

Chapter 11



Commonwealth of Australia

Chapter Preview

People

Kevin Rudd, Sir Henry Ayers, Captain James Cook, prime minister, monarch, governor-general, Queen Elizabeth II

Places

Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Mount Kosciuszko, Lake Eyre, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Tasmania, Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea, Great Dividing Range, Uluru/Ayers Rock, Great Victoria Desert, Canberra

Terms

outback, natural resource, monolith, Aborigines, nomadic, indigenous, Stolen Generations, Commonwealth Parliament, constituency, territory, electorate, tariff, quota, embargo, currency, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), literacy, entrepreneur, autonomy, ANZUS security treaty

Top: Uluru, or Ayers Rock, lies near the center of Australia. **Background:** Sydney Opera House has become a symbol for Australia's largest city.

What do you think of when someone mentions Australia? Many people think of kangaroos, koalas, the outback, or boomerangs. Others think of entertainers such as Cate Blanchett, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Keith Urban, or Chris Hemsworth. Australia is also known for its unique and beautiful landscape and rich natural resources. However, one of the main reasons we need to learn more about Australia is that the country is an important friend to the United States.

This unit has focused on countries with British ties. Like the United States and Canada, Australia was colonized long ago by people from Great Britain. In North America, the Georgia colony was founded by British General James Oglethorpe in 1733. Georgia joined 12 other colonies to create an independent country, the United States of America, in 1776. A war for independence followed in which the British lost control of a large portion of North America.

The history of Australia is a bit different. The first British colonists arrived in Australia in 1788—the year after the United States adopted its Constitution. The colony at New South Wales was to be a penal (prison) colony. As time passed, more colonies were started in Australia. There was no war for independence as there had been in North America in 1776. Instead, the six colonies in Australia voted to become one nation, independent yet connected to their mother country. The United Kingdom (Great Britain) did not engage in a war to keep control of Australia. Instead, the Commonwealth of Australia was formed in 1901 without bloodshed. The country was independent of the United Kingdom but shared the same monarch as head of state.

Because of our common ancestry, we may think of Australia as a cousin to the United States. However, Australia has had its own distinct history, and it has grown into a fully independent leader among nations. Through all of its history, Australia has been a friend and ally to the United States.

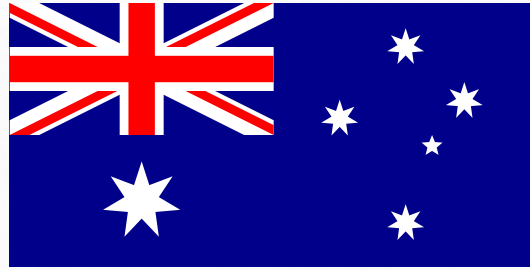
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There comes a time in the history of nations when their peoples must become fully reconciled to their past if they are to go forward with confidence to embrace their future.

- Kevin Rudd,
former prime
minister
of Australia

Right: The koala makes its home in Australia and is a symbol of Australia's unusual wildlife.

PASSPORT



Official Name: Commonwealth of Australia

Capital: Canberra

Form of Government: parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm; two houses of legislature (Senate; House of Representatives)

Head of Government: Prime Minister

Head of State: British Monarch represented by Governor-General

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal and compulsory

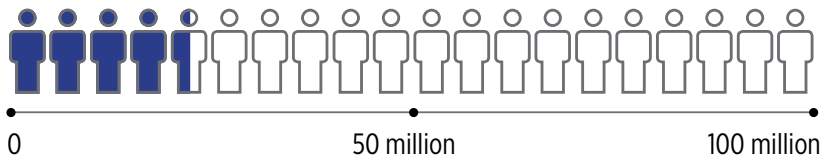
Currency: Australian dollar (Code: AUD; Symbol: \$)



Top: Flag of Australia. **Top Right:** Malcolm Turnbull became Australia's prime minister in 2014. **Middle Left:** Queen Elizabeth II. **Middle Right:** Peter Cosgrove was named governor-general of Australia in 2015. **Bottom Left:** Parliament House, Canberra. **Bottom Right:** Australian coins and banknotes.

CULTURE CONNECTION

POPULATION

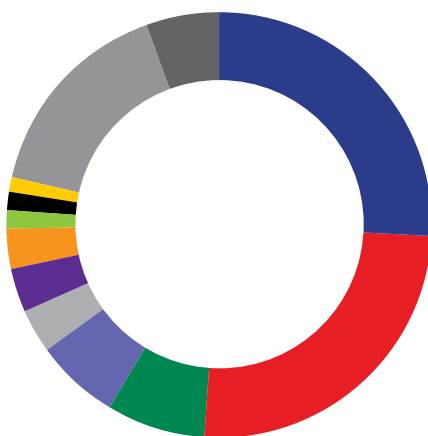


Australia
24,127,000 (est. 2016)
Population Rank 55

United States
324,386,000 (est. 2017)
Population Rank 3

ETHNIC GROUPS

- English 25.9%
- Australian 25.4%
- Irish 7.5%
- Scottish 6.4%
- Italian 3.3%
- German 3.2%
- Chinese 3.1%
- Indian 1.4%
- Greek 1.4%
- Dutch 1.2%
- other 15.8%
- unspecified 5.4%



FUN FACTS

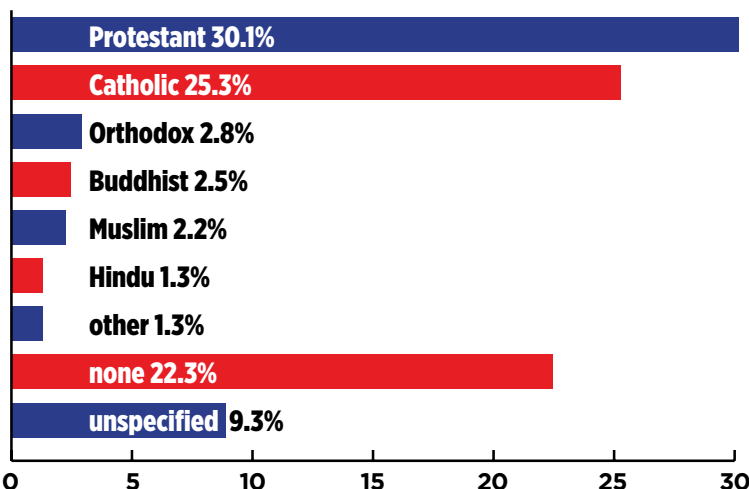
Australia is known as the “land down under” because of its location south of the Equator.

Official Language:
English

Words different from American English

- Aussie** – an Australian
- Barbie** – barbecue grill
- Boomer** – a male kangaroo
- G'Day** – Hello!
- Hooroo** - Good bye
- Ute** – a pickup truck or utility vehicle
- Whacker** – a stupid person
- Yabber** – to talk a lot

RELIGION



LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average 82.15 years
Male 79.7 years
Female 84.74 years

EDUCATION

Literacy 99%
Education Expenditures 5.6% of GDP
Rank 56

Top Left: Aborigine cave drawing.
Top Middle: Captain James Cook.
Top Right: The ruins of Port Arthur Penitentiary, Tasmania. **Middle Right:** An 1886 engraving by Andrew Garran showing natives of the Gweagal tribe opposing the arrival of Captain James Cook in 1770.

TIMELINE OF AUSTRALIA HISTORY



Figure 11.1



Aborigines arrived 40,000 or 50,000 years ago

1600

1606 1st Europeans arrived in Australia

1700



1768 Captain James Cook left England to explore the South Seas on the *Endeavour*
 1770 Captain Cook charted eastern Australian coast
 1788 Penal colony established

1800

1823 End of Australia as official penal colony
 1st parliament established
 1851 Beginning of gold rush
 1868 End of transportation of prisoners to Australia
 1873 Monolith named Ayers Rock
 1876 1st European crossed the Great Victoria Desert

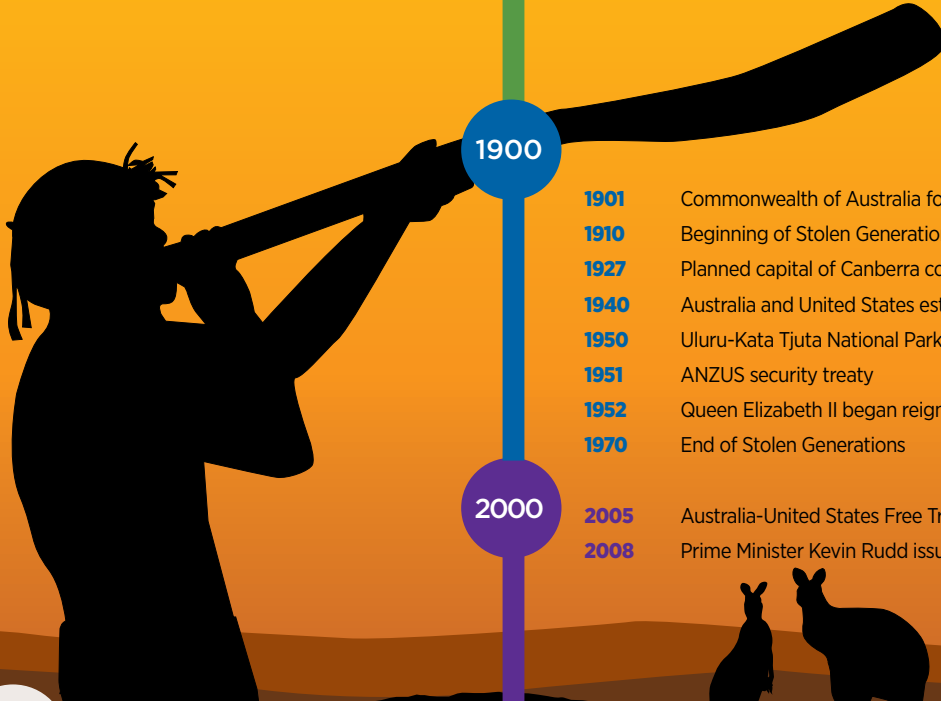


1900

1901 Commonwealth of Australia formed
 1910 Beginning of Stolen Generations
 1927 Planned capital of Canberra completed
 1940 Australia and United States established diplomatic relations
 1950 Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park established
 1951 ANZUS security treaty
 1952 Queen Elizabeth II began reign as head of state
 1970 End of Stolen Generations

2000

2005 Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement
 2008 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd issued national apology to Aborigines





Area: 2,988,901 square miles
Area Rank: 6

Natural Resources: bauxite, coal, iron ore, copper, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, rare earth elements, mineral sands, lead, zinc, diamonds, natural gas, petroleum

Australia is the world's largest exporter of coal accounting for 29 percent of global coal exports.

Environmental Issues: soil erosion from overgrazing, industrial development, urbanization, and poor farming practices; rise in soil salinity due to the use of poor-quality water; desertification; threats to the natural habitat of many unique animal and plant species caused by clearing for agricultural purposes; threats to the Great Barrier Reef off the northeast coast, the largest coral reef in the world, caused by increased shipping and the reef's popularity as a tourist site; limited natural freshwater resources

Map 11.1
Australia

Map Skill: Which of Australia's six states is the largest in area? Which is the smallest?

Section 1

The Geography of Australia


 Setting a Purpose

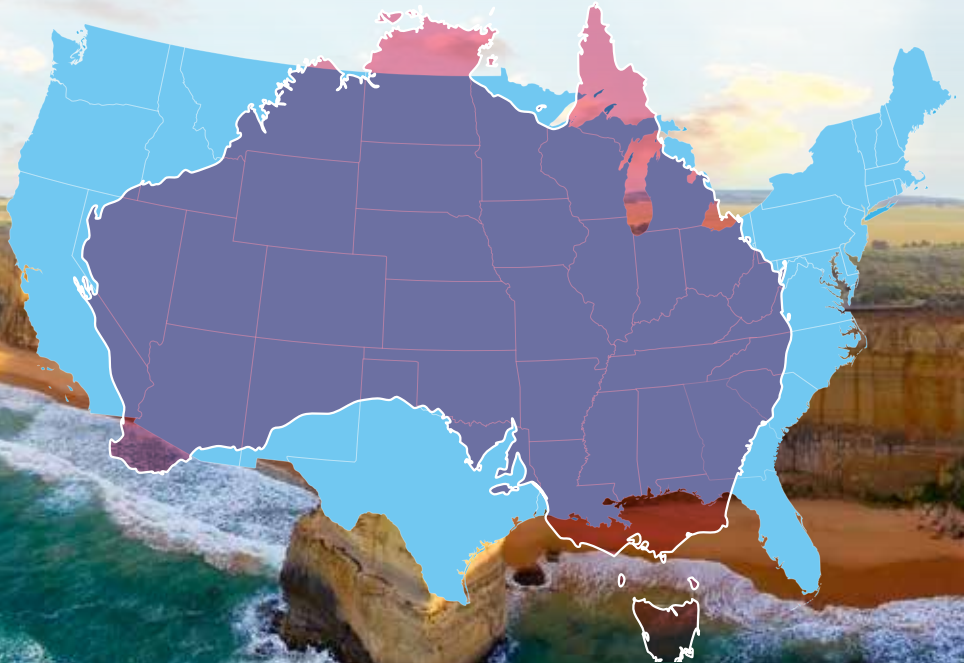
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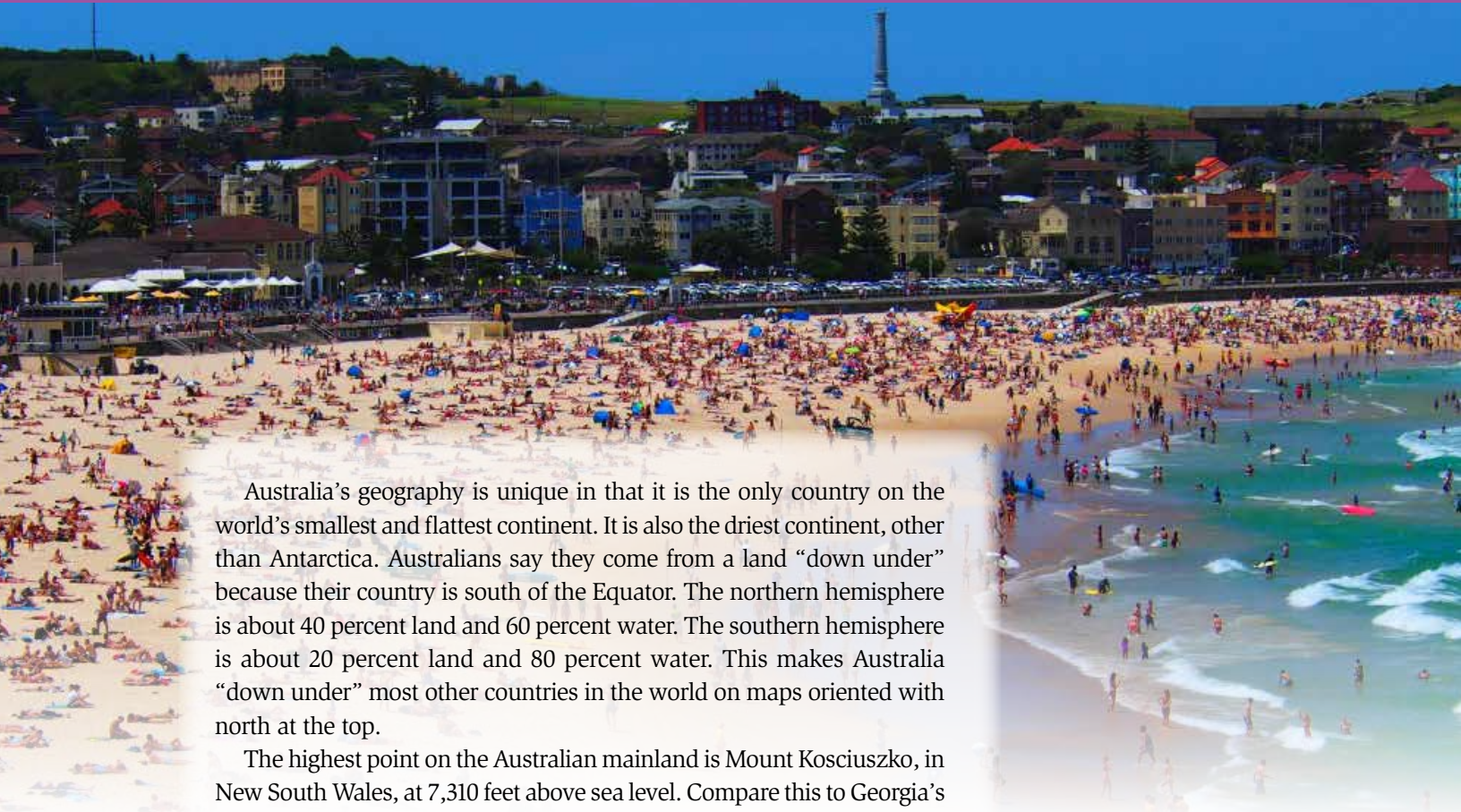
- ▶ Australia's location in the world and its size;
- ▶ how Australia's climate affects the distribution of its people;
- ▶ the importance of Australia's many natural resources;
- ▶ unique physical features of the continent;
- ▶ terms: **outback**, **natural resource**, **monolith**, **Aborigines**.

Location and Size of Australia

Australia is unique in that it is both a continent and a country. Australia's land area is almost as large as the United States. This country-continent is located in the southern and eastern hemispheres, about 2,000 miles southeast of the Asian continent. Australia is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on the east and the Indian Ocean on the west.

In terms of size, Australia has a land area of about 2.97 million square miles. Although this is just five percent of the world's total land mass (57,308,738 square miles), Australia is the world's sixth-largest country after Russia, Canada, the United States, China, and Brazil. It is the only one of those nations that is surrounded by water on all sides.





Australia's geography is unique in that it is the only country on the world's smallest and flattest continent. It is also the driest continent, other than Antarctica. Australians say they come from a land "down under" because their country is south of the Equator. The northern hemisphere is about 40 percent land and 60 percent water. The southern hemisphere is about 20 percent land and 80 percent water. This makes Australia "down under" most other countries in the world on maps oriented with north at the top.

The highest point on the Australian mainland is Mount Kosciuszko, in New South Wales, at 7,310 feet above sea level. Compare this to Georgia's highest peak, Brasstown Bald, at 4,784 feet, or Stone Mountain at 1,043 feet above sea level. The lowest point in Australia is the dry bed of Lake Eyre, South Australia, which is 50 feet below sea level.

Climate of Australia

The climate of Australia varies across the continent. Because Australia is south of the Equator, the seasons are opposite those in the United States. Summers are from December to March, and winters are from June to September. The northern part of Australia is closest to the Equator and has a tropical climate. It is warm to hot all year long. This area also gets more rain than other parts of the country. There are seasons in this region, wet and dry. Winter is wetter and cooler than the hot and dry summer.

The largest part of Australia is desert. Little rain falls in the central part of the country. Most of the central part receives less than 10 inches of rain each year. Only the southeast and southwest corners have a temperate climate. They have summers that are not too hot and winters that are not too cold, making the climate just about right according to the Australians who call these areas home.



Top: Bondi Beach in Sydney, New South Wales. **Middle:** Kosciuszko National Park, New South Wales. **Background:** Twelve Apostles coastline at sunset, Great Ocean Road, Victoria.

Below Left: Australia is the world's largest exporter of coal. **Below Right:** Discovery of gold nuggets such as this one started a gold rush in Australia in 1851. **Bottom:** The Super Pit gold mine is one of Australia's largest open-cut gold mines.

Distribution of People in Australia

The coastal areas of Australia are the most highly populated. Most people live along the eastern coast. The most populated city is Sydney, the capital of the state of New South Wales. Queensland is another state in Australia. It is seven times larger than England. More than half of Queensland's population lives near its capital city of Brisbane. Nearly 80 percent of Australians live in urban areas. That makes Australia one of the world's most urbanized countries. About 70 percent of all Australians live in cities of more than 100,000 people. The cities of Sydney and Melbourne each have over 4 million residents.

Natural Resources of Australia

The term **outback** refers specifically to Australia's dry interior. The outback is mainly open countryside, including vast areas of grazing land. There are a few widely scattered settlements in the outback. Many of these outback settlements grew up around mining operations.

Mining takes advantage of the **natural resources** (things that come from Earth or nature that are useful to humans) in the ground. Australians mine for coal, iron ore, copper, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, mineral sands, zinc, diamonds, lead, bauxite, oil, and natural gas. Australia's minerals are often found in areas that are difficult to reach. Highways and railroads are expensive to build, but they are needed to transport workers and machinery to remote locations. Once these resources have been mined, expensive equipment is needed to move the minerals to populated areas for trade.



Minerals have always been important to Australian trade. In the mid-nineteenth century, Australia experienced a gold rush in its southern region. Hundreds of thousands of speculators moved to Australia in search of this precious metal. Most of these immigrants arrived from England, Ireland, Germany, and China. In the past 20 years, Australia has exported nearly \$400 billion worth of metals, other minerals, and fuels. The country exports more coal and iron ore—which are used in many industries—than any other nation. Australia leads the world in the mining of bauxite (from which we get aluminum), titanium, and industrial diamonds. No country has more reserves of lead, cadmium, or nickel. China and the United States are very interested in buying Australia's supplies of uranium, a metal needed to make nuclear fuel.

Another of Australia's natural resources is arable land. There are enough areas with good soil and rainfall to make farming an important business. Farmers in Australia produce more food than Australians can consume. The food from Australia's farms is sold around the world. For example, Australian farmers export over \$5 billion in beef and \$4 billion in wheat each year. The United States buys about 10 percent of Australia's farm exports. Today the sale of natural resources accounts for one-third of Australia's economy.

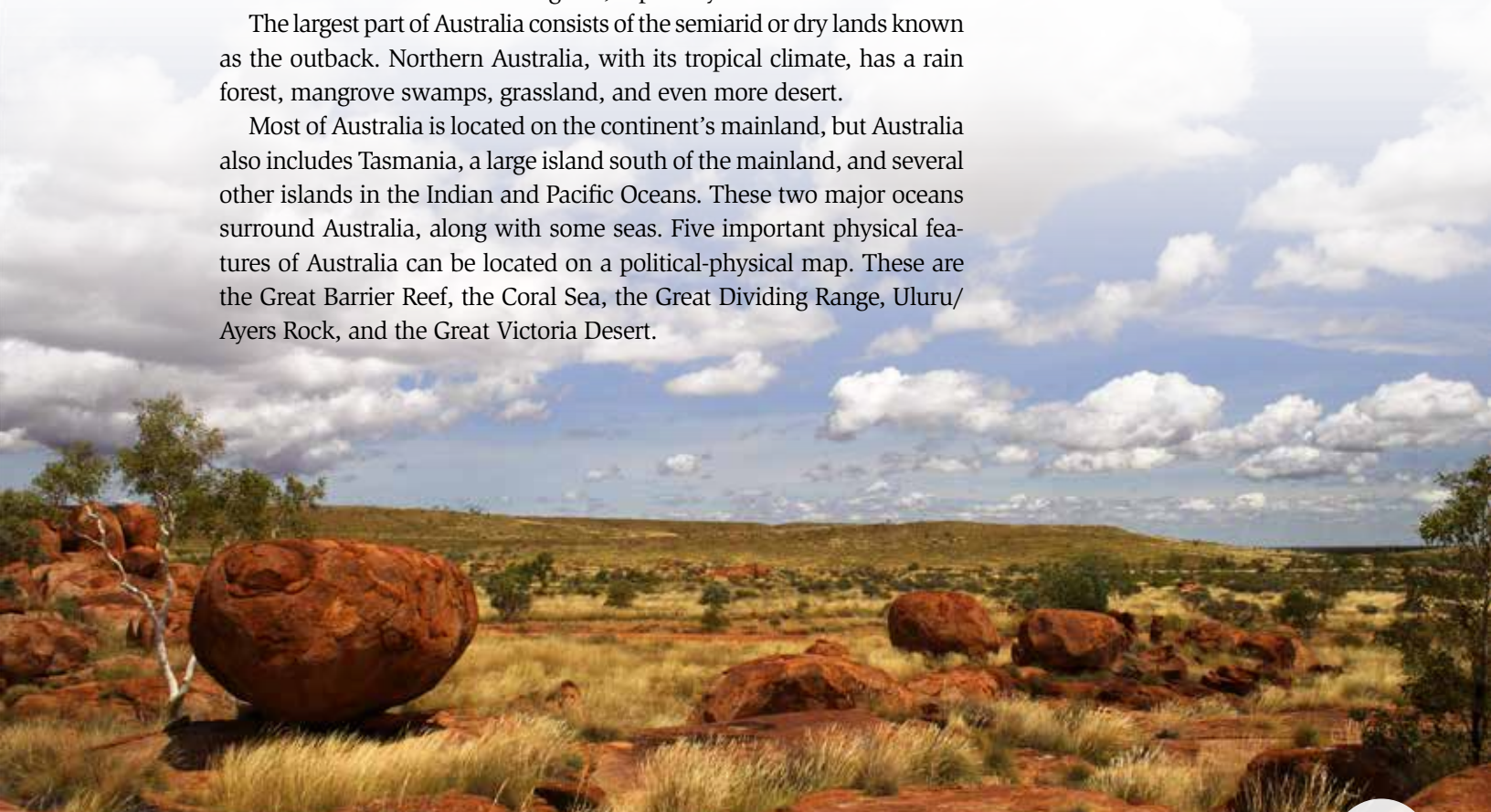
Physical Features of Australia

The best way to visualize Australia is to think of huge desert plains stretching across the country's middle. There are milder climates along the southeastern and southwestern coasts. That is why most Australians live in these southern coastal regions, especially on the east coast.

The largest part of Australia consists of the semiarid or dry lands known as the outback. Northern Australia, with its tropical climate, has a rain forest, mangrove swamps, grassland, and even more desert.

Most of Australia is located on the continent's mainland, but Australia also includes Tasmania, a large island south of the mainland, and several other islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. These two major oceans surround Australia, along with some seas. Five important physical features of Australia can be located on a political-physical map. These are the Great Barrier Reef, the Coral Sea, the Great Dividing Range, Uluru/Ayers Rock, and the Great Victoria Desert.

Bottom: The “outback” or inland regions of Australia are drier than areas near the coast.



The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef, and it lies a short distance off the northeast coast of Queensland. The reef extends along Queensland's coast for more than 1,200 miles in the Coral Sea. The reef contains the world's largest collection of coral. There are 400 types of coral, more than 1,500 species of fish, and 4,000 types of mollusks (animals like snails, clams, octopi, and squid). It is also home to some rare species, including the "sea cow," or dugong, and the large green turtle. They depend on the Great Barrier Reef as their habitat.



The Coral Sea

The Coral Sea, an important source of coral for the Great Barrier Reef, is part of the Pacific Ocean. The sea is off the northeast coast of Australia. When Earth's crust moved millions of years ago, the movement created the Coral Sea and the Great Dividing Range, the largest mountain range in Australia. Coral Sea islands are scattered over thousands of square miles of ocean. Australia claimed these islands as a territory of Australia in 1969. No one lives on these islands except for a small group of weather specialists based on the Willis Islets. Many other Coral Sea islands and reefs house automated weather stations and light beacons.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 100,000 people a year climb to the top of Australia's tallest mountain, Mount Kosciuszko.

The Great Dividing Range

Stretching over 2,100 miles across eastern Australia is a series of plateaus and low mountain ranges known together as the Great Dividing Range. These mountains are the largest on the continent of Australia. A section known as the Australian Alps has the highest peak in Australia. This mountain, known as Mount Kosciuszko, is over 7,300 feet high. Many of Australia's rivers have their beginnings in the Great Dividing Range. In fact, most of eastern Australia's water supply comes from the range. The water is used not only for drinking but for irrigation and hydroelectric power. In colonial times, the Great Dividing Range was a barrier to people moving west across Australia. Today modern railroads and highways move people and goods through the mountains.

Above: Coral and fish on the Great Barrier Reef. **Bottom:** The Three Sisters are a feature of the Great Dividing Range in the Blue Mountains National Park of Australia.

Uluru/Ayers Rock

At almost the exact center of the continent a reddish rock towers out of the flatlands. This rock is a monolith called Uluru. A **monolith** is the visible part of a single, large rock sticking out of the earth. Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, is a monolith made of granite. Uluru is the visible tip of a massive underground sandstone rock cemented together by sand and mud. Uluru appears reddish because its iron content “rusts” at the surface. It is almost 6 miles wide around its base and rises 1,142 feet above the surrounding plain. That is taller than a 100-story building. The **Aborigines** (native people of Australia) named the monolith Uluru. However, a European surveyor visited the rock in 1873 and named it after Sir Henry Ayers, a government official in South Australia at the time. For many years this landform was called Ayers Rock. In 1950, Australia created Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, located in the southwest corner of the Northern Territory.

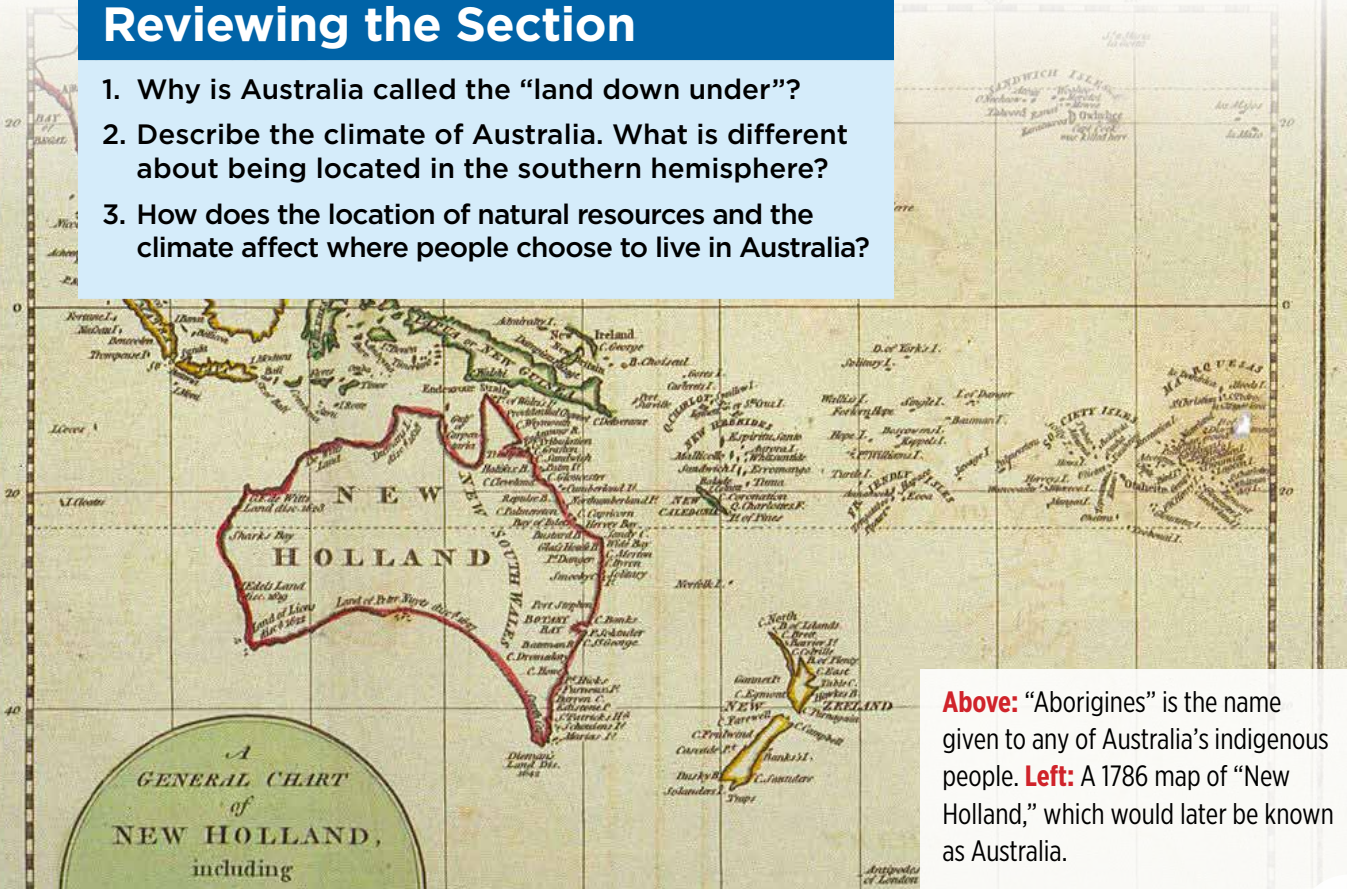


The Great Victoria Desert

Southwest of Uluru are the states of South Australia and Western Australia, home of the Great Victoria Desert. This desert receives only eight to ten inches of rain each year, and it never receives snow. There are some grasslands in the desert along with sandhills and salt lakes. The first European to cross the desert in 1875 named it to honor Great Britain’s Queen Victoria. It is a large area of more than 160,000 square miles and is a protected wilderness area of Western Australia. Very few Australians live in the Great Victoria Desert because it is too hot and dry.

Reviewing the Section

1. Why is Australia called the “land down under”?
2. Describe the climate of Australia. What is different about being located in the southern hemisphere?
3. How does the location of natural resources and the climate affect where people choose to live in Australia?



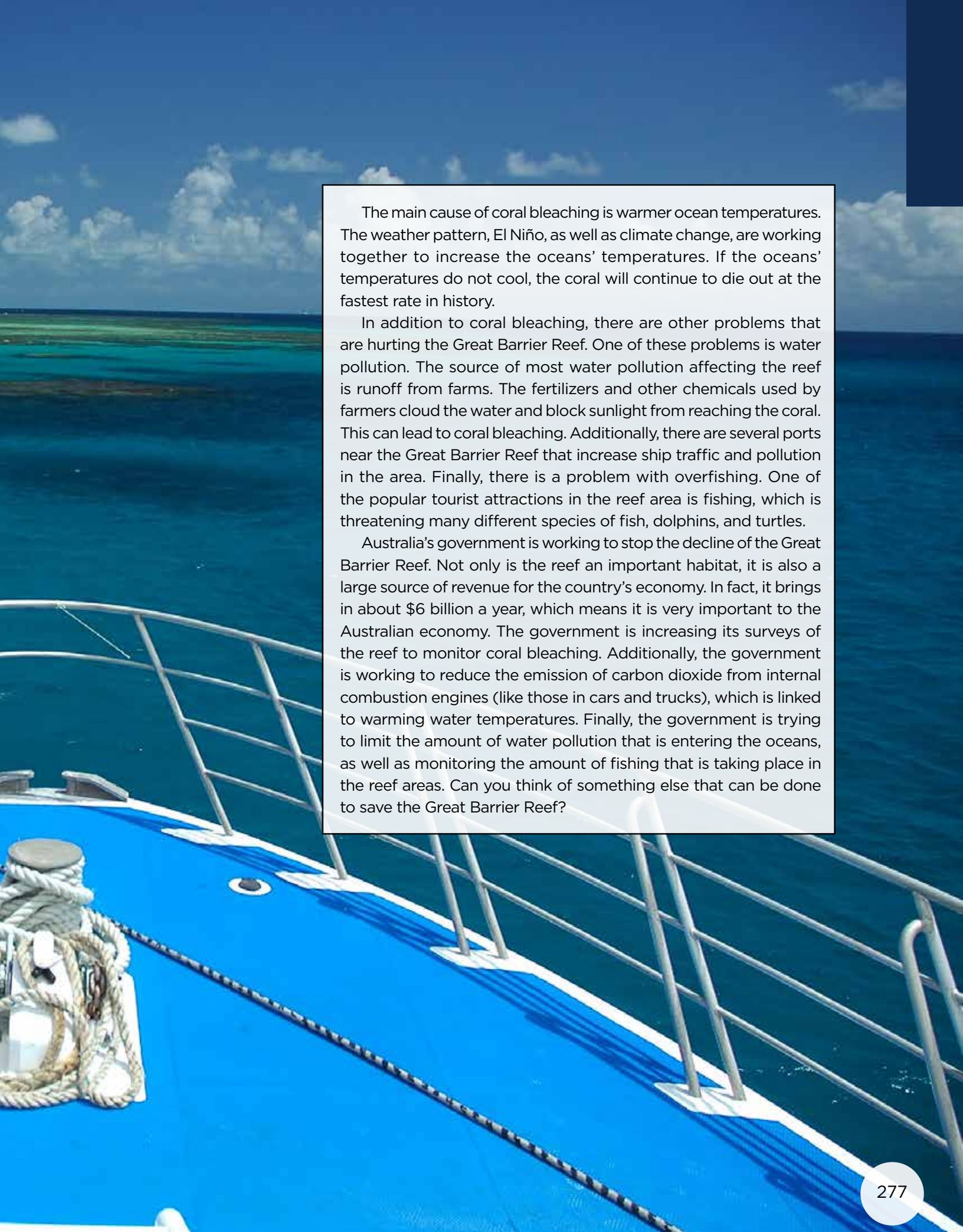
Above: “Aborigines” is the name given to any of Australia’s indigenous people. **Left:** A 1786 map of “New Holland,” which would later be known as Australia.

special Feature

The Endangered Great Barrier Reef

Movies and photos of Australia's beautiful Great Barrier Reef have made it famous. It is the world's largest coral reef. Would you like to visit it someday? Unfortunately, there is a chance it might not exist by the time you are able to visit it. The Great Barrier Reef is experiencing coral bleaching, which results when coral dies and turns white. The tiny algae that live in the coral and provide its food are dying out, which means the coral cannot survive. Scientists are estimating that 50 percent of the Great Barrier Reef is dying because of coral bleaching. Globally, this bleaching is affecting about 12 percent of the world's coral.





The main cause of coral bleaching is warmer ocean temperatures. The weather pattern, El Niño, as well as climate change, are working together to increase the oceans' temperatures. If the oceans' temperatures do not cool, the coral will continue to die out at the fastest rate in history.

In addition to coral bleaching, there are other problems that are hurting the Great Barrier Reef. One of these problems is water pollution. The source of most water pollution affecting the reef is runoff from farms. The fertilizers and other chemicals used by farmers cloud the water and block sunlight from reaching the coral. This can lead to coral bleaching. Additionally, there are several ports near the Great Barrier Reef that increase ship traffic and pollution in the area. Finally, there is a problem with overfishing. One of the popular tourist attractions in the reef area is fishing, which is threatening many different species of fish, dolphins, and turtles.

Australia's government is working to stop the decline of the Great Barrier Reef. Not only is the reef an important habitat, it is also a large source of revenue for the country's economy. In fact, it brings in about \$6 billion a year, which means it is very important to the Australian economy. The government is increasing its surveys of the reef to monitor coral bleaching. Additionally, the government is working to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide from internal combustion engines (like those in cars and trucks), which is linked to warming water temperatures. Finally, the government is trying to limit the amount of water pollution that is entering the oceans, as well as monitoring the amount of fishing that is taking place in the reef areas. Can you think of something else that can be done to save the Great Barrier Reef?

Section 2

A Brief History of Australia



Setting a Purpose

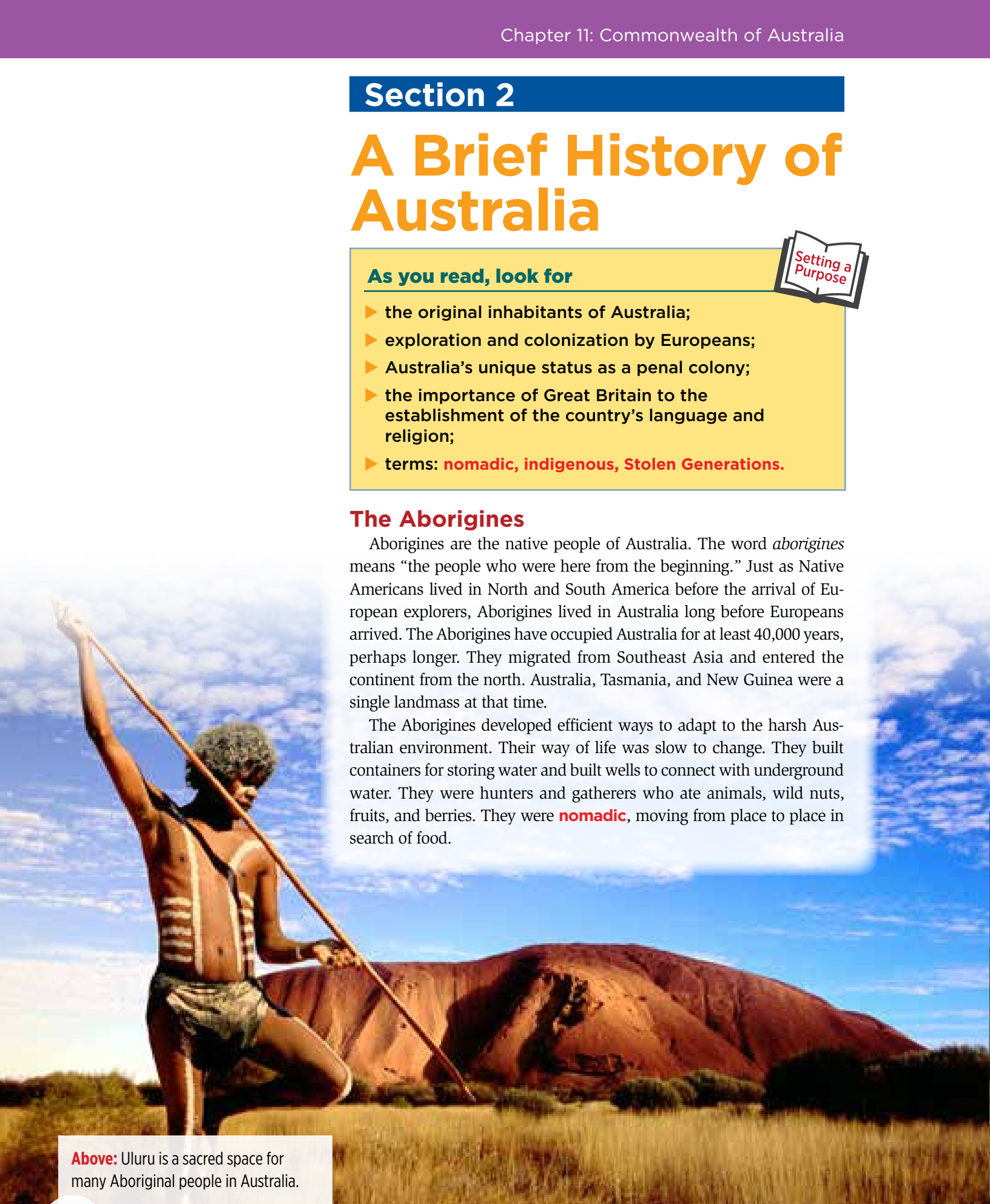
As you read, look for

- ▶ the original inhabitants of Australia;
- ▶ exploration and colonization by Europeans;
- ▶ Australia's unique status as a penal colony;
- ▶ the importance of Great Britain to the establishment of the country's language and religion;
- ▶ terms: **nomadic**, **indigenous**, **Stolen Generations**.

The Aborigines

Aborigines are the native people of Australia. The word *aborigines* means “the people who were here from the beginning.” Just as Native Americans lived in North and South America before the arrival of European explorers, Aborigines lived in Australia long before Europeans arrived. The Aborigines have occupied Australia for at least 40,000 years, perhaps longer. They migrated from Southeast Asia and entered the continent from the north. Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea were a single landmass at that time.

The Aborigines developed efficient ways to adapt to the harsh Australian environment. Their way of life was slow to change. They built containers for storing water and built wells to connect with underground water. They were hunters and gatherers who ate animals, wild nuts, fruits, and berries. They were **nomadic**, moving from place to place in search of food.



Above: Uluru is a sacred space for many Aboriginal people in Australia.

Before the Europeans arrived in 1788, Aborigines numbered between 250,000 and 500,000. The Aborigines settled in the same places as present-day Australians, where the climate was most pleasant and water was available. In the tropical north, most Aborigines lived along the coasts and rivers. The population density was low. For comparison, the city of Atlanta, Georgia, has about 460,000 people. Imagine that many people spread over a land area about the size of the continental United States. There would seem to be vast spaces giving everyone plenty of room to live.

Colonization of Australia

The first Europeans to sail into Australian waters arrived in 1606. To reach Australia from Europe, ships sailed south along the west African coast to the Cape of Good Hope and then turned east across the Indian Ocean. For nearly two hundred years, ships from several European nations sailed to the continent.

In 1770, Captain James Cook of Great Britain charted the eastern Australian coast in his ship *Endeavour*. Following orders from King George III, Cook claimed the east coast for Great Britain and named eastern Australia “New South Wales.” The British continued to map the coast of Australia, including the island of Tasmania. The loss of the thirteen colonies in North America increased Britain’s desire for new colonies. The large, sparsely populated continent of Australia seemed a good place for expansion. The British began to colonize Australia in 1788 by creating a new penal colony using prisoners from Great Britain.

There were four main reasons for the British to colonize Australia. First, the British wanted to relieve overcrowding in Great Britain’s jails. Second, the British government recognized the importance of having its navy stationed in Australia in the southern hemisphere. Third, the British viewed Australia as an economic base to expand trade. Finally, the British government did not want its rivals, especially France, to start a colony on the Australian continent.



Wales is one of three countries on the island of Great Britain. The other two are Scotland and England. New South Wales was named to honor Wales.



Above: Port Arthur was a convict settlement located on the island of Tasmania.

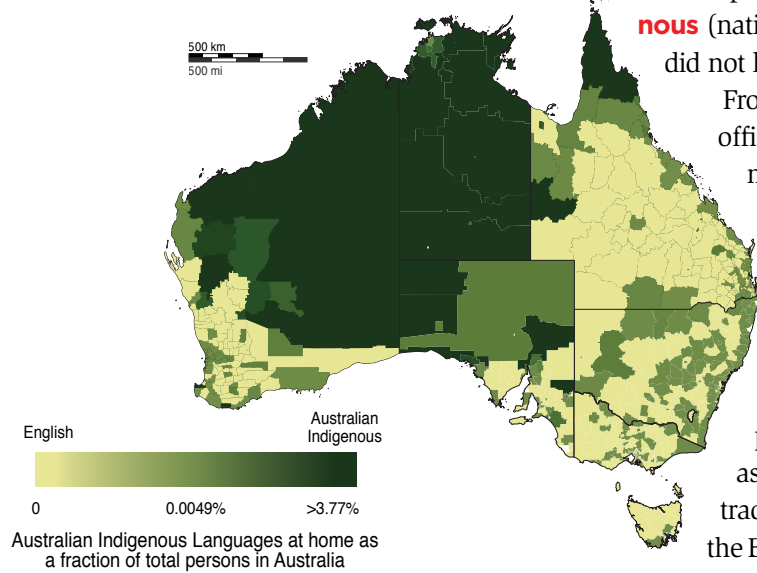
Prisoners as Colonists

In the late 18th century, Great Britain began to look for a location for prisoners. Australia seemed like a good choice. It had no colonies from other European or Asian countries. It seemed to have few **indigenous** (native) people, and it was in a region where Great Britain did not have any colonies.

From 1788 to 1823, the colony of New South Wales was officially a penal colony consisting mainly of convicts, marines, and the marines' wives. About 20 percent of the first convicts were women. The British transported prisoners to Australia until 1868. By then, many free immigrants had settled in the region. They were building trading posts, farms, and businesses.

Great Britain saw that Australia was a good locality to base its navy in the South Pacific. Its location made it possible for British ships to make repairs and get supplies as they traveled the seas. There were opportunities for trade between Asia, Australia, and the Americas. Because the British government did not want the French to get a foothold in Australia, nonprisoner colonization was encouraged

along with the addition of more prisoners. Coastal settlements eventually became independent colonies. By 1861, officials created the boundaries between the colonies that are still used today. The Commonwealth of Australia was established on January 1, 1901. Melbourne served as the national capital until Canberra, a planned city, was completed in 1927.



Map 11.2

Australia's Indigenous Languages as a Percentage of Population

Map Skill: Which state and territory have the highest percentage of speakers of indigenous languages?

DID YOU KNOW ?

Australia's capital of Canberra is not a part of any state but is a city in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Like Washington, DC, in the United States, Canberra was planned and built as the nation's capital.

Right: In this photograph from the 1870s, miners are working without shelter at Gulgong, New South Wales.





Left: Aboriginal dwellings, Hermannsburg, Northern Territory, 1923. **Below:** *Mounted Police and Blacks* depicts the killing of Aboriginals at Slaughterhouse Creek by British troops.

European Impact on the Aborigines

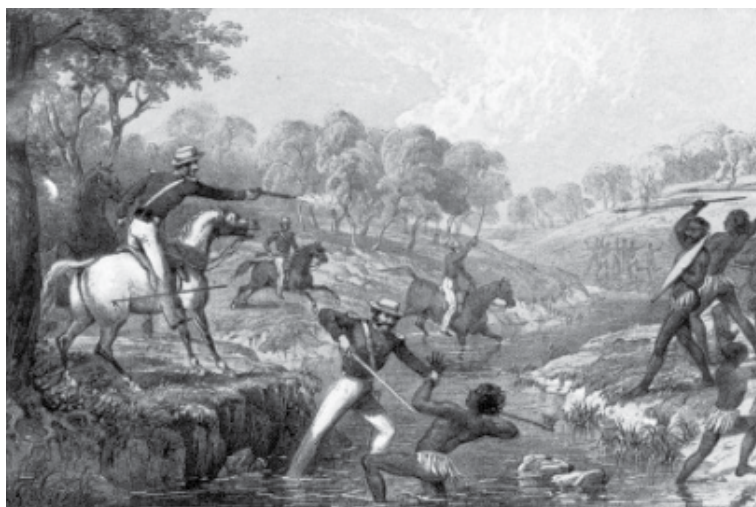
The British settlers had an immediate impact on Aboriginal life. European settlers took over good sources of water, fisheries, and productive land. Settlers turned land used by the Aborigines into colonial towns, farms, and mining operations. Some Aboriginal people welcomed the colonists. Some thought the Europeans were the spirits of the dead. Others tried to protect their hunting lands and homes.

The most damaging things the Europeans brought to Australia were diseases. Smallpox, for instance, was new for the Aborigines, and they had no natural immunity to the disease. Although modern medicine has virtually eliminated smallpox in the 21st century, it was deadly in the 19th century. The disease ravaged the Aborigines. It is estimated that half the indigenous people of Australia died of smallpox and other diseases brought by Europeans.

Guns gave the British colonists a major advantage in fights. Many Aboriginal people living near colonial settlements were killed or forced to move. Those Aboriginal people who survived the British expansion often tried to remain near their original homeland. Others began to live on the edges of colonial settlements.

The introduction of cattle and sheep to the area required that settlers build fences, clear trees, and raise crops for the livestock. This changed the landscape. The armed British were able to push aside the Aborigines and use their land. As the number of British settlements expanded, Aboriginal people turned to violence to protect their land.

The gold rush in the 1850s that attracted thousands of new settlers brought more conflicts with Aboriginal people and hundreds more deaths. In some areas, European farmers formed revenge groups. These groups responded to the killing of sheep and cattle by murdering Aboriginal women and children. In the remote outback, ranchers needed Aboriginal labor to work their cattle and sheep farms. Ranchers asked surviving local Aboriginal populations to work as stockmen and domestic workers.



Below: A portrayal titled *The Taking of the Children* on the 1999 Great Australian Clock, Queen Victoria Building, Sydney, by artist Chris Cook.

Bottom: Stolen Generations children at the Kahlin Compound in Darwin, Northern Territory, in 1921.



The Aborigines Today

When the Europeans arrived, there were about 600 different clan groups or “nations” scattered around the continent, many with distinctive cultures and beliefs. Today, indigenous communities keep their cultural heritage alive by passing their knowledge, arts, rituals, and performances from one generation to another. They do this by speaking and teaching languages and protecting cultural materials, sacred and significant sites, and objects.

Language is vitally important in understanding indigenous heritage because much of their history is an oral history. Hundreds of languages and dialects (regional varieties of a language) existed, although many are now extinct. Language meaning, as well as geographic location, is used today to identify different groups.

Historically, the government of Australia has had a poor record when it comes to the treatment of its Aboriginal citizens. Indigenous Australians were robbed of their land, their culture was not appreciated, and they were abused and killed. One of the Australian policies led to what has become known as the **Stolen Generations**. Under several Australian government programs that continued into the 1970s, the government removed Aboriginal children from their families and sent them to white families and church-run institutions for cultural reprogramming. For many years the government refused to apologize for these actions. The Australian government also opposed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There have been changes in the government’s position toward Aborigines over the past several years. A national apology from the government was issued in parliament in 2008 for the Stolen Generations, and the country as a whole celebrates Sorry Day. The country’s opposition to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has also changed.





There is still inequality in the lives of the Aborigines. Indigenous peoples on average live 17 years less than non-indigenous people. The social and physical welfare of Aboriginals—from infant mortality to nutrition to health, housing, education, and employment—is significantly lower than for non-indigenous Australians. In addition, imprisonment, domestic violence, and alcoholism are much higher for Aboriginal peoples. An Aboriginal man is 13 times more likely to be in jail as a non-indigenous Australian, and an indigenous teenager is 28 times more likely to be in jail than a non-indigenous one. Indigenous groups in Australia are increasingly well organized and successful. They have in recent years made some impressive gains in land claims. The government is making efforts to address these problems, but the Aboriginals still have a great many obstacles to overcome.

Language in Australia

Australia was the final inhabited continent discovered by the Europeans. Aborigines had inhabited the continent for centuries, however. Dutch explorers discovered and mapped parts of Australia but did not send colonists to the continent.

The story of Australia's official language is a result of British colonization and expansion. Captain James Cook left England in 1768 to explore the South Seas. He explored and mapped parts of eastern Australia. Though Cook claimed the land for Great Britain and named it New South Wales, Great Britain did not immediately colonize Australia. Twenty years passed before the British sent a crew to Australia to begin building prisons to house convicts. From 1788 to 1823, the colony of New South Wales was a penal colony. In 1823, the British government established Australia's first parliament, which set up criminal and civil courts. By 1868, more than 170,000 convicts had arrived in Australia from England. The language of the prisoners, guards, courts, and businesses was English.



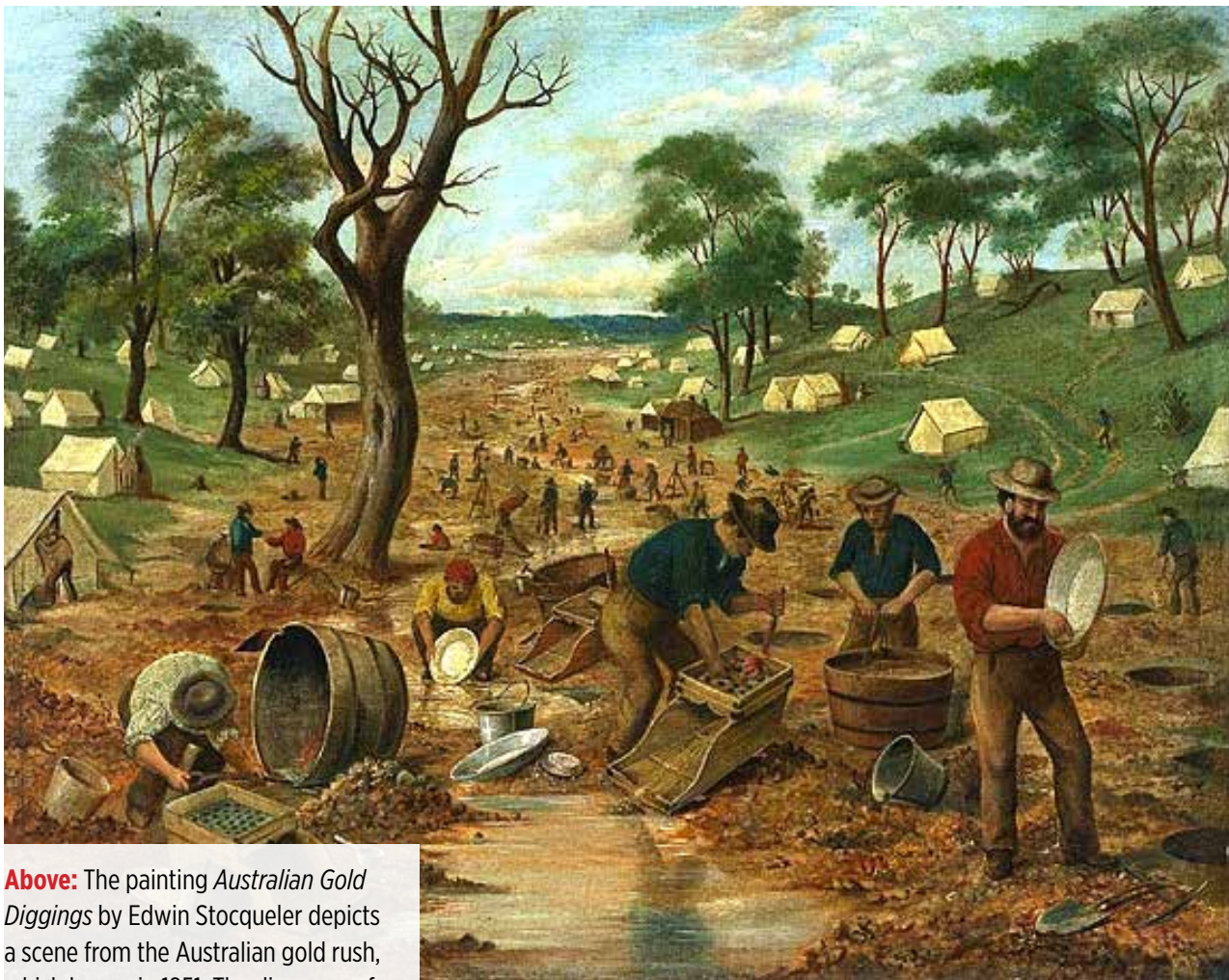
Top: A group of Aborigines with protest signs reading “Aborigines claim citizen rights!” **Above:** *Endeavor* replica in the Cooktown, Queensland, harbor—anchored where Captain James Cook’s original *Endeavour* was beached for seven weeks in 1770.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 52 countries, including Australia, in the Commonwealth of Nations, composed of former territories of the British Empire. Over 2.3 billion people live in Commonwealth nations.

The French government became interested in Australia's west. To keep the French out, English settlers built new villages and cities as fast as possible. This spread the English language to the western part of the continent. More British immigrants entered Australia during the mid-19th century when the gold rush in southern Australia attracted thousands from England and Ireland. Thousands of Chinese immigrants arrived as well, but Chinese did not become an important language; the English-speakers were too plentiful.

When Australia gained independence from Great Britain (by then known as the United Kingdom), the government wanted to control immigration. It allowed people from the United Kingdom or the United States to move to the country, but the government made rules to stop immigrants from Africa and Asia. This encouraged even more English-speakers to come to Australia. Today, more than 20 percent of Australians were born in another country. Over half came to Australia from non-English speaking countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and South America. Because of Australia's history, though, English is the official language, and it is the most common language for people and business.



Above: The painting *Australian Gold Diggings* by Edwin Stocqueler depicts a scene from the Australian gold rush, which began in 1851. The discovery of gold greatly increased the number of Europeans coming to Australia.



Religion in Australia

Europeans introduced Christianity to Australia in 1788. Irish prisoners were mostly Roman Catholic. Other prisoners and those who managed them were members of the Church of England (Anglicans) and Methodists. During the 1800s, European settlers brought their traditional churches to Australia. Faiths included the Church of England, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and Baptist. Today, most Australians are Christians. The Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church claim the most members. Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, and Hindus combined make up less than five percent of the population.

Reviewing the Section

1. How did the British colonists treat the native Australians?
2. British colonists expanded in Australia with little regard for the Aborigines. How could the British have treated them differently? Why do you think they did not make an effort to work with the natives?
3. What is the official language of Australia? How did it come to be the official language?

Above: St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in central Melbourne.

Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples

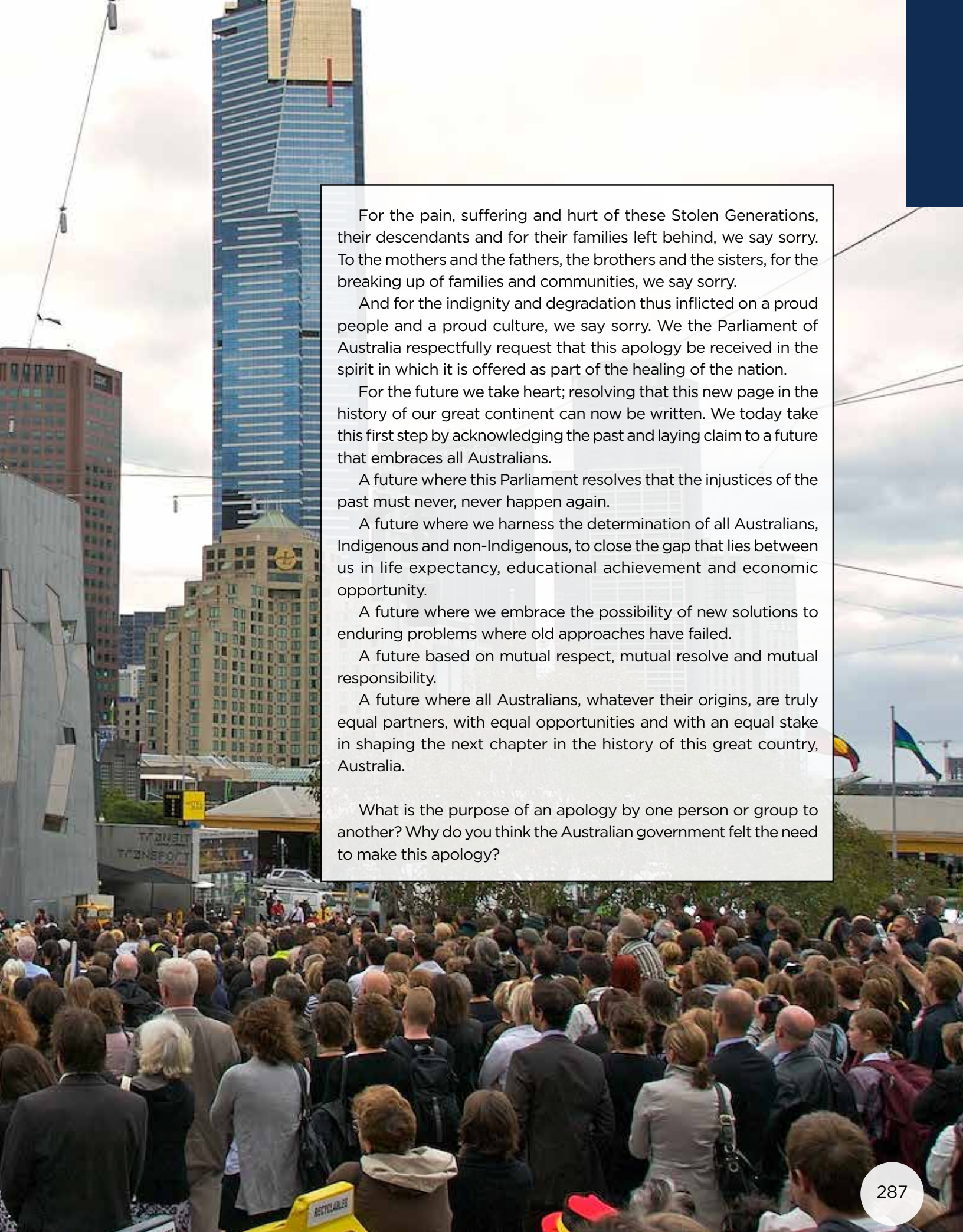
On February 13, 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd issued a historic apology to the Aboriginal people for their mistreatment in the past—especially for the abuse suffered by the Stolen Generations. Thousands of Aboriginal Australians gathered in Canberra to witness the apology in person, while many others watched on television screens at special outdoor settings in remote communities.

Mr. Speaker, I move: That today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history. We reflect on their past mistreatment.

We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations—this blemished chapter in our nation's history. The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians. We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.





For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry. To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry. We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.

For the future we take heart; resolving that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written. We today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians.

A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again.

A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.

A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed.

A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility.

A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.

What is the purpose of an apology by one person or group to another? Why do you think the Australian government felt the need to make this apology?

Section 3

The Government of Australia



As you read, look for

- ▶ the type of government that represents Australia's people;
- ▶ different roles of the head of government and head of state;
- ▶ membership and duties of the House of Representatives and Senate;
- ▶ the important role citizens play in Australia's government;
- ▶ **terms: Commonwealth Parliament, constituency, territory, electorate.**

In Other Words

The phrase “the crown” refers to the monarch, or the king or queen of Australia.

Type of Government

Australia has an elected legislative body called the **Commonwealth Parliament** that represents the people and holds the power in a parliamentary democracy. Elected officials create the laws of the land. The executive officials and legislature share the same **constituency**, that is, the people who voted for them. The people of Australia elect parliament's members. The members of parliament choose the prime minister to be the head of the government. The monarch, as head of state, appoints a governor-general to represent the crown in Australia. The governor-general is chosen based on the recommendation of the prime minister.

Below: Parliament House in Canberra was opened for use by Australia's parliament in 1988.



Form of Leadership

Australia's six states came from the six British colonies united to create the Commonwealth of Australia. These six states approved a constitution. The constitution gives the federal government the right to pass laws for the country on certain subjects. It also allows the states to have a state parliament and create certain laws. Any land within Australia's national border that is not claimed by one of the states is called a **territory**.

The monarch is the head of state for Australia. From 1952 into the 21st century, Queen Elizabeth II has reigned as monarch. Elizabeth lives in England, not Australia. The monarch does not run the country. Instead, the monarch's duty is to sign laws and to serve as the commander-in-chief of the army, navy, and air force. The monarch approves elections. However, the monarch does not do any of the work of these duties. Instead, Australia's prime minister recommends someone to serve as governor-general. This governor-general serves as the monarch's representative in Australia and fulfills the duties and responsibilities of the head of state. The prime minister is the head of government. This person is the leader of the political party with the most members in the Commonwealth Parliament. The person in this position is the most powerful political figure in Australia.

Type of Legislature

In Australia, an elected government operates the country. Every four years, Australians who are over age 18 vote for the people who will serve in parliament. The parliament meets several times a year in Canberra, the nation's capital, to make laws that affect how Australians live. There are two houses in the Commonwealth Parliament. These are called the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Australia is divided into areas called **electorates**. Each electorate has about the same number of people living in it. The people who live in each electorate vote for a person to represent them in parliament. That elected person becomes the member of parliament, or MP, of the House of Representatives for that area. There is one seat in the House of Representatives for each electorate, making a total of 150 MPs. These MPs stand for election every three years.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom was titled in Australia as Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.



Above: An image of a young Queen Elizabeth is depicted on this 2003 stamp from Australia. **Background:** Parliament House, Canberra.

The other house of parliament is the Senate. People of each state elect 12 people to be their senators. No matter how big or small a state, each has the same number of senators. The Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have two senators each. This makes a total of 76 senators. Senators stand for election every six years. Terms are staggered so that only half of them are elected at a time.

After an election, the political party that wins the most seats in the House of Representatives becomes the government. The winning party's leader becomes the prime minister—the head of the government. The party with the second-highest number of seats in the House of Representatives is called the “Opposition.” That party's leader is “the leader of the Opposition.”

When a member of parliament first suggests a law, it is called a bill. The bill is explained, discussed, and often changed. If members of one house vote to pass the bill, it goes to the other house. There the process repeats. If the bill passes both houses, the bill becomes an “Act of Parliament.” The governor-general signs the act, and it becomes a law that Australians must obey.

Citizen Participation

Australians have an important role in their government. Because they have a democratic form of government, the voters choose the lawmakers.



In Australia, voting is compulsory. That means everyone who is eligible to vote is required to vote unless there is a good reason, such as illness. Australians can be fined or may have to go to court if they do not vote.

Australians enjoy many freedoms. They have freedom of religion and freedom of speech. They have the freedom to choose their own jobs, and they can travel around the country or to other countries. Australians can vote for the leaders who make laws and lead their country.

Reviewing the Section

1. What is the difference between the head of state and the prime minister?
2. How do the citizens participate in choosing the head of government of Australia?
3. Compare the government system of Australia to the government of the United Kingdom. Why do you think they are similar?

Above: Nurses voting on election day, Brisbane, Queensland, in 1938.

Section 4

The Economy of Australia

As you read, look for

- ▶ the advantages of Australia's market economy;
- ▶ how the investment in human capital and capital goods affects the standard of living;
- ▶ how natural resources, specialization, and lack of trade barriers aid a growing economy;
- ▶ the role of entrepreneurship in Australia's modern economy;
- ▶ terms: **tariff, quota, embargo, currency, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), literacy, entrepreneur.**

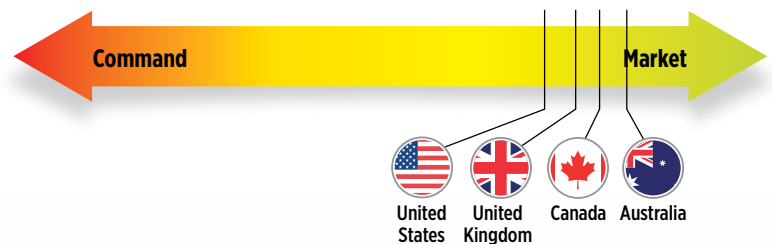


Economic Systems

Every country must deal with the problem of scarcity because no country, Australia included, has everything its people want and need. A country develops its economic system by answering the three basic economic questions: What goods will it produce? How will they be produced? For whom will they be produced? Based on the answers to these questions, a country develops a traditional economy, a command economy, or a market economy.

Figure 11.2

Economic Systems with British Ties



Below: Shop owners and customers enjoy the benefits of a market economy at this local deli in Brisbane, Queensland.

Traditional Economy

In a traditional economy, customs and habits of the past are used to decide what and how goods will be produced, distributed, and consumed. In this system, each member of the society knows early in life what his or her role in the larger group will be. Because the jobs are handed down from generation to generation, there is very little change in the system over the generations. In a traditional economy, people are depended on to fulfill their traditional role. If some people are not there to do their part, the system can break down. Farming, hunting and gathering, and cattle herding are often a part of a traditional economy. This type of economy was found in the culture of the Aborigines in Australia.

Command Economy

In a centralized command economy, government planning groups make the basic economic decisions. They determine such things as which goods and services to produce, the prices of those goods and services, and wage rates. Individuals and corporations generally do not own businesses or farms; these are owned by the government. Workers at a business are told what to produce and how much to produce in a given time. The expectation is that everyone in the country will be able to have the goods they need when they need them. In the past, the government of Australia owned the telecommunications companies. The government set the price for having a telephone, the cost of making a call, and wages for workers that were the same in all parts of the country. In 1989, the company

was made into a private business with stockholders owning the company.

Market Economy

In a decentralized market economy, decisions are guided by changes in prices that occur between individual buyers and sellers in the marketplace. Other names for market systems are free enterprise, capitalism, and laissez-faire. Australia is a good example of a market economy. Businesses operate without too many rules from the government. People are free to start a business and can do so quickly. Courts use the laws of Australia to protect the property rights of citizens.



Economic System in Australia Today

Australia has one of the freest economies in the world. Although most democratic countries today have a mixed economy somewhere on a continuum (range) between market and command, Australia's economy leans heavily toward a market system. There is relatively little involvement from the government in the economy. The government does not own major industries or businesses.

Prices are set by the agreement of buyers and sellers rather than by government rules. In Australia, people are free to own their own businesses and property. Business owners decide what they want to produce. In the same way, farmers decide what products they will produce and how much of the products to produce. Buyers and sellers are able to agree on prices. Competition between sellers helps to keep the prices good for buyers.

Business owners and consumers in Australia can depend on good laws to protect them. The courts are considered fair and honest. Bribery is rare, and it is punished by strict laws. It is very easy to start a business in Australia. In some countries it can take months to a year or more to start a business. In Australia, the paperwork usually takes less than a week.

Trade and Tourism

China is Australia's largest neighbor to the north. China's growth has a direct impact on the Australian economy. Australia is a major supplier of natural resources to China. China needs Australian minerals and metals for its industries. About half of all Australian iron ore is sold to China. In return, China provides Australia with affordable finished goods. Chinese investors are buying into Australian mining companies.

Australia's location makes it expensive for people to visit from other countries. Most international tourists to Australia come from New Zealand. Visitors also come from England, the United States, and China. Foreign tourists create about one-fourth of Australia's \$81 billion tourist industry. Australians themselves do the majority of tourism within their own country. The country's remote location in the southern hemisphere makes it expensive for Australians to leave their country to visit another one.

Below: Shopping malls in Australia, like Queensland's Pacific Fair, are similar to those in the United States.



Because the Australian summer is from December to March, tourists from the northern hemisphere often visit Australia's warm and sunny beaches when it is cold in their homeland. Summer is the rainy season in the tropical regions of the north. Tourists usually wait until spring or fall to visit the bush (rural areas outside the cities) and the outback. That is because the weather is milder in spring and fall.

The winter months of June through September are generally mild, but there are snowfields in the southern mountain regions. In the non-desert regions, Australians grow many grains, including wheat, barley, sorghum, and cereal rye. Farmers grow these crops in central inland Queensland, central New South Wales, inland Victoria, southeast Australia, and southwest Western Australia.

Australia is developing its cotton industry, and it has a large beef cattle industry. Australians also export rice, chickpeas, lentils, and oilseeds—such as sesame seeds, canola, soybeans, and sunflowers.



Specialization Encourages Trade

When workers in a factory have different skills and do different jobs, specialization occurs. There are workers who buy the raw materials and supplies. Other workers run the machinery to create the products. There may be people who specialize in keeping up with the money—paying bills and salaries. Other workers are involved in selling the product and delivering it. Within the business, no one person can know how to do all the jobs. The factory runs best when each person learns his or her part well. Those employees can get faster at doing their jobs and learning ways to handle problems and work more efficiently.

Work divided in this way is described as a division of labor. For example, even if a person bakes her own bread, she probably does not grow the wheat, harvest the wheat, and grind it into flour. She also does not build her own oven to cook the bread. Instead, the bread baker can earn money doing other things—perhaps teaching school—and can pay for the flour and the oven. She can then use her special skills to bake the bread herself.

The economy of countries works in a similar way. Australia, for example, has many natural resources. Coal and iron ore are important to the industries of China. Australia has spent time and money to learn the best ways to retrieve these resources from the ground. Australians can trade these natural resources to China. What does Australia get in return? Goods produced in Chinese factories are brought into Australia. Washing machines, televisions, computers, and household goods are among the many products that can be made more cheaply in China than in Australia.



Top Left: Snow covers the mountains in Kosciuszko National Park. **Above:** Iron ore mining operations in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Barriers to Trade

Trade and voluntary exchange occur when buyers and sellers freely and willingly engage in market transactions. When trade is voluntary and nonfraudulent (honest), both parties benefit and are better off after the trade than they were before the trade. Countries sometimes try to limit trade with other countries by creating trade barriers. The most common types of trade barriers are tariffs and quotas. A **tariff** is a tax on imports. A **quota** is a limit placed on the number of imports that may enter a country. Another kind of trade barrier is an embargo. An **embargo** is a government order stopping trade with another country. An embargo might be put into place to put pressure on another country to behave in a certain way.

Australia has tried to encourage trade with other countries. It wants other countries to sell goods to Australians, and it wants those countries to buy Australian products. So there are few trade barriers in the country. When there are tariffs, they are very low. Farmers of wheat and some other crops are given some special treatment by the government. Rules are in place to help Australian farmers have an advantage over foreign farmers in sales to Australian companies. These rules make foreign products cost more.

Australia has participated in embargoes. In 1998, for instance, it put an embargo on weapons being shipped to Yugoslavia. At the time, there was war in that country. Australia wanted to help end the fighting. It refused to allow Australian-made weapons to be sold to either side in the war.



Above: Port Hedland in Western Australia is the largest port by trade volume in Australia. **Background:** A hayfield in Queensland.

Below: Australian coins. **Bottom:** Australian students at an assembly.



Currency Exchange

Currency is the money people use to make trade easier. People in the United States use US dollars (USD or \$) to buy goods and services. When Americans work at a job, they are paid in dollars. Most of the time, when a person is in a foreign country, goods and services cannot be bought with their home currency. What is the solution? The person must trade their currency, or exchange it, for the type of currency used in the other country. This exchange is often done at a bank or money exchange office.

With each exchange, however, the bank charges a fee. A business that exchanges a lot of money will pay many fees. In Australia, the currency is the Australian dollar. Australian dollars are used to pay workers and to buy and sell goods and services. Suppose a jewelry maker in California needs gold mined in Australia. The gold miners want to be paid in Australian dollars so they can buy food at the grocery store and pay their families' bills. The jeweler in California has US dollars to spend. In order for the sale to happen, the buyer must exchange US dollars for Australian dollars. Banks will exchange money in this way for a fee.

Standard of Living

The **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** of a country is the total value of all the final goods and services produced in that country in one year. GDP per capita (per person) is one way to determine the quality of life for most people in a country. The GDP can also be used to tell if the economy of a country is getting better or worse over time. Raising the GDP of the country can mean a higher standard of living for the people in the country.

Investment in Human Capital

To increase their Gross Domestic Product (GDP), countries must invest in human capital. Human capital includes education, training, skills, and health care of the workers in a business or country. Australia has invested heavily in human capital. Children are required to attend school

from age 6 to about age 18. The taxpayers pay for the schooling of all children. The workforce is very well trained and educated. The health care system in Australia is very good. Most Australians can expect to be well cared for by the country's doctors, nurses, and hospitals. All of these factors have improved the standard of living over time. In fact, Australia's standard of living is one of the highest in the world, and its GDP ranks with the richest countries of Western Europe.



How the Literacy Rate Affects the Standard of Living

Literacy is the ability to read and write. It means a person can use language to read, write, listen, and follow directions. The literacy rate is the percentage of a population's adults that can read and write. Australia has a very high literacy rate. About 99 percent of adult Australians are considered literate.

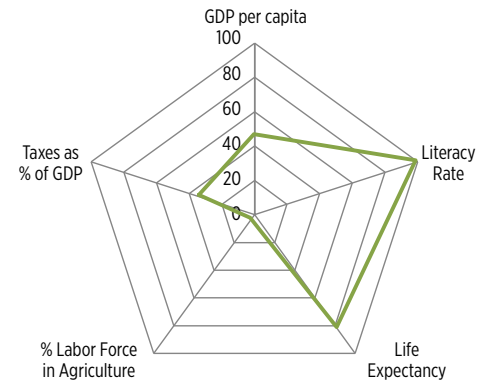
Even though Australia's literacy rate and standard of living are among the highest in the world, there is poverty in the country. The worst conditions are among the Aborigines.

Investment in Capital Goods

To increase the GDP, countries must invest in capital goods—the factories, machines, technologies, buildings, and property needed by businesses to operate. If a business is to be successful, it cannot let its equipment break down or have its buildings fall apart.

New technology can help a business produce more goods for a cheaper price. The free-market approach to the economy forces companies to make capital investments. If a company does not keep its machinery up to date, other companies will be able to produce similar goods for a better price. Companies must update their technology, too. Australia's businesses use advanced technology to make their companies work more efficiently.

Figure 11.3
Australia Spider Graph



The Role of Natural Resources

A country has different kinds of resources that can help its people produce goods and services. Human resources are the education and skills that people have to produce goods and services. Capital resources are things like machines and equipment that people need to produce goods and services. Natural resources are also valuable. These are sometimes thought of as “gifts of nature.”

Above: A huge coal-loading conveyor belt piles coal at Kooragang Island, Newcastle, in New South Wales.

Arable land—with fertile soil and a supply of water—is a valuable resource in Australia. Water is available in some parts of Australia, but it is very limited in much of the country. Farmers in Australia are able to grow enough crops that they can feed Australians and have a surplus to trade to other countries. Land also provides pasture for beef cattle—another important export. Minerals in Australia are a major export. Sales of these natural resources bring in money from around the world. One-third of the exports from Australia go to China and Japan.


A country is better off if it can use its own natural resources to supply the needs of its people. If a country has many natural resources, it can trade them to other countries for goods and services. It can also use the natural resources to create goods that can be traded to other countries.

The Role of Entrepreneurship

People who have creative, innovative ideas about new goods or services that people might want, or better ways to produce existing goods or services, are called **entrepreneurs**. These people risk their own limited resources to produce new or improved goods or services. If people like their ideas and are willing to pay for them, they will earn a profit. Entrepreneurs must organize their businesses well for them to be successful.

Entrepreneurs bring together natural, human, and capital resources to produce goods or services to be provided by their businesses. Australia is a world leader in entrepreneurs. One in every 12 adults owns his or her own business. The country has many opportunities for success in business. There are abundant raw materials. There is a highly educated workforce. There is wealth that can be used to obtain the capital goods needed to start a business.

The laws in Australia protect entrepreneurs and their businesses, making it easy to start a business and limiting the restrictions on existing businesses. Entrepreneurs are good for Australia. They provide jobs for other workers. When they make a profit, they pay taxes so the government can provide public goods and public services.

A herd of brown and white cattle grazing in a desert pasture in outback New South Wales. The cattle are in the foreground, looking towards the camera. The background shows a hazy, sunlit landscape with sparse vegetation.

Cattle grazing in a desert pasture in outback New South Wales.



Sydney's Central Business District is home to some of the largest companies in Australia.

Growth of Australia's Economy

Australia's strong economy has been growing for the past 20 years. The country has experienced continuous growth, low unemployment, low inflation, low public debt, and a strong and stable financial system.

The services sector is the largest part of the Australian economy, accounting for about 70 percent of GDP and 75 percent of jobs. Services are jobs people perform for a fee. Australia was almost unaffected by the global financial crisis of 2008. The banking system has remained strong, and inflation is under control.

Australia has benefited from a dramatic surge in its terms of trade in recent years, although this trend could reverse or slow due to falling prices for natural resources, energy, and food. Australia's natural resources attract high levels of foreign investment. Investors want a share of the extensive reserves of coal, iron, copper, gold, natural gas, uranium, and renewable energy sources.

Australia is an open market with few restrictions on imports of goods and services. The process of signing free trade treaties with many other countries has increased productivity, stimulated growth, and improved the economy. Australia plays an active role in the World Trade Organization (WTO), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Group of Twenty (G20), and other trade organizations.



Above: Container ships such as the ANL *Barwon* unload at the Port of Melbourne. Ships like these are vital for importing and exporting goods.

In 2014, Australia entered into free trade agreements with Korea, Japan, and China, adding to existing agreements with Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States. Australia is now negotiating agreements with India and Indonesia.

The government is also working on agreements with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and an Asia-wide Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership that includes the ten ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries plus China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and India. Australia is also working on the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement with Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The goal of these free trade agreements is to increase trade and the GDP for Australia and the other member countries.

Reviewing the Section

1. On the economic continuum of pure command to pure market, where does Australia fall? Explain your thinking.
2. What is the literacy rate in Australia? How does it affect the standard of living? How does it affect the Aborigines?
3. Why do you think Australia has few trade barriers?

Section 5

US-Australia Relations



As you read, look for


- ▶ shared values that are the basis for an Australian-US alliance;
- ▶ the importance of the ANZUS security treaty;
- ▶ joint efforts by Australia and the United States to increase global trade;
- ▶ terms: **autonomy**, **ANZUS security treaty**.

An Important Alliance

The United States and Australia established diplomatic relations in 1940 after the United Kingdom's recognition of Australia's **autonomy** (right of self-government) within the British Empire. Australia is a vital ally, and the United States and Australia have a strong partnership based on shared democratic values and common interests, as well as cultural and historical similarities.

Australian armed forces have fought together with the United States military in every significant conflict since World War I. The 1951 **ANZUS security treaty** serves as the foundation of defense and security cooperation between the countries. (ANZUS stands for Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.) It was invoked for the first time, by Australia, in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

More recently, the United States and Australia worked closely in Afghanistan and Iraq and on counterterrorism issues worldwide, including the challenge of foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism. The United States and Australia have a high priority on controlling and eventually eliminating chemical weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, and antipersonnel land mines. The countries also cooperate on global environmental issues such as climate change and preserving marine environments.



Background: The 1st Battalion marches along the route during Anzac Day centenary commemorations on April 25, 2015, in Brisbane, Queensland.

Below: Qantas, founded in 1920, is the largest domestic and international airline in Australia. The company employs over 30,000 people.

The ANZUS security treaty with the United States has support in Australia as its most important security treaty alliance. Australia and the United States also work with Japan on security issues. Overall, the US-Australia alliance is an anchor for peace and stability not only in the Asia-Pacific region but around the world.

Economic Relations

United States exports to Australia include machinery, vehicles, optic and medical instruments, aircraft, and agricultural products. United States imports from Australia include precious stones/metals, agricultural products, and optic and medical instruments. The United States is by far the largest foreign investor in Australia, accounting for more than 25 percent of its foreign investment. The 2005 Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement has nearly doubled the trade of goods and increased the trade of services by more than 122 percent.

The two countries share a commitment to increasing global trade. They work closely in the World Trade Organization and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. The United States and Australia worked together to finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations with the goal to develop a trade agreement among 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. However, the United States withdrew from the plan in 2017.

As founding members of the Equal Futures Partnership, both countries collaborate to expand economic opportunities for women and increase women's participation in leadership positions in politics, civic society, and economic life.

Reviewing the Section

1. How has the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement affected trade for both countries?
2. What two global initiatives have the United States and Australia worked on together?
3. Why is a United States-Australia military partnership beneficial to peace and stability? How can the relations of these two countries affect other countries in the world?



special Feature

The Dreaming

The Dreaming is an essential and important part of Aboriginal culture. It influences Aboriginal traditions, law, and religious beliefs. The Dreaming includes stories and myths about how the world was created, including the creation of humans and physical features. Aborigines believe that a person cannot own the land; instead, people are a part of the land. While the Dreaming stories vary between different groups of Aborigines, the main ideas and messages are the same throughout Australia.

The Dreaming stories include mythic beings that take the forms of humans and animals. In many stories these mythical beings created different physical features. Sometimes, the beings even became the physical features. In fact, Uluru, or Ayers Rock, is believed to have been formed by ancestral spirits in the Dreaming. Many Aborigines believe a person who touches Uluru will be able to communicate with their deceased ancestors in the Dreaming. The Dreaming also explains the constellations in the sky.

One of the most famous Dreaming stories is about the Rainbow Serpent. This serpent is a creation being, which means it helped create the land and people. Usually, the Rainbow Serpent is associated with waterways. The belief is that the Rainbow Serpent created the waterways as it moved across Australia, which is why the waterways curve. The Rainbow Serpent can also be a destructive force if it is not properly respected.

The stories from the Dreaming are kept alive by storytelling, song, and dance. Sometimes there are paintings of the Dreaming. One of the oldest paintings from the Dreaming is an image of the Rainbow Serpent that dates back over 6,000 years. Why do you think it is important for both the Aborigines and the other people of Australia to keep these traditions and stories alive?



Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: The Geography of Australia

- The continent and country of Australia is located in the southern and eastern hemispheres between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- Australia is the sixth-largest country; it is almost as large as the United States.
- Climate varies from tropical (north) to desert (center) to temperate (southeast and southwest).
- Most Australians live on the east coast. Nearly 80 percent live in urban areas.
- Australia is rich in natural resources, including many minerals found in the outback.
- Unique physical features are the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea, Great Dividing Range, Uluru/ Ayers Rock, and Great Victoria Desert.

Section 2: A Short History of Australia

- Aborigines, the native people, migrated from Southeast Asia at least 40,000 years ago.
- The first Europeans arrived in 1660. British Captain James Cook claimed the east coast for Great Britain in 1770.
- The British created a penal colony in 1788. New South Wales was an official penal colony until 1823, and prisoners were transported to Australia until 1868.
- The Commonwealth of Australia was established in 1901. Canberra, its planned capital, was completed in 1927.
- British settlers took over the Aborigines' land and water sources and introduced diseases like smallpox.
- An 1850s gold rush brought new settlers and more conflicts with the Aborigines.

- A government policy of removing Aboriginal children from their families continued into the 1970s. The government apologized for these Stolen Generations in 2008.
- English is the official language because of British colonization and influence.

Section 3: The Government of Australia

- Australia's elected parliament creates the laws of the land.
- The British monarch is Australia's head of state. A governor-general fulfills the monarch's duties.
- Members of parliament (MPs) are elected every 3 years to the House of Representatives. Senators are elected every 6 years in staggered terms.
- The leader of the party with the most MPs becomes prime minister, the head of government. The party with the 2nd-most MPs is called the Opposition.
- Voting is compulsory in Australia.

Section 4: The Economy of Australia

- Australia has a market economy, where the three basic economic questions are answered in the marketplace.
- Australia sends many natural resources to China, and China sends back finished goods.
- Tourism is an important income source, and farm products are valuable exports.
- Specialization in industry and an absence of trade barriers help the economy.
- Australians must exchange the Australian dollar for the currency of their international trading partners.
- Australia's high literacy rate enhances its standard of living and Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Australian laws encourage entrepreneurship.
- Australia has free trade agreements with many countries.

Section 5: US-Australia Relations

- The United States and Australia have a strong partnership.
- The ANZUS security treaty is the foundation of defense and security cooperation.
- The United States and Australia trade many products, and the United States is the largest foreign investor in Australia.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things



Match the following with the correct description that follows:

Captain James Cook	Queen Elizabeth II
Great Barrier Reef	Uluru/Ayers Rock
Great Victoria Desert	outback
territory	Aborigines

1. a large exposed monolith in central Australia
2. any region of land that is not claimed by a state of Australia
3. English explorer who claimed the east coast of Australia for Great Britain
4. large arid region of South Australia and Western Australia
5. the name given to rural regions of Australia
6. the monarch of Australia
7. indigenous people of Australia
8. an endangered area of Australia that lies off the northeast coast of Queensland

Understanding the Facts



1. As what type of colony was Australia first established under British control?
2. Why do Australians say they are from “down under”?
3. What is the largest climate region in Australia?
4. Name three major natural resources that are mined in Australia.
5. Name the large island that is considered part of Australia.

6. What mountain range runs for 2,100 miles across multiple Australian states?
7. Who were considered the “Stolen Generations”?
8. What impact did the colonization of Australia have on the Aborigines?
9. What is Australia’s official language?
10. What type of government system does Australia have?
11. What type of economy does Australia have today?
12. What is the foundation of defense and security cooperation between the US and Australia?

Developing Critical Thinking



1. Reflect on your knowledge of the effects of colonization on the Native American people. From what you have read about the treatment of the Aborigines in Australia, what is similar about the fates of these two peoples?
2. Australia is a democratic nation. Why do you think Australians still claim Queen Elizabeth II as their monarch? Do you believe it is important for Australians to recognize their British ties?

Exploring Technology



The Australian Aborigines have recently experienced a refocus and growing respect for their art and culture. There are numerous websites devoted to their way of life. Research some of the websites available through the Australian government. Write down ten observations on the art, language, beliefs, or music of the Aborigines.

Multidisciplinary Activity: Art



Research some examples of Australian Aboriginal art. The artwork features unique characteristics like dots and “x-ray” features of animals with pictographs to tell a story. Using the Aboriginal style, draw an example of an animal found in Australia, such as the koala, kangaroo, Tasmanian devil, or saltwater crocodile.