**Australia - Locate**

Australia Map Great Barrier Reef Coral Sea Ayers Rock Great Victoria Desert

Australia is the only country on the world’s smallest and flattest continent.

About the same size as US

The Commonwealth of Australia includes: Mainland Australia Island of Tasmania

Several smaller islands in the Pacific & Indian Oceans

Australia is divided into 6 states & 2 mainland territories (10 total territories)

**Great Barrier Reef**

World’s largest coral reef

Largest collection of coral – over 400 types

More than 1,500 species of fish

4,000 types of mollusks (snails, clams, octopi, squid)

Rare species such as “sea cow” or dugong & large green turtle

Located in the Coral Sea

Extends 1,200 miles along coast of Queensland

**Coral Sea**

Off northeast coast of Australia

Actually part of Pacific Ocean

Includes Great Barrier Reef

Australia claimed the Coral Sea islands in 1969 – no one lives here except weather specialists

**Ayers Rock - Great Victoria Desert**

More than 160,000 square miles

Receives only 8-10 inches of rain each year (no snow)

Contains some grasslands, sandhills, and salt lakes

It is a protected wilderness area of Western Australia

Very few Australians live here because it is too hot and dry

One of many deserts in Australia

**Australia’s Location:**

About 2,000 miles southeast of Asia

Pacific Ocean (east), Indian Ocean (west)

Southern hemisphere (Australians come from a “land down under” because they are on the lower part of the globe)

Most people live in cities on the east coast

Nearly 80% of Australians live in urban areas (one of world’s most urbanized cities)

Sydney=most populated city (3.5 million)

Melbourne (3 million)

**Australia’s Climate:**

Seasons are opposite ours (south of equator)

North=tropical climate

warm to hot all year

gets more rain than other parts of country

Winter is wetter & cooler than the hot, dry summer

Desert=largest part of Australia

Little rainfall (less than 10 inches per year)

Southeast & southwest = temperate climate

Summers not too hot, winters not too cold

Most Australians live in the temperate zone along the southeast & southwest coasts

**Australia’s Natural Resources:**

Outback= dry interior of country containing the country’s largest deserts, including vast expanses of grazing land

Scattered settlements in outback, mostly around mining operations (Most people live in cities)

Minerals are often found in areas that are difficult to reach – must build highways & railroads for workers, machinery, & transporting minerals back to populated areas

**Impact on Trade - Australia’s Location:**

Major supplier of natural resources to China (neighbor to north)

Australia sends China minerals & metals

China uses these to make affordable cars, dishwashers, etc. and sells them to Australia

Chinese invest in Australian mining companies

Tourism = $81 billion (1/4 is international)

expensive to visit – mostly tourists from New Zealand, England, US, & China

**Impact on Trade - Australia’s Climate:**

Tourists visit the bush & outback in spring or fall when weather is milder

Tourists visit beaches during Australia’s summer (December-March)

Australians grow grains in non-desert regions

Wheat, barley, sorghum, cereal rye

Rice, chickpeas, lentils, oilseeds (sesame seeds, canola, soybeans, sunflowers)

**Impact on Trade - Australia’s Natural Resources:**

Gold rush in southern Australia during mid-nineteenth century

Speculators came mainly from England, Ireland, Germany, and China

Agricultural exports account for nearly 1/3 of economy (wheat, wool, beef, sugar, dairy products)

Coal=23% of country’s exports (can satisfy world’s coal demands for several centuries)

Exported nearly $400 billion worth of metals, minerals, and fuels in last 20 years

Australia exports more coal and iron ore than any other country

Australia has more reserves of aluminum, lead, cadmium, & nickel than any other country

**English Colonization - Impact on language:**

Native Aborigines inhabited Australia for centuries

Dutch explorers discovered and mapped Australia, but did not send colonists

Capt. James Cook claimed eastern Australia for England in 1768, naming it New South Wales

1788-1823 Australia was penal colony

1823-British gov’t established Australia’s 1st parliament. Parliament est criminal & civil courts

Everyone spoke English (prisoners, guards, courts, businesses)

**English Colonization - Impact on language:**

French became interested in western Australia so English quickly built cities in west, spreading English language to west coast

Gold rush=immigrants from England, Ireland, China, & US - -> mainly English speakers

Australian gov’t (after independence from Great Britain) made rules to stop immigrants from Africa & Asia, encouraging more English speakers

20% Australians were born in another country

English is official language & most common language

**English Colonization - Impact on religion:**

Europeans introduced Christianity to Australia in 1788

Irish convicts were Roman Catholic

Guards & other convicts were Anglicans & Methodists

About 95% of Australians are Christians

Roman Catholic & Anglican Church have most members

About 5% of Australians are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, or Hindus

**Australia’s Literacy Rate**

Almost 100% of adult Australians are literate

Australians enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world

Poverty does exist among Australians

About 2 million Australians live below the poverty line

Aborigines have shorter life expectancy, earn lower incomes & have poor health care

**Australia’s Government**

Australia has a federal parliamentary democracy

Federal

Power is divided between central government and the states = strong central gov’t

Parliamentary

People elect members of Parliament who choose the Prime Minister

Democracy

Power is held by the people

**Australia’s Government - Form of Leadership:**

Queen Elizabeth II is head of state but she does not run the country

Queen approves elections, signs laws and is commander-in-chief of army, navy & air force

Prime Minister is most powerful political figure in Australia (chosen by MPs)

PM recommends Governor-General to Queen & Queen makes final selection

Governor-General performs all of Queen’s duties in Australia

**Australia’s Government - Type of Legislature:**

Members of Parliament are elected by the people

Parliament is divided into:

Senate=people elect 12 senators from each state (6) & territory (2)

House of Representatives=people in each electorate vote for one person to go to Parliament to represent them

Australia is divided into equal areas called electorates.

**Australia’s Government - Type of Legislature:**

Political party with most seats in House becomes government

Winning party’s leader = Prime Minister

2nd highest # seats = “Opposition”

Opposition’s leader= Leader of Opposition

**Australia’s Government - Type of Legislature:**

Proposed laws are called bills

Bills go to House 1st

Bills that are passed in House go to Senate

Bills that are passed in Senate become an “Act of Parliament”

Governor-General signs the act, making it a law that Australians must obey

**Australia’s Government = Role of Citizen:**

18+ required to vote (or face hearing, fine)

Vote to elect representatives to House and Senate

Citizens do NOT vote for Queen, Governor-General, or Judges of High Court

High level of freedom similar to UK & US (freedom of speech/religion, free to travel, free to choose job, free to start business, etc.)

**Australia’s Government**

Australia is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations

Its 6 states represent 6 British colonies that joined together to form the Commonwealth of Australia

States must follow laws made by Australian Parliament

Commonwealth has NO power to force its member nations to take an action that it does not want to take

Commonwealth’s primary purpose is to work to promote trade & find solutions to common problems

**Australia’s Economic System**

Market economy with very few rules

Government does NOT own major businesses or industry

One of most economically free countries in world, ranking higher than the US

Known for fair, honest courts and good laws that protect citizens and property owners

Bribery is rare and punishable by strict laws

Very easy to start business in Australia, taking less than one week

**Specialization**

Australia specializes in natural resources that they export to China

China specializes in items such as washing machines, TVs and computers that they export to Australia

**Trade Barriers**

Australia encourages trade so they have very few trade barriers (tariffs, embargos, quotas)

When tariffs do exist they are very low

Rules are in place to help Australian farmers have advantages over foreign farmers (allowing them to sell goods at lower prices to make more money)

1998-embargo on weapons to Yugoslavia

Why? Australia wanted to stop the fighting

**Human Capital**

Australia invests heavily in human capital

Children attend school from ages 6-18

Work force is highly educated and well trained

Good healthcare system

Literacy rate is near 100% which increases the standard of living and the GDP

**Physical Capital**

Market economy increases competition and lowers prices; therefore, Australian businesses MUST invest in physical capital to remain competitive

Australian businesses use advanced technology to increase efficiency

**Natural Resources**

Arable land is good for crops and raising cattle

Mining of minerals = coal, iron ore, copper, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, mineral sands, zinc, oil, & natural gas

Leads world in production of diamonds & lead and in mining bauxite (ore used in aluminum)

**Aborigines**

Aborigines means “the people who were here from the beginning”

Native people who occupied Australia for 40,000 years – living in the same areas as present-day Australians

They came from southeast Asia when Australia, Tasmania, & New Guinea were one large landmass & they had to adjust to harsh environment:

Nomadic=moving from place to place in search of food

Built containers for storing water & built wells to connect to underground water

Hunters & gatherers - ate animals, wild nuts, fruits, berries

Created some of the earliest rock art as well as the first boomerangs, ground axes, and grindstones

Kept their history by telling stories that were passed down from generation to generation

A tribe or language group consisted of as many as 500 people

Tribes included “hordes” of 10-20 people who joined together daily for hunting and gathering

Religious structure was divided into 2 “moieties”

Moiety system divided all members of a tribe into 2 groups based on a connection with “totems”

totems were certain plants, animals, & other things in the environment

You were born into a moiety group & stayed there for your entire life

You had to marry someone from an opposite moiety

**British Colonization**

Great Britain sent its prisoners to the Georgia colony in North America prior to the American Revolution

From 1788-1823, Great Britain sent prisoners to the colony of New South Wales (official penal colony)

Many free immigrants went to Australia and built trading posts, farms, & businesses

British did not want French to get Australia – they felt the more colonies they had, the better

Great Britain decided to use Australia to base its navy in the South Pacific so that British ships could get repairs & supplies

Australia provided opportunities for trade between Asia, Australia, and the Americas

By 1861, the continent was divided into 7 colonies (today=6 states & 2 territories)

1901=Commonwealth of Australia

**European Impact**

British quickly took over Australia’s land & resources, using force when needed (guns)

Some Aborigines welcomed colonists, others tried to protect their homeland

If Aborigines killed cattle, some white farmers responded by killing Aborigines (revenge groups)

Some Aborigines thought white people were spirits of the dead

**European Impact**

British brought cattle, sheep, and diseases:

Land was cleared & fences were built for cattle & sheep (forcing Aborigines to move)

Other land was cleared for colonial towns & mining operations

Diseases killed about half of Aborigines (no immunity)

1850s gold rush=more settlers, more conflicts, more deaths