, "Didgeridoo Down Under."

He does it all with the help of a partner and a didgeridoo (a musical instrument).

Friday, Liebman and his partner, Jeremy Lembo, visited New Smyrna Beach Middle. The lesson was not just limited to geography, though. Liebman included lessons on history, nature, animals, Aboriginal culture, music, art and vocabulary.

"The more kids learn about other cultures, the more peaceful and better the world will be," he says.

Liebman, a native of South Africa, has traveled the world to visit relatives all over the map including Australia, Israel, Canada and Europe. But, it goes without saying his favorite place is the land down under. He's been to the country five times.

Liebman now lives in Tampa and after a brief stint as a freelance journalist and photographer, he found his calling in playing the didgeridoo and teaching kids about Australia. And the kids warmly respond to his lessons, especially the girls.

After his recent entertainment session at New Smyrna Beach Middle School, some of the girls even stayed after to ask for his autograph.

He doesn't mind the extra attention that comes with what he does, though.

"I wake up every day with a passion for educating the kids," he says.

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PHOTO BY BELÉN RAMÍREZ

**Darren Liebman and Jeremy Lembo show off their didgeridoo collection while taking a break from teaching the kids at New Smyrna Beach Middle School about Australia.**

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