

Section 1: Geography of Australia

➤ Essential Question:

- How does Australia's size and climate affect the distribution of its people?

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Section 1: Geography of Australia

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- outback
- natural resource
- monolith
- Aborigines

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Climate of Australia

- The climate varies across the continent
- The northern part of Australia is closest to the equator and has a tropical climate, it is warm to hot all year, and this area gets more rain than the rest of the country
- The largest part of Australia is desert, where little rain falls
- Only southeast and southwest corners have temperate climates

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Quick Notes

Distribution of People in Australia

- The coastal areas of Australia are the most highly populated, especially the eastern coast
- Most populated city is Sydney in New South Wales
- Nearly 80% of Australians live in urban areas, making Australia one of the most urbanized countries in the world

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Natural Resources of Australia

- “Outback” refers to Australia’s dry interior, where there are few small settlements, usually around mines
- Australians use mining to take advantage of their natural resources
 - Minerals are an important part of Australia’s trade
 - Australia exports more coal and iron ore than any other nation
- Australia also has arable land, and farmers produce more food than Australians can consume,

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Physical Features of Australia

- Across the middle of Australia are huge desert plains, with milder climates along the southeastern and southwestern coasts
 - The largest part of Australia is the semiarid lands known as the outback
- Northern Australia’s tropical climate has a rain forest, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and even more desert
- Australia also includes the island of Tasmania and several other islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans

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Quick Notes

The Great Barrier Reef

- The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef, and lies off the northeast coast of Queensland in the Coral Sea
- The reef contains the world's largest collection of coral and is home to several rare species of animals

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The Coral Sea

- The Coral Sea is part of the Pacific Ocean and an important source of coral for the Great Barrier Reef
- The Coral Sea lies off the northeast coast of Australia
- Coral Sea islands are scattered over thousands of miles of ocean
 - Australia claimed the islands as a territory of Australia in 1969
 - No one lives on the Coral Sea islands except a small group of weather specialists on the Willis Islets

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Uluru

- At the center of the continent, a large red rock towers over the flatlands, a monolith called Uluru
- Uluru is the tip of a massive underground sandstone rock cemented together with sand and mud
- The Aborigines named the monolith Uluru
 - Europeans named it Ayers Rock after a government official in South Australia
- In 1950, Australia created Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

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The Great Victoria Desert

- The Great Victoria Desert is located in the states of South Australia and Western Australia
- The desert only receives 8 to 10 inches of rain a year, and never receives snow
- It contains some grasslands, sandhills, and salt lakes
- Covers more than 160,000 square miles and is a protected wilderness areas
- Very few people live in this area

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Section 2: A Brief History of Australia

- Essential Question:
 - What reasons prompted Europeans to colonize Australia?

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Section 2: A Brief History of Australia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - nomadic
 - indigenous
 - Stolen Generations

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Quick Notes

The Aborigines

- Aborigines are the native people of Australia
- Aborigines have occupied Australia for at least 40,000 years
- They were hunters and gatherers who ate animals, wild nuts, fruits, and berries
- They were nomadic, moving from place to place to find food
- Before the Europeans, there were between 250,000-500,000 Aborigines
 - Most lived the same areas that present-day Australians live

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Colonization of Australia

- The first Europeans arrived in 1606
- In 1770, British Captain James Cook claimed the east coast for Britain and named eastern Australia “New South Wales”
- British colonization began in 1788, using Australia as a prison colony
- Britain wanted to relieve overcrowding in their jails, have their navy stationed in the southern hemisphere, gain an economic base to expand trade, and wanted to prevent their rivals, especially France, from colonizing Australia

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Prisoners as Colonists

- Australia had no colonies from other European or Asian countries
- From 1788-1823, the colony of New South Wales was an official penal colony made up of convicts, marines, and the marines’ wives
- Many free immigrants moved to the region, establishing trading posts, farms, and businesses
 - Britain saw opportunities for trade and a navy outpost
- By 1861 officials had created the boundaries that are still used today
- The Commonwealth of Australia was established on January 1, 1901

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Quick Notes

European Impact on the Aborigines

- European settlers took over sources of water, fisheries, and productive land from the Aborigines
- Turned Aborigine land into towns, farms, and mines
- Most damaging were the diseases that the Europeans brought to the Aborigines
 - About half of the indigenous people died of smallpox and other disease brought by Europeans
- Guns gave the colonists a major advantage in fights with the indigenous peoples
- Introduction of cattle and sheep required fencing, clearing trees, and raising crops, changing the landscape and pushing the Aborigines off their lands
- As British settlement expanded, Aborigines turned to violence to protect their land
 - The gold rush and increasing conflicts led to more deaths of Aborigines

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The Aborigines Today

- Originally, there were about 600 different clan groups of Aborigines with distinct cultures and beliefs
- Indigenous communities keep their cultural heritage alive by passing down their knowledge, arts, rituals, and performances to new generations
- The government of Australia has had a poor record of treatment of Aborigine citizens
- The Stolen Generations refer to Aboriginal children removed by the Australian government and given to white families and church-run institutions for cultural reprogramming
- There is still inequality in the lives of Aborigines, but the government has been changing their position toward the native people
 - Indigenous groups are increasingly well organized and successful

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Language in Australia

- Australia's language is a result of British colonization and expansion
- The language of the government officials and prisoners sent to Australia was English
- British built new cities as fast as possible to keep the French out of Australia, spreading the English language to the western part of the continent
- When Australia gained independence from Great Britain, they regulated immigration to encourage more English-speakers to move to Australia and limit immigrants from Africa and Asia

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Religion in Australia

- Europeans introduced Christianity to Australia in 1788
- Irish prisoners were mainly Roman Catholic, the rest were members of the Church of England (Anglicans) or Methodists
- In the 1800s, Europeans brought their traditional churches to Australia
- Today, most Australians are Christians, while Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, and Hindus make up less than 5% of the population

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Section 3: Government of Australia

- Essential Question:
 - What impact do the citizens of Australia have on the government of their country?

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Section 3: Government of Australia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Commonwealth Parliament
 - constituency
 - territory
 - electorate

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Quick Notes

Type of Government

- Legislative body is called the Commonwealth Parliament, holds the power in a parliamentary democracy
- The people of Australia elect parliament's members, and parliament chooses the prime minister to be the head of government
- The monarch (head of state) appoints a governor-general to represent the Crown in Australia
- Governor-general is chosen based on recommendation of the prime minister

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Form of Leadership

- Australia's 6 states were the 6 British colonies united to create the Commonwealth of Australia
- States approved a constitution, allows federal government to pass certain laws and allows states individual parliaments
- The English monarch is the head of state, but does not run the country, instead appoints a governor-general to act as representative of the monarchy in Australia and fulfill the duties of the head of state
- The prime minister is the head of government
- Leader of the political party with the most members in the Commonwealth Parliament

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Type of Legislature

- An elected government runs the country
- Commonwealth Parliament contains two houses: the House of Representatives and the Senate
- Australia is divided into areas called electorates, each electorate votes for a representative in parliament
- For the Senate, each state elects 12 senators, regardless of the size of the state
- After an election, the party with with most seats in the House of Representatives becomes the government, and their leader becomes the prime minister

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Citizen Participation

- Because Australia’s government is a democracy, voters choose the lawmakers
- In Australia, voting is compulsory
 - Everyone who is eligible to vote is required to vote unless there is a good reason, like an illness
- Australians have many freedoms, including freedom of religion and of speech, freedom to choose their own jobs, freedom to travel, and right to vote

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Section 4: Economy of Australia

- Essential question:
 - What advantages does Australia gain from having a market economy?

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Section 4: Economy of Australia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - tariff
 - quota
 - embargo
 - currency
 - Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
 - literacy
 - entrepreneur

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Economic Systems

- All countries have to answer three basic questions in order to develop their economic systems:
 1. What goods will they produce?
 2. How will they be produced?
 3. For whom will they be produced?
- Based on the answers to these questions, a country develops a traditional, command, or market economy

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Traditional Economy

- In a traditional economy, customs and habits are used to decide what goods will be produced, distributed, and consumed
- Jobs are often handed down from generation to generation, meaning there is very little change over time
- Farming, hunting and gathering, and cattle herding are often parts of a traditional economy
- This type of economy was found in the culture of the Aborigines in Australia

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Command Economy

- In a command economy, government planning groups make the basic economic decisions
- Individuals and corporations do not usually own their businesses and farms, the government owns them
- Workers are told what to produce and how much to produce at a given time
- Government sets prices, wages, etc.
- The expectation is that everyone in the country will have the goods they need when they need them

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Market Economy

- In a market economy, decisions are made by changes in prices that occur between individual buyers and sellers in the marketplace
- Australia is a good example of a market economy
- Businesses operate without many rules from the government
- People are free to start businesses and can do so quickly

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Economic System in Australia Today

- Australia has one of the freest economies in the world today
- Australia's economy leans heavily toward a market system, as there is little involvement from the government in the economy
- Prices are set by the agreement of buyers and sellers, not the government
- Business owners and consumers in Australia can depend on good laws to protect them

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Trade and Tourism

- China's growth has a direct impact on the Australian economy, as Australia is a major suppliers of natural resources to China
- Australia's location makes it expensive for people to visit from other countries, and Australians do the majority of tourism within their own country
 - Most international tourism comes from nearby New Zealand
- In the non-desert regions, Australians grow many grains, and Australia is developing its cotton industry, and has a large beef cattle industry

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Specialization Encourages Trade

- When workers have different skills and do different jobs, specialization occurs
 - The factory runs best when each person learns his or her job well
- Work divided in this way is described as division of labor
- Economies of countries work in a similar way
 - China needs coal and iron ore for their industries, and Australia has spent time and money to learn the best ways to mine those resources from the ground
- In return, goods produced in Chinese factories are brought into Australia

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Barriers to Trade

- Countries limit trade by creating trade barriers
 - A tariff is a tax on imports
 - A quota is a limit placed on the number of imports that may enter a country
 - An embargo is a government order stopping trade with another country
- Australia has encouraged trade with other countries, so they have few trade barriers
- Australia has participated in embargoes such as refusing to sell weapons to countries at war to help stop the fighting

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Currency Exchange

- Currency is the money people use to make trade easier, and most countries have their own forms of currency
- People trade their currency for the type of currency used in another country in order to purchase things there
- Usually the exchange of currency is made at a bank, which charges a fee for making the exchange

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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 a way to determine the quality of life for most people in a country
- Raising the GDP of the country can mean a higher standard of living for the people in the country

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Investment in Human Capital

- To increase their GDP, countries must invest in human capital, which includes education, training, skills, and health care of workers in a business or country
- Australia has invested heavily in human capital
 - Children are required to attend school paid for by taxpayers
 - The workforce is very well trained and well educated
 - Australia's health care system is very good
- Australia's standard of living is one of the highest in the world, and its GDP ranks with the richest countries in Western Europe

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How the Literacy Rate Affects the Standard of Living

- Literacy is the ability to read and write, the literacy rate is the percentage of the population's adults that can read and write
- Australia's literacy rate is about 99%
- Though Australia's literacy rate and standard of living are high, there are still issues of poverty
 - The worst conditions of poverty are among the Aborigines

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Investment in Capital Goods

- To increase GDP, countries must invest in capital goods—the factories, machines, technologies, buildings, and property need by businesses to operate
- New technology can produce more goods for a cheaper price
 - If a company doesn't keep its machinery up to date, other companies will be able to produce similar goods for a better price
- Australia's businesses use advanced technology to make their companies work more efficiently

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The Role of Natural Resources

- In Australia, arable land is an important natural resource
 - Land also provides pasture for beef cattle, an important export
- Water is an important resource, but it is very limited in much of the country
- Minerals are a major export from Australia

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The Role of Entrepreneurship

- People who have new, innovative ideas about goods or services are called entrepreneurs
 - They risk their own resources to produce new or improved goods and services, and if people are willing to pay for them, they will earn a profit
- Australia is a world leader in entrepreneurs
 - There are many opportunities for success in business, and the country has abundant raw materials, education, and wealth
- Laws protect entrepreneurs and their businesses, making it easy to start a business and limited the restrictions on existing businesses

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Growth of Australia's Economy

- For the past 20 years, Australia's economy has experienced continuous growth, low unemployment, low inflation, low public debt, and a strong financial system
- The service sector is the largest part of the Australian economy
- Australia was almost unaffected by the global financial crisis of 2008
- Australia has benefitted from an increase in trade in recent years
- The process of signing free trade treaties with many other countries has increased productivity, stimulated growth, and improved the economy

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Section 5: U.S.-Australia Relations

- Essential question:
 - How have Australia and the United States worked to increase global trade?

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Section 5: U.S.-Australia Relations

- What terms do I need to know?
 - autonomy
 - ANZUS security treaty

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An Important Alliance

- The United States and Australia established relations in 1940 after the United Kingdom's recognition of Australia's autonomy (right of self-government)
- Australia is a vital ally to the U.S., and the two countries have a partnership based on shared democratic values and common interest, as well as cultural similarities
- The ANZUS security treaty serves as the foundation of defense and security cooperation between the two countries
 - Australia and the U.S. have worked closely on counterterrorism issues worldwide
- The two countries also work together on global environmental issues like climate change
- The U.S.-Australian alliance is an anchor for peace and stability around the world

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Economic Relations

- The U.S. exports machinery, vehicles, medical instruments, aircraft, and agricultural products to Australia
- To the U.S., Australia exports precious stones & metals, agricultural products, and medical instruments
- The United States is the largest foreign investor in Australia
- The two countries are committed to increasing global trade through the World Trade Organization and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum

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