



World Studies for Georgia Students-Grade 6

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Section 1: The Geography of Australia

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Australia is unique in that it is both a _____ and a country.
2. Australia is surrounded by the _____ Ocean on the east and the _____ Ocean on the west.
3. Australia's geography is unique in that it is the only country on the world's _____ and _____ continent. It is also the _____ continent, other than Antarctica.
4. The largest part of Australia is _____. Little _____ falls in the central part of the country.
5. The _____ areas of Australia are the most highly populated. Most people live along the _____ coast.
6. The term _____ refers specifically to Australia's dry interior. The _____ is mainly open countryside, including vast areas of grazing land.
7. _____ have always been important to Australian trade.
8. Another of Australia's natural resources is _____ land. There are enough areas with good _____ and rainfall to make farming an important business.
9. The best way to visualize Australia is to think of huge _____ plains stretching across the country's middle. There are milder _____ along the southeastern and southwestern coasts.

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10. Most of Australia is located on the continent's mainland, but Australia also includes _____, a large island south of the mainland, and several other _____ in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
11. The _____ Reef is the world's largest coral reef, and it lies a short distance off the northeast coast of Queensland.
12. The _____ Sea, an important source of coral for the Great Barrier Reef, is part of the Pacific Ocean.
13. At almost the exact center of the continent a reddish _____ towers out of the flatlands. This rock is a monolith called _____.
14. Southwest of _____ are the states of South Australia and Western Australia, home of the _____ Desert.



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Section 2: A Brief History of Australia

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. _____ are the native people of Australia.
2. The _____ settled in the same places as present-day Australians, where the climate was most pleasant and water was available.
3. The first _____ to sail to Australian waters arrived in 1606.
4. In 1770, Captain James Cook of _____ 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 “_____.”
5. The loss of the thirteen colonies in _____ increased Britain’s desire for new colonies. The large, sparsely populated continent of _____ seemed a good place for expansion.
6. From 1788 to 1823, the colony of New South Wales was officially a _____ colony consisting mainly of convicts, marines, and the marines’ wives.
7. The British transported _____ to Australia until 1868. By then, many free _____ had settled in the region.
8. By 1861, officials created the _____ between the colonies that are still used today. The _____ of Australia was established on January 1, 1901.
9. The most damaging things the Europeans brought to Australia were _____.

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10. _____ gave the British colonists a major advantage in fights. Many _____ people living near colonial settlements were killed or forced to move.
11. The introduction of _____ and _____ to the area required that settlers build fences, clear trees, and raise crops for the livestock. This changed the _____.
12. The _____ in the 1850s that attracted thousands of new settlers brought more _____ with Aboriginal people and hundreds more deaths.
13. Historically, the government of Australia has had a poor record when it comes to the _____ of its Aboriginal citizens. Indigenous Australians were _____ of their land, their culture was not appreciated, and they were _____ and killed.
14. The story of Australia's official _____ is a result of British colonization and expansion.
15. The _____ government became interested in Australia's west. To keep the _____ out, English settlers built new villages and cities as fast as possible.
16. Europeans introduced _____ to Australia in 1788. Irish _____ were mostly Roman Catholic.

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Section 3: The Government of Australia

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Australia has an elected legislative body called the Commonwealth _____ that represents the people and holds the power in a parliamentary _____.
2. The people of Australia _____ parliament's members. The members of parliament choose the _____ _____ to be the head of the government.
3. Australia's six _____ came from the six British colonies united to create the Commonwealth of Australia.
4. Any land within Australia's national border that is not claimed by one of the states is called a _____.
5. Instead, Australia's prime minister recommends someone to serve as _____ - _____. This governor-general serves as the monarch's _____ in Australia and fulfills the duties and responsibilities of the head of _____.
6. There are two _____ in the Commonwealth Parliament. These are called the House of _____ and the _____.
7. After an election, the political party that wins the most _____ in the House of Representatives becomes the government. The winning party's leader becomes the _____ —the head of the government.

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8. In Australia, voting is _____. That means everyone who is _____ to vote is required to vote unless there is a good reason, such as illness.



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Section 4: The Economy of Australia

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Australia has one of the _____ economies in the world. Although most _____ countries today have a mixed economy somewhere on a continuum (range) between market and command, Australia's economy leans heavily toward a _____ system.
2. _____ is Australia's largest neighbor to the north. China's growth has a direct _____ on the Australian economy.
3. Australia's _____ makes it expensive for people to visit from other countries. Most international tourists to Australia come from _____.
4. Australia, for example, has many _____ resources. Coal and _____ ore are important to the industries of China.
5. Australia has tried to _____ trade with other countries.
6. Australia has invested heavily in _____ capital.
7. In fact, Australia's standard of living is one of the _____ in the world, and its GDP ranks with the _____ countries of Western Europe.
8. Even though Australia's _____ rate and standard of living are among the highest in the world, there is _____ in the country. The worst conditions are among the _____.
9. Australia is a world leader in _____. One in every 12 adults _____ his or her own business.

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

11. The process of signing free trade _____ with many other countries has increased productivity, stimulated growth, and _____ the economy.

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Section 5: US-Australia Relations

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. The United States and Australia established _____ relations in 1940 after the United Kingdom's recognition of Australia's _____ (right of self-government) within the British Empire.
2. Australia is a vital _____, and the United States and Australia have a strong partnership based on shared _____ values and common interests, as well as cultural and historical similarities.
3. Australian armed forces have fought _____ with the United States military in every significant conflict since World War I.
4. The _____ security treaty with the United States has support in Australia as its most important security treaty alliance.
5. Overall, the US-Australia alliance is an anchor for _____ and stability not only in the Asia-Pacific regions but around the world.
6. The United States is by far the _____ foreign investor in Australia, accounting for more than 25 percent of its foreign investment.