

Australian symbols

	<p style="text-align: center;">Australia's National Flag</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Australian Aboriginal Flag</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Australian Coat of Arms (With the national animal, the kangaroo, and the national bird, the emu.)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Floral Emblem: Golden Wattle (Because of this flower, green and gold are the national colours of Australia and also the colours of the national sport teams.)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">National gemstone: opal</p>
<p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rErvPnd-2E</p> <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwziS2aE6Ww</p> <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwvazMc5Efe</p> <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NocctjQaS5A</p> <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjkrjYitgeA (The video also shows the people culture and some of the Australian history)</p> <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHP9NuZNjbl (Children's choir and famous stars perform the song on the Oprah Winfrey show in Sydney.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">National anthem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Advance Australia Fair</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Other national songs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God save the Queen</i> [or King] (the British anthem, because Australia is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations) • <i>Waltzing Matilda</i> (one of Australia's best-known national songs) • <i>Song of Australia</i> (a popular national song written in 1859) <p style="text-align: center;">Some other iconic Australian songs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I am, you are, we are Australian</i> (written in 1987 by Bruce Woodley of 'The Seekers') • <i>I still call Australia home</i> (A song written by Peter Allen in 1980.)



Boomerang

The traditional weapon of the Aboriginals. It is special because it can return to its thrower.



Didgeridoo

The traditional musical instrument of the Aboriginals. It is a wind instrument made of wood.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9g592I-p-dc&list=RDDC9w4KWEgJE>



Uluru

Also called the Ayers Rock. A monolith sandstone in the centre of Australia. A symbolic place for the Aboriginals.



Billy

The billy is an Australian word for a metal container used for boiling water, making tea or cooking over a fire.



Australian cork hat

Cork hats were the Australian versions of cowboy hats. They were worn by people who looked after the cows or sheep or by those who travelled in the outback. The corks were hung around the hat to keep the flies away from the person's face.



The Australian bush

'The bush' is special landscape typical in Australia. It means grassland covered by small trees and shrubs. It is important for the Australians, because it's unique and different from the European landscape so it was new for the immigrants. The life in the bush appears in many Australian poems, paintings, films, and songs.



G'day is a famous Australian term. It means 'Good day'.

Famous Buildings



Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House is one of the most famous 20th-century buildings in the world. It is situated in Sydney Harbour. The design of the building is unique: its roof consists of white shell-shaped items, so the whole building reminds you of a sailboat. There are theatre, ballet, musical and opera performances in the building. The house has about 1000 rooms: five theatres, five rehearsal studios, four restaurants, six bars and souvenir shops. The building was designed by Jorn Utzon, a Danish architect. It took 16 years to complete the construction. The Opera House was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on October 20, 1973. The opening was televised and included fireworks and a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony.



Sydney Harbour Bridge

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is a steel bridge across Sydney Harbour that carries traffic between the centre of Sydney and the North Shore. The bridge is nicknamed „The Coathanger” because of its arch-based design. It was opened in 1932. It is 134 metres tall from top to water level. Trains, cars, lorries, pedestrians and cyclists can all cross the bridge.



Parliament House

The Parliament House is the meeting facility of the Parliament of Australia located in Canberra, the capital of Australia. It was opened in 1988. It was the most expensive building in the world at the time of its construction. The design is based on the shape of two boomerangs and is topped by an 81-metre flagpole. The building contains 4.700 rooms and many areas are open to the public. The Ministerial Wing houses the office of the Prime Minister and other Ministers.



The Royal Exhibition Building

The Royal Exhibition Building is a World Heritage Site-listed building in Melbourne. It was built to host the Melbourne International Exhibition in 1880-1881 and later hosted the opening of the first Parliament of Australia in 1901. Throughout the 20th century, some parts of the building were destroyed. However, the main building, known as the Great Hall, survived. In 2004, it became the first building in Australia to be awarded UNESCO World Heritage status.



Q1

Q1 (meaning Queensland Number One) is a skyscraper, on the Gold Coast, Queensland. Q1 is the tallest building in Australia and the Southern Hemisphere when measured to the top of its spire. It's 322 m tall. It's the world's third tallest residential building.

Facts about Australia

- Australia was originally a geographical part of the giant continent Gondwana, which broke apart over one hundred million years ago.
- The name Australia comes from Terra Australis- the southern land.
- Australia is nicknamed as the **Land Down Under**
- Australia is the world's smallest continent.
- The Australian currency is the Dollar.
- The predominant language in Australia is English, with over 80 other languages spoken.
- Australia is one of the world's most urbanised countries, with about 70 per cent of the population living in the 10 largest cities.

Geographical map of Australia



GEOGRAPHY of AUSTRALIA

Form of Government: Federal parliamentary democracy

As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Australia's head of state is the British monarch. Many Australians think the country should end its ties to Britain and become a republic. But by in a vote in 1999, Australians decided against separating from the UK. The debate still continues.

Capital: Canberra (Canberra was selected as the capital because Sydney and Melbourne could not stop arguing which city should be the capital of Australia.)

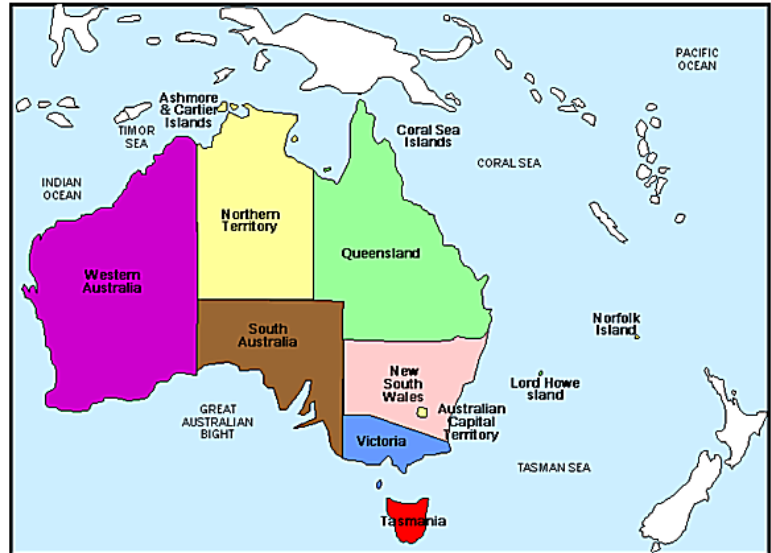
Population: 20,683,554 million

States:

Western Australia
Northern Territory
Queensland
South Australia
New South Wales
Victoria
Tasmania
Western Australia

Geographical Low Point: Lake Eyre -15 m

Geographical High Point: Mount Kosciuszko 2229 m



Major cities: Sydney; Melbourne; Brisbane; Perth; CANBERRA (capital)

Geography:

Australia consists of the mainland of Australia and Tasmania. It lies on and extends south from the Tropic of Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere.

Its borders are the Pacific Ocean to the east, the Indian Ocean to the west, the Afarura Sea to the north, and the Southern Ocean to the south.

Australia is the 6th largest country in the world, but its population density is one of the lowest in the whole world.

The area of Australia is 7,682,300 square kilometres. Australia is the only country in the world that covers an entire continent. Although it is rich in natural resources and has a lot of fertile land, more than one-third of Australia is desert.

Australia is the only continent that does not have an active volcano.

The Great Victoria Desert is the largest desert in the continent. Running around the eastern and southeastern edge of Australia is the Great Dividing Range. This 3,700-kilometer stretch of mountain sends water down into Australia's most important rivers and the Great Artesian Basin, the largest groundwater source in the world.

Hard to believe, but the Snowy Mountains, or the Australian Alps, receive more snowfall than Switzerland does.

Being in the lower hemisphere, the winter season begins in the month of June, and the summer season begins around Christmas time!

Climate

Australia is considered to be one of the driest continents on earth. Climate varies because of the size of the continent.

The temperature in the northern parts ranges from 23° to 38°C. The southern areas are more temperate with rainfall, great heat, flooding and drought.

Most Australian cities and farms are located in the southwest and southeast, where the climate is more comfortable. There are dense rain forests in the northeast. The famous Outback (remote rural areas) contains the country's largest deserts where there are very hot temperatures, little water, and almost no vegetation.

ECONOMY

Australia is an important exporter of **agricultural goods** like wool, wheat, beef, fruit, and wine. The country is also rich in minerals and metals and is the world's fourth largest producer of gold. Australia's major industries are mining and farming. **Mining includes** bauxite, coal, copper, gold and iron ore. Most of the land is too dry for planting crops, although some areas do grow sugarcane, grapes and wheat. The grape vineyards help to support a growing wine industry. Australia is probably best known for its sheep farming. Large numbers of sheep are raised for their wool and meat.

In addition, Australia's climate and dramatic scenery have made **tourism** a major industry.

Natural wonders of Australia

PINNACLES

These limestone formations were created 30,000 years ago when the ocean left deposits of seashells on the shore. The Pinnacles rise several meters out of the sand in the desert.

TWELVE APOSTLES

Erosion created these limestone stacks that you can see from the Great Ocean Road, off the Victorian coast. Although the name is the Twelve Apostles, there now there are only eight stones. Their base erodes two centimetres a year.

ULURU

A sacred site to the Aboriginals, who request individuals not to climb the sandstone monolith. It's 348 meters high. It's famous for its different hues, particularly at sunrise and sunset.

GREAT BARRIER REEF

The only living thing on Earth visible from space, it was born 25 million years ago. The world's largest reef system that stretches for 3,000 kilometers off the Queensland coast, it has 400 different types of coral and 1,500 species of tropical fish. Beautiful but precious, pollution and increased tourism threaten its future.

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Mountain ranges where the eucalyptus oil from gum trees gives the panorama a green hue. It contains some of the world's oldest species of plants. There is a limestone formation called The Three Sisters in it.

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

Kakadu National Park is the largest national park in Australia. It is part of the World Heritage both for its environment and the Aboriginal culture. It's covered in Aboriginal rock carvings and there is also a uranium mine in it. It's also home to freshwater and saltwater crocodiles.

Watch a video here: <http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/people/about-kakadu.html>

KANGAROO ISLAND

The kangaroo island is a popular place for tourists because of its beautiful scenery and amazing wildlife. Kangaroos, koalas, wallabies, penguins, different birds, Australian sea lions and koalas live here.

THE DEVIL'S MARBLES

The Devils Marbles are known as Karlu Karlu in all Aboriginal languages. This remarkable site is a sacred place to Aboriginals. The huge granite boulders wide open skies and golden sunlight make Karlu Karlu an unforgettable place to visit.

SHARK BAY

The bay area is home to many animals: sea cows, dolphins, birds, reptiles, fish and of course sharks. This World Heritage Site also has 'stromatolites', ancient structures in shallow sandy pools that represent some of the earliest signs of life on Earth.



Pinnacles



The Twelve Apostles



The Giant's Marbles



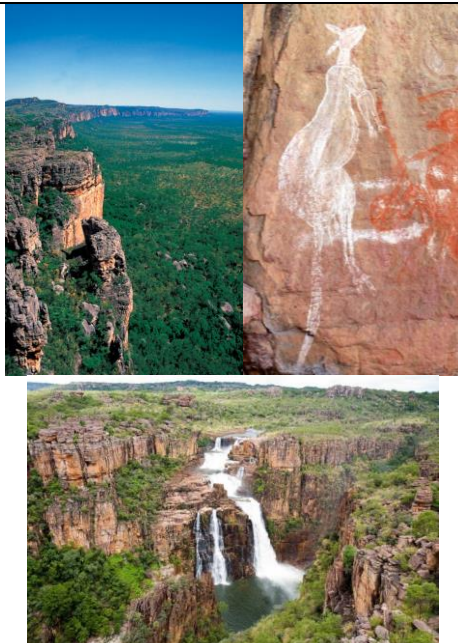
**The Blue Mountains
(with the Three Sisters)**



The Great Barrier Reef



**Shark Bay
(stromatolites and sea cow)**



**The Kakadu National Park;
Aboriginal rock paintings**



The kangaroo island



The Uluru/Ayers Rock

Political map of Australia



A BRIEF HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA (grade 5-6)

The first inhabitants – The Aboriginals



**Aboriginal men with didgeridoo
– a traditional musical**

The first people arrived to Australia by sea, about 50,000 years ago. They walked from Africa to Asia, and then during the Ice Age they travelled to Australia by boats when sea



Australian Aboriginal

levels were lower. The descendants of the first inhabitants of Australia are called the Aboriginals. They lived in tribes and

each tribe had their own language and traditions. There were about 300 Aboriginal tribes and 250 languages. The Aboriginals were hunters and gatherers. They invented a special weapon called the boomerang. This is a wooden weapon which returns to its thrower.

Changing landscape

When the first humans arrived, Australia was mostly covered by forests, but later the forests slowly disappeared and were replaced by grassland. Most of the Australian forests were destroyed by fires, which started naturally or were made by humans. Due to the fires both the flora (plants) and the fauna (animals) changed in Australia.



**Landscape in South
Australia today**

Australia, the British colony

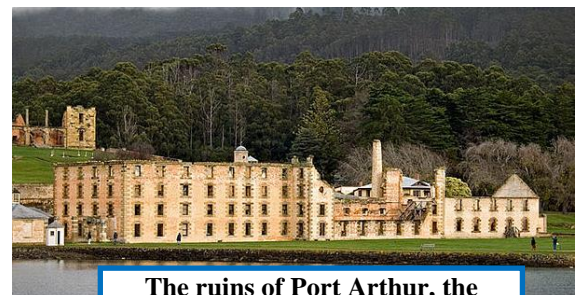
The first Europeans who sailed to Australia were Dutch explorers. They discovered Australia in 1606. Then in 1770 James Cook, an English explorer, landed in Australia (in Botany Bay – today in Sydney) and claimed the Eastern part as an English colony. The first British fleet of settlers arrived on 26, January, 1788. The Australians still celebrate this day as the „Australia Day“. The settlers established a colony, called New South Wales.



James Cook

The English decided to turn New South Wales into a penal colony, which meant that criminals were sent there as punishment. The

prisoners' life was harsh in Australia because there weren't cities, it was difficult to get food and they often died of



**The ruins of Port Arthur, the
famous prison**

diseases. All together, 160,000 convicts were sent to Australia until transportation of prisoners ended in 1868.

For a short time, the settlers lived peacefully with the Aboriginal people. But soon, fighting broke out over who owned the land. Many of the Aboriginals were killed.



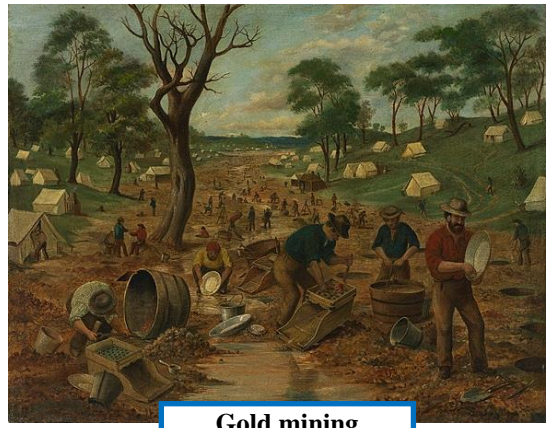
Bushrangers attack and rob a mail coach

Life in Australia for settlers became more dangerous in the 1800s because of the Bushrangers. These were

bandits or criminals who hid in the bush and robbed people and mail coaches. Many were runaway convicts who had the skills necessary to hide and survive in the Australian bush.

The gold rush

In 1851, gold was discovered in the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria. A rush to find gold began and thousands of new immigrants arrived to Australia, mainly from Western-Europe and China. In Victoria, gold miners had to ask for a licence from the colony's government and they had to pay each month to keep it. In addition, the local police was often violent and unfair, so the gold miners grew angry. Some miners built a



Gold mining

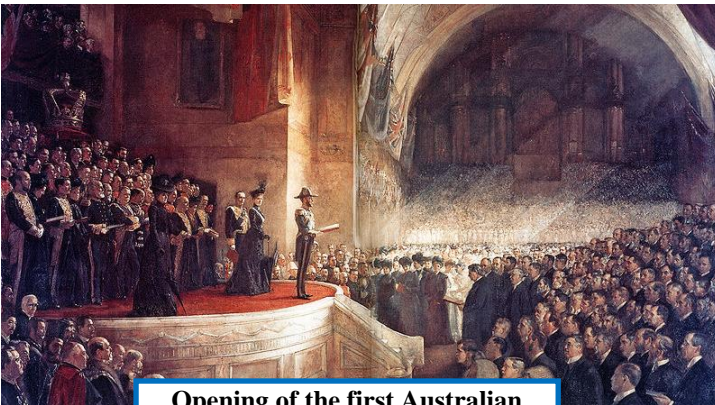


The Eureka Stockade

wooden barricade which was called the Eureka Stockade. Soon the government's soldiers and the police attacked the stockade and defeated the miners. However, the rebellion was successful because there were positive changes: miners got more rights and licences were soon abolished. The revolt remained the symbol of fighting for freedom in

Australia.

Australia becomes a nation



Opening of the first Australian Parliament in 1901

In the 1800s there were six British colonies in Australia. The colonies improved quickly: cities grew bigger (Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane), universities were established and railways were built.



Edmund Barton

But in the 1890s there was an economic depression and the six colonies decided to unite to be more effective. On 1st January, 1901, the six colonies joined to form the Commonwealth of Australia. Edmund Barton became the first Prime Minister of Australia.

Melbourne was chosen as the temporary seat of government while a new capital city, Canberra, was constructed. Canberra became the capital of Australia in 1927. Australia became a dominion of the British Empire in 1931. This meant that it belonged to the British Empire but they had autonomy in both their domestic and foreign affairs.

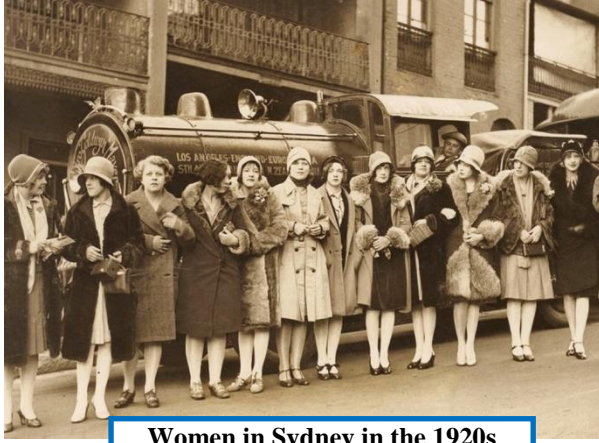
Australia during the world wars

The First World War began in 1914. The Australian soldiers helped the British to defeat the German troops in Egypt and they also fought against the Turkish. About 60,000 Australian men died in the First World War.



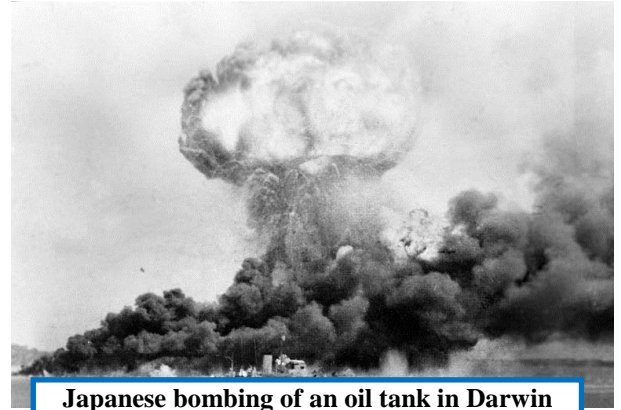
Australian troops in Egypt during the First World War, with their mascot, a kangaroo

The 1920's brought a period of prosperity and progress for Australia. New inventions such as radios and automobiles became common and going to the cinema was a popular form of entertainment. At the same time, Indigenous people were forced to move from their lands into mission reserves and they had a harsh life because of the government's assimilation policies. In the 1920s, women had greater freedom and found work outside of the home. This was reflected in new fashions, short hair, smoking and dancing. Younger women were sometimes called 'flappers'.



Women in Sydney in the 1920s

During the Second World War, Australia once again joined Britain and they fought together against Germany. When Japan entered the war in 1942, Australia herself was in danger. The Japanese wanted to occupy Australia, but by the end of 1942 the Australians pushed back the Japanese army. The commander of the Australian troops was Douglas MacArthur. Some 37,000 Australians died in the Second World War.



Japanese bombing of an oil tank in Darwin during the Second World War

Post-War boom

After the Second World War, Australia enjoyed a great economic boom and prosperity again. Many new factories were built. The major exports were metals, wool, meat and wheat. A huge project called the Snowy Mountains



The Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme



The closing ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games

Hydroelectric Scheme was started, which would collect snow from the mountains and transport the water to power stations.

2000 was an important year for Australia because Sydney hosted the Olympic Games.



The logo of the Sydney Olympics

Rights for the Aborigines



People protesting for the Aborigines' land rights

In 1962, the Aborigines were given the right to vote and in 1976 the Aboriginal Land Rights Act was passed. It gave right to the Aborigines to make claims on their ancient land in the Northern Territory. Nine years later, Uluru, the symbolic mountain, was also returned to Aborigines.

THE FLORA OF AUSTRALIA

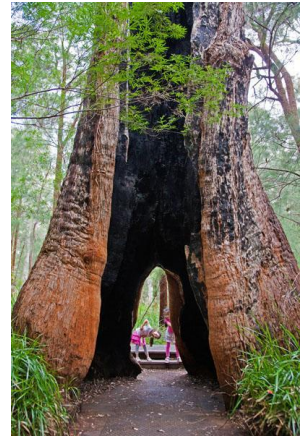
FORESTS



Australia's tallest trees can be found in Western Australia in the Valley of the Giants. Giant tuart, karri, and rich red jarrah, which live for up to 500 years, can be found here.

Australia's rainforests stretch across the country and cover every climatic type. The Daintree Rainforest in north Queensland is the oldest tropical rainforest on earth, dating back 135

million years. The cool temperate rainforest in Tasmania contains some of the oldest trees on the planet, including the rare Huon Pine. It is part of the World Heritage.



EUCALYPTUS

Eucalyptus trees are the symbolic plants of Australia. Over 75% of the tree population of Australia is made up of the eucalyptus trees. They are also known in Australia as the blue gum tree. They can grow to 125-160 metres. There are almost 600 species of eucalyptus in Australia. Eucalyptus can be found in every part of the continent.

Nearly all eucalyptus are evergreen but some tropical species lose their leaves at the end of the dry season. All eucalypts are evergreens. Eucalyptus leaves contain a type of oil which can be used for cleaning, deodorising, and in cough drops. In large quantities, the eucalyptus oil is poisonous, but some animals like koalas or possums are immune to it. The oil catches fire easily so its very difficult for Australian firefighters to put out forest fires.

The leaves of the eucalyptus tree are bluish-green. The flowers may be white, cream, yellow, pink or red. The flowers have no petals, but instead decorate themselves with the many stamens.

The Greater Blue Mountains has the most diverse range of eucalypt species on earth. In fact, the Blue Mountains gets its name from the blue shimmer which rises into the air from the oil from the trees.



BANKSIA

Banksias are flowering shrubs and trees. There are 173 banksia species. They are native in Australia. They were named after the English botanist, Joseph Banks, who was the first European who collected examples of the different types of these plants. Banksias live on the coasts of Australia.

They have spiky leaves. The flower heads are made up of hundreds (sometimes thousands) of tiny flowers grouped together in pairs. The colour of the flower heads usually ranges from yellow to red. Many species flower over autumn and winter. The fruits of banksias are hard and woody and they resemble cones (but they are not cones). The fruits protect the seeds from foraging animals and from fire. In many species the fruits will not open until they have been burnt or completely dried out.



GOLDEN WATTLE

Golden Wattle is Australia's flower emblem. It grows to a size of a small tree, usually to 2-8 meters. It blooms in spring, which begins in September in Australia, with large fluffy, yellow, sweet smelling flower heads. The Golden Wattle flower head is ball-shaped and is made up of many tiny flowers. The tiny Golden Wattle flowers have five very small petals, almost hidden by the long stamens. The Golden Wattle flowers are bright yellow. The mature trees do not have true leaves but have long, sickle-shaped phyllodes. These are shiny and dark green. The Wattle features on the Australian coat of arms too. Australia celebrates Wattle Day on September 1.



AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Early in geological history, Australia was cut off from the rest of the world's land masses. So the Australian species were isolated from the other continents. Because of this, hundreds of species are unique and live only in Australia.

Almost all of Australia's native mammals are marsupials. Marsupials give birth to their young and then carry them in a pouch near their belly until the infant is old enough to survive on its own.

Another unusual type of mammal is the monotreme. Monotremes lay eggs instead of giving birth to live young. There are only two types of monotreme in the world - the platypus and the echidna - and both of them are found in Australia.

Unfortunately many of these unique species are endangered.

WOMBAT

The wombat is a marsupial (*erszényes*) that digs burrows. They are about 1 metre long from nose to tail. An adult weighs about 25-35 kilograms. Wombats are the largest burrowing mammals. A wombat is covered with grey or brown fur, with a large head, a large nose, and small ears. It has long claws for digging. Its body has a rounded appearance. Its back is hard and bony. This bony back is a useful defense against intruders in the burrow, as the wombat uses its back to crush them against the burrow wall. The wombat is nocturnal, which means it is active at night, eating grasses, roots and shrubs. It stays in a burrow in daytime. It lives alone, except for a female with young. Babies live in their mother's pouch for 6 months. Wombats can live for more than 50 years.



KOALA

Though often called the koala "bear," this cuddly animal is not a bear at all; it is a marsupial, or pouched mammal. After giving birth, a female koala carries her baby in her pouch for about six months. When the baby comes out of the pouch, it rides on its mother's back or clings to her belly until it is about a year old.

Koalas live in eastern Australia, where the eucalyptus trees they love are most plentiful. They have sharp claws that help them stay on the trees all day long. During the day they usually sleep; they can sleep for up to 18 hours. At night they eat eucalyptus leaves. Koalas do not drink much water as they get most of their moisture from these leaves. Each animal eats about one kilogram of leaves a day.



KANGAROO

Kangaroos have powerful hind legs, a long, strong tail, and small front legs. They're the biggest of all marsupials, over 2 meters tall. Thanks to their large feet, kangaroos can leap 9 metres in a single jump, and travel more than 48 kmh. Kangaroos use their strong tails for balance while jumping. They live in Eastern Australia. They live in small groups (called "mobs" by Australians), typically made up of 50 or more animals. Female kangaroos have a pouch on their bellies, to cradle baby kangaroos called joeys. Newborn joeys are just 2.5 centimeters long at birth. After birth, joeys travel, through their mom's thick fur, to the comfort and safety of the pouch. A newborn joey can't suckle or swallow, so the kangaroo mom uses her muscles to pump milk down its throat. At around 4 months, the joey comes out from the pouch for short trips and to graze on grass and small shrubs. At 10 months, the joey is big enough to leave the pouch.



TASMANIAN DEVIL

The Tasmanian devil is the world's largest carnivorous marsupial. It is the size of a dog, and it has a muscular build, a large, wide head and a short, thick tail. The devil's fur is black and usually has patches of white on its chest. They have powerful jaws and long, sharp teeth. They are nocturnal, so they hunt and eat at night. Devils sometimes hunt, but they mainly live on the remains of dead animals. When feeding, a Tasmanian devil will eat everything, including bones and fur. Tasmanian devils are only found in Tasmania today.

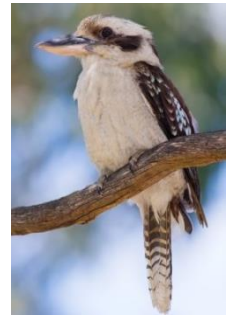


LAUGHING KOOKABURRA

The laughing kookaburra is native to the eucalyptus forests of eastern Australia. Females weigh up to 455 grams and grow to 45 centimeters in length. Its beak can be 10 centimeters long and is used to catch a variety of smaller animals and even snakes.

The laughing kookaburra has dark brown wings and a white head and underside. Dark brown eye stripes run across its face. Its reddish-colored tail is patterned with black stripes.

It gets its name from its manic laughter-like call. Laughing kookaburras nest in tree holes. Females lay one to five eggs, which are tended by parents and elder siblings.

**PLATYPUS**

Platypuses are found all along the eastern coast of Australia. They are small dark-brown furry mammals with webbed paws and a duck-like beak. Platypuses live in burrows that they dig into the banks of rivers. They are diving animals, and can stay under water for up to fifteen minutes. Unlike a duck's beak, the platypus' beak is rubbery and flexible. It has hundreds of electroreceptor cells inside it, which can detect the electrical currents that are caused by its prey swimming through the water. Platypuses give birth by laying eggs. They keep their eggs in special nesting burrows. When it hatches, the baby platypus feeds from its mother.

**EMU**

The emu is a large, flightless bird with hairy, grey feathers. Being 160-180 cm tall and weighing about 60 kilograms, it is the second largest bird in the world. Emus can be found in all areas of Australia, except for rainforests. If there is a source of water, emus will stay nearby, but they can also travel fast and far to find water. They can run at speeds of up to 60 kilometres per hour. They travel large distances in pairs or small groups. Their diet consists of leaves, grasses, fruits, native plants, and insects. Emus lay dark green eggs. The emu young are called chicks and they have brown and white stripes.

**DINGO**

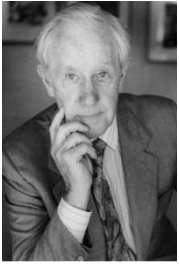

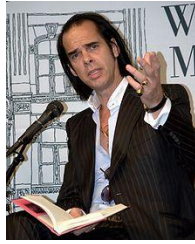




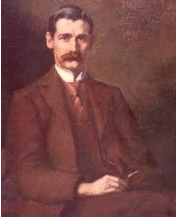




The Dingo is Australia's wild dog. It lives everywhere in Australia, but not in Tasmania. The Dingo is a medium sized dog, with a bushy tail, and its fur is golden or reddish-coloured. Dingos do not bark, but they howl. It is not a native animal to Australia, and it is unsure how it arrived there. Dingos are meat eaters. They usually stay and hunt in family groups or they hunt alone. Many Australians don't like dingos because they often kill cows or sheep. Dingos breed once a year. A female dingo gives birth to 5-8 pups, which live with their mother for about half a year.

**ECHIDNA**

Echidnas can be found all over Australia. They are small, round animals with large clawed feet, a long snout and a coat covered in sharp, flexible spines. They mostly eat termites (*termesz*), which is why they are also known as spiny anteaters. Echidnas lay eggs. A single egg is laid in the female echidna's pouch and hatches in about ten days. The baby echidna lives in its mother's pouch until it begins to develop spines. The echidna's spines are used mainly as a defence mechanism. When threatened, an echidna will either roll itself into a spiky ball or dig itself into the ground until only its spines are above the ground.



FAMOUS AUSTRALIANS

 <p>Sir Sidney Robert Nolan was one of Australia's best-known painters and printmakers. Nolan painted portraits of historical and legendary figures.</p>	 <p>Hugh Jackman is an Australian actor and producer who is involved in film, musical theatre, and television. He has won a Golden Globe award.</p>	 <p>Nicholas Cave is an Australian musician, songwriter, author, screenwriter, composer and film actor.</p>
 <p>Ian Thorpe, nicknamed the Thorpedo, is a swimmer who specialises in freestyle. He has won five Olympic gold medals.</p>	 <p>Cate Blanchett is an Australian actress who has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and three Golden Globe Awards.</p>	 <p>Steve Irwin, also called 'The Crocodile Hunter', was an wildlife expert and a television personality. He died while he was making a documentary; he was killed by a stringray.</p>
 <p>Howard Florey was an Australian scientist who got a Noble Prize for inventing penicillin.</p>	 <p>Henry Lawson was a writer and a poet. He is often called 'Australia's greatest short story writer'.</p>	 <p>Nicole Kidman is an Australian actress and singer. She won two Golden Globe Awards. One of her most famous films was <i>Batman Forever</i>.</p>
 <p>Cathy Freeman is an Australian sprinter. She became the Olympic champion for the women's 400 m at the 2000 Summer Olympics.</p>	 <p>Olivia Newton John is a British-born Australian singer, songwriter and actress. She played in the famous musical <i>Grease</i>.</p>	 <p>Kylie Minogue is an Australian singer, recording artist, songwriter and actress. She lives in London now.</p>

AUSTRALIAN CUISINE

Locals eat fried rice, Chinese food, and Mediterranean cuisine, but these dishes don't really belong to Australia. They're part of multicultural Australia.



Witchetty grubs

The most authentic is the grub. This is a large, white, wood-eating larva. Aboriginal Australians have eaten it for thousands of years. The Aboriginals traditionally eat it raw, but restaurants serve it fried. It actually tastes good and it belongs to the land.



Anzac biscuits

The Anzac biscuit was made by wives during the war and sent to soldiers, because the basic ingredients (rolled oats, flour, sugar, coconut, butter, bicarbonate of soda and water) were able to keep for a long time, even on long boat journeys.



Emu

Emu is an Australian bird. Would you eat it? They're healthier than they look. It's virtually fat-free. It works well when smoked and served cold or as a pizza topping.



Damper

This iconic, cheap Australian food originally was the simplest of recipes. The soda bread is made from wheat flour, water and a pinch of salt, then baked in the coals of a campfire and paired nicely with billy tea or a swig of rum.



Lamingtons

The lamington is the "National Cake of Australia." The lamington one is Australia's favourite icons. This square-shaped sponge cake is covered with chocolate and coconut.



Pavlova

Australians will tell you this belongs to the lucky country. They invented the dish in honor of Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova when she visited Australasia in the 1920s. Pavlova is a popular meringue-based dessert that has a crisp crust and a soft, light inside. It's often decorated with whipped cream and fresh fruit.



Chiko roll

This Australian food icon was inspired by Chinese spring rolls. The deep-fried snack contains beef, celery, cabbage, barley, carrot, onion, green beans and spices in a battered tube. Chiko rolls are generally eaten and served at local fish 'n' chip shops or at train stations.



Fried crocodile

Eat it before it eats you. Although crocodile leather is made into wallets, belts and handbags, its meat is eaten by locals - though it's more expensive and not widespread.



Grilled kangaroo

Why not eat the national animal? Kangaroo goes well with garlic, pepper, rosemary and fruity flavours such as plum, red currant and orange.

And no, Australians don't eat deep-fried koalas.



Barramundi

Barramundi is perhaps the most Australian of all fish. Barramundi gets its name from the Aboriginal language meaning "large-scaled river fish." It's served in restaurants across the country.

Sport in Australia

In general

Sport has an important role in the culture of Australia with a long history in the country. Being active is part of the Australian life. Men, women, children, disabled and Aboriginal people play sport in Australia.

"**Aussie Aussie Aussie, Oi Oi Oi**" is a cheer often performed at Australian sport events. When an Australian competitor competes, the fans always sing this song. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrjZi7WIAOw>

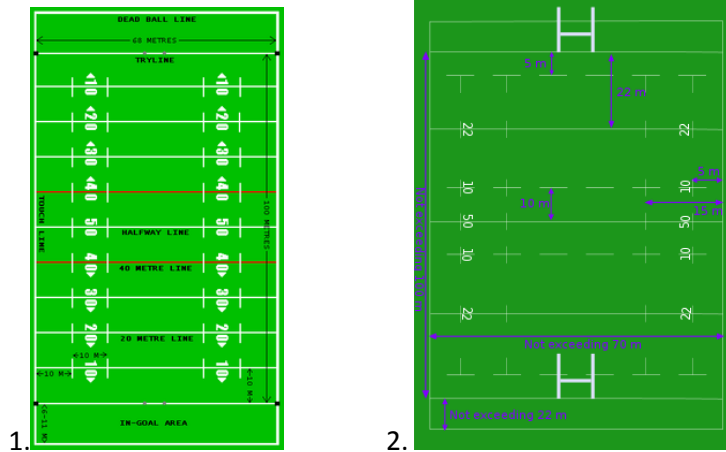
Rugby League



Rugby league football is one of the most popular sports in Australia. People started to play it in 1907. The elite club competition is the National Rugby League (NRL). People usually call it "League" or simply "football, footy". It is a sport of the working people. The national Rugby League team has a nickname: *Kangaroos*.

Each team has 13 players. There are forwards or backs and four extra players, they are the substitutes. The aim of the game is to score more points than your opponents. The game consists of two halves.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtHj7hByn5Q>



Above you can see the fields of the Rugby League (1.) and the Rugby Union (2.) game.

Rugby Union

The Australian Rugby Union (ARU) has its roots in the English public schools. The nickname of the national rugby team is *Wallabies*. The aim of the game is very simple: score more points than the other team. There are maximum 15 players on each side. 7 substitutes are allowed. The match contains two 40 minute halves with a few minutes half-time break.



Cricket

Cricket is one of the most popular sports in Australia, at international, domestic and local levels. Cricket is often known as Australia's national sport. Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played between two teams of 11 players. There are 11 fielders and two wickets on the field at the same time. The aim is to score more points than the opponent team.

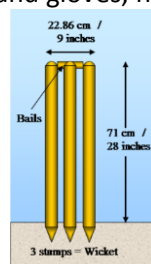
The equipment of the game: 2 bats, a cricket ball, wickets and gloves, helmets.



bats



ball



wicket



the game

Tennis

Australia is famous for the Australian Open, which is the first of the four Grand Slam tennis events of the year. It takes place in Melbourne every year. Lleyton Hewitt is a well-known tennis player from Australia. He was only 20 years old when he became number one in professional tennis playing.



Australian Open



Lleyton Hewitt

Swimming

There are some well-known swimmers who got fame for Australia in the last years.

Ian Thorpe's nickname is "Thorpedo" because he is the fastest in men's freestyle swimming. He has five Olympic Gold medals. He is well known for his huge feet!

The Aussie fans call **Susie O'Neill** "Madame Butterfly" by Aussie fans because she was very good at butterfly swimming. She won a gold medal at the Olympics and the world championship.

Cathy Freeman, the aboriginal star, became a star in Australia when she won the 400 meters at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Winter sports in Australia

There are a lot of activities across the continent of Australia, including winter sports. Australia has low mountain ranges, but Australians won the Olympic gold in skiing, snow-boarding events and ice skating as well.

Formula 1 Grand Prix

The Australian **Formula 1 Grand Prix** is the first round of the car-racing Championship which takes place in Australia every year. In the last years it was held in Melbourne, in Albert Park. The most popular Australian racing driver is Mark Webber who raced with Red Bull Racing Team.



Olympic Games

Australia has hosted the Olympics twice, in 1956 in Melbourne and in 2000 in Sydney. These were the first Games hosted in the southern hemisphere.

Sydney Melbourne 1956 Summer Olympic Games



72 nations participated in the Olympics in 1956.

In the ranking, Australia was the third and Hungary got the fourth place. On this Olympic Game László Papp, Hungary's most successful boxer won a gold medal. Ten nations competed in water polo at the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne. Hungary's men's team won the gold medal despite the tough times during the revolution in Hungary.

Sydney 2000 Summer Olympic Games

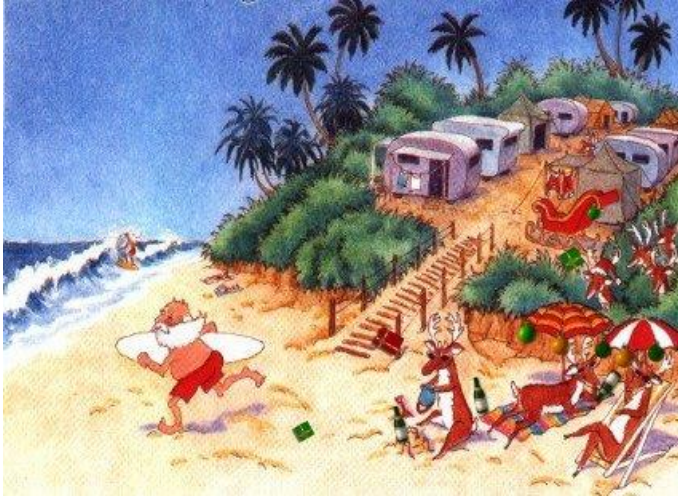


The official logo featured the image of a runner formed by two small orange boomerangs like arms and a big red one like legs. The motto of the Games was '*Share the Spirit, Dare to Dream*'. 199 nations participated on the event.

Holidays and Traditions in Australia

Australian culture is a mixture of European traditions and the customs of the native Australians, known as “aboriginals.” The aboriginals were the original inhabitants, living there before the Europeans arrived. Today, the Australians celebrate several of the same holidays as we do in Europe, such as **Christmas**, **Easter**, and **New Year’s Day**, plus some unique Australian holidays, such as **Australia Day** and **Anzac Day**.

Because Australia is in the southern hemisphere where the seasons are the opposite of ours, **Christmas** is in the middle of summer. Children are usually on summer holiday, which is from the beginning of December until January 26th, so families might go camping or go to the beach for Christmas.



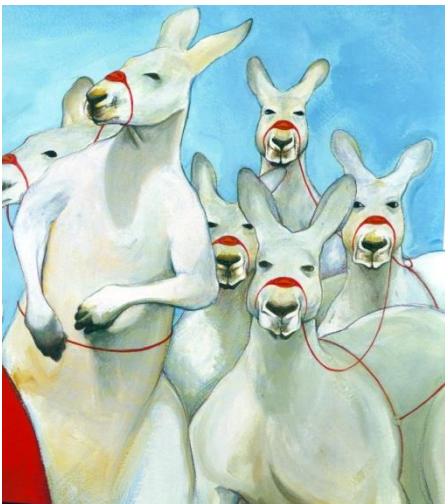
Popular family activities on Christmas are playing cricket, going swimming, or having a backyard BBQ. Because it is so hot, Santa puts on shorts or a bathing costume. He lets his reindeer rest, and travels around Australia with six kangaroos, also known as “six white boomers.” Children leave cool drinks for him on Christmas Eve, when he comes and leaves presents for the family to open on Christmas day.

Australians decorate for Christmas similar to the Europeans, using lights, wreaths, and Christmas trees. Because it is summer, they also decorate with a lot of flowers, and especially with the Christmas Bush, which has white flowers that turn red in

December.

Santa in Australia

On Boxing Day, on December 26th, families relax together and go to the beach.



The Six White Boomers



The Australian Christmas Bush



Fireworks on Australia Day

Australia Day, on January 26th, marks the end of the summer holiday. Australia Day is Australia’s official national holiday, and commemorates the anniversary of the arrival of the first British ships in Sidney Cove in 1788. Australia day is a day of patriotism, and people dress up in Aussie colours (blue, white and red,) paint their faces, and get temporary tattoos of the Australian Flag. They also hang Australian flags outside their houses. Australia Day is a family holiday, celebrated

with outdoor concerts, community BBQs, sports competitions, festivals, and fireworks. In addition, there are citizen ceremonies, where immigrants receive official Australian citizenship, and award ceremonies, such as the Australian of the Year Awards and the announcement of the Australian Day Honors List. It is a day for Australians to express their national pride, reflect on their country's history, and celebrate their country's diversity.

Anzac Day is celebrated on April 25th. Originally, it commemorated the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who fought in World War I, but now honors all military members who have served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions. It is a very serious day to remember the sacrifices made by others. Citizens wear red poppies and eat Anzac biscuits, a hard flat biscuit that soldiers used to eat. The day starts with Dawn Services, which recreate a military "stand-to" and usually include two minutes of silence. During the day, there are many national ceremonies, and the largest is held at the Australian War Memorial. A typical Anzac Day ceremony may include an introduction, a hymn, prayer, a speech, laying of wreaths, a period of silence, and the national anthem. After the Memorial's ceremony, families often place red poppies beside the names of relatives on the Memorial's Roll of Honor.

While Australian holidays may be similar to ours, their traditions reflect their unique history, culture, environment and climate.



Poppies on the Roll of Honor



ANZAC Day Remembrance