

Young Australian creates his own country

Vocabulary Match

- claims ● experiment ● despite ● reached ● banned ● relations ●
- test ● got to ● not allowed ● connections ● even though ● says it is theirs

Article

A 20-year-old Australian man, Daniel Jackson, has created a small country called the Free Republic of Verdis. It is located in a 125-acre forest between Croatia and Serbia, where neither country claims the land. Jackson, who is a digital designer, started this project when he was 18. Verdis has its own flag, government, and currency, and about 400 citizens.

Jackson said, "Verdis was an idea I had when I was 14. It was just a bit of an experiment at first." The official languages are English, Croatian, and Serbian, and they use the Euro. Verdis can only be reached by boat from Croatia, but the Croatian police have stopped people from living there, including Jackson, who is banned from Croatia. Despite challenges, Jackson hopes to return and build good relations with Croatia.

Quiz

1. What is the name of the country Daniel Jackson created?
2. How old was Jackson when he started the project?
3. What are the official languages of Verdis?
4. How can Verdis be reached?

Conversation

- A: Hey, did you hear about Daniel's new country?
B: Yeah, it's called Verdis, right? Pretty wild idea!
A: I know! He even made a flag and currency.
B: But I heard he can't even visit it now.
A: True, he's banned from Croatia.
B: Hopefully, he can sort things out and visit soon.

Discussion

1. Do you think Daniel should be able to claim the 125-acre forest? Why or why not?
2. Would you like to live in the Free Republic of Verdis?
3. If you could create your own country, what would you name it?
4. What rules would you make for your country?