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Get to Know: Australia



The history of Australia has been shaped by many groups of people. From one of the oldest continuing cultures in human history to recently arrived immigrants, each community plays a vital part in shaping the complex history of Australia. Let's get a look at the unique history of the land "down under!"

First, go to **www.worldbookonline.com**
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Find It!

Use the World Book "Search" tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about Australia, it is recommended you start by searching the key word "Australia." Write the answers on the lines provided or in the space below the question.

1. Examine the map "Australia (country)." What are the names of Australia's states and other major political divisions? (Hint: the names of states and territories appear on the map in red!)
2. Why is Australia often referred to as being "down under"?
3. *Australia* comes from the Latin word _____, which means _____.
4. Look at the image "Australia flag and coat of arms." What do the stars on the flag represent?
5. How long have people lived in Australia?
6. _____ were the first inhabitants of Australia.

***Users of the *Advanced* database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

7. When the British first settled Australia in 1788, what kind of colony did they establish?
8. Until the mid-1900's, the majority of Australia's immigrants came from_____ and _____.
9. What is the name given to Australia's remote, rugged interior?
10. What is the most famous Australian sporting event?
11. The Sydney Opera House is one of the world's most iconic buildings. Who designed it, and when was it complete?
12. Australia is surrounded by water, like an island. Why do geographers consider it a continent?
13. What is the name of the vast, dry, treeless plateau that lies along the border between Western Australia and South Australia? What does its name mean?
14. What is the highest point in Australia, and for whom is it named? (Hint: For the second part of this question see the article on the place you named.)
15. Uluru is one of Australia's most famous sites. What other name is it known by, and to whom does that name refer? (Hint: For this question see the "Uluru" article.)
16. What is Australia's biggest water conservation project? What are its benefits? Are there any drawbacks?
17. Australia is home to the world's largest coral reef. What is its name?
18. Some of the most well-known animal species found in Australia include kangaroos, koalas, wallabies, and wombats. What kind of animals are these?
19. Who represents the British monarch in the Australian government? (Hint: For this question see the "Australia, Government of" article.)
20. For whom is the state of Tasmania named? (Hint: For this question see the "Tasmania" article.)

21. How did the Aboriginal peoples of Tasmania become isolated?
(Hint: For this question see the “Aboriginal peoples of Tasmania” article.)
22. Ned Kelly was an outlaw known as a *bushranger*. Although some people consider him a cruel and vicious criminal, others celebrate him as a folk hero. Why is this? (Hint: For this question see the “Kelly, Ned” article.)
23. Bushfires are wildfires common throughout Australia. Although they can be extremely destructive, some plants flourish in the aftermath of the fires. Explain why this happens.
(Hint: For this question see the “Bushfires in Australia” article.)

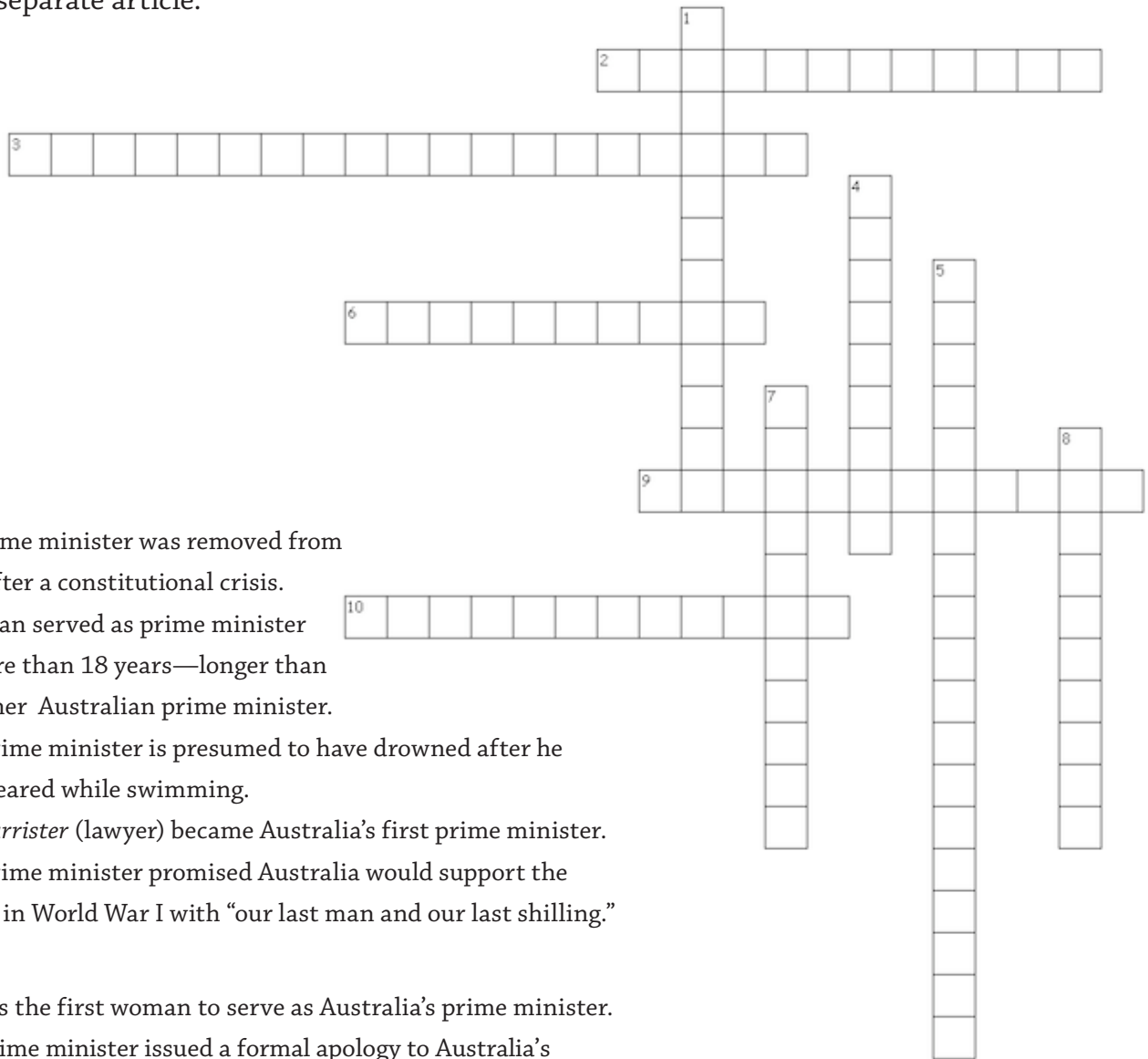
Look for the answers to the following questions in the “Australia, History of” article.

24. Who claimed Australia for the British, and what did he call it?
25. The first British settlers to arrive in Australia traveled in a group of ships known as the _____.
26. When did the Commonwealth of Australia come into being?
27. What was the name given to the period of economic growth that followed the discovery of gold in the 1850’s and 1860’s?
28. What term refers to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were taken from their parents and put in government-run institutions and foster homes?
29. What does ANZAC stand for? What made the ANZAC’s reputation legendary?



Prime Ministers crossword

For this activity, you may want to consult the table “Australian prime ministers” featured in the article “Australia, Government of,” as well as the article “Australia, History of.” Each prime minister also has a separate article.



Across

2. This prime minister was removed from office after a constitutional crisis.
3. This man served as prime minister for more than 18 years—longer than any other Australian prime minister.
6. This prime minister is presumed to have drowned after he disappeared while swimming.
9. This *barrister* (lawyer) became Australia’s first prime minister.
10. This prime minister promised Australia would support the British in World War I with “our last man and our last shilling.”

Down

1. She was the first woman to serve as Australia’s prime minister.
4. This prime minister issued a formal apology to Australia’s Indigenous peoples for the wrongs done by previous governments.
5. This prime minister introduced *conscription* (mandatory military enlistment) during World War I.
7. This prime minister’s famous “Redfern Speech” was the first formal acknowledgment by an Australian prime minister that European settlement had led to present-day problems for Australia’s Indigenous peoples.
8. This prime minister committed Australia’s armed forces to serve in the U.S.-led war against Iraq, which began in 2003.

Extension activity 1: Benefits and Drawbacks Analysis

In the “Australia” article, the “Education” section discusses schools of the air. Have you taken a course in a “school of the air,” or would you be interested in doing so in the future? Explain the potential benefits and drawbacks of this system.

Extension activity 2: Image Analysis

Within each article about Australia, find the “Images, Video, and Audio” tab. Choose two images that represent Australia. Compare and contrast the images and the meaning they convey. You may consider the following questions:

- Who or what is pictured?
- What actions are shown in the image?
- What emotions are conveyed in the image?
- What information about Australian life does this image portray?
- How does the angle that the photo was taken depict meaning for the viewer?

Now, find two photos that you believe represent your own community. Explain what these photos convey, just as you did with the Australian images.

Extension activity 3: Musical Interpretation (and Creation)

In the article “Australia,” find the “Images, Video, and Audio” tab. There are audio clips that convey different examples of Australian music. Listen to each musical sample and describe their similarities and differences. What moods and emotions do these songs convey to the listener? What might these songs convey about the people who wrote and listened to them? Provide specific reasons to explain your opinions. If you’re musically inclined, use one of these samples as inspiration to create your own original piece!



Teacher Page

Answers:

1. Australian Capital Territory (abbreviated on the map as A.C.T.), New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia.
2. Australia is often referred to as being “down under” because it lies entirely within the Southern Hemisphere.
3. *Australia* comes from the Latin word *australis*, which means *southern*.
4. Five stars represent the constellation known as the Southern Cross, and the large star represents the country’s states and territories.
5. People have lived in Australia for more than 65,000 years.
6. The Aboriginal people of Australia were the first inhabitants of Australia.
7. Great Britain settled Australia as a prison colony in 1788.
8. Until the mid-1900’s, the majority of Australia’s immigrants came from the United Kingdom and Ireland.
9. The outback
10. The Melbourne Cup, a horse race
11. Danish architect Jørn Utzon designed the Sydney Opera House, which was completed in 1973.
12. Geographers class it as a continent rather than as an island because of its great size.
13. Nullarbor Plain—Nullarbor means *no tree*.
14. Mount Kosciuszko, named after Polish patriot Tadeusz Kosciuszko.
15. Uluru is also known as Ayers Rock, in reference to Sir Henry Ayers, who was a premier of South Australia.
16. Australia’s biggest water conservation project is the Snowy Mountains Scheme. It increases the flow of water to the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers, which helps irrigate cropland in New South Wales and Victoria. However, it has also caused serious problems of *salinization* (accumulation of salt in the soil.)
17. The Great Barrier Reef
18. Marsupials
19. A governor general represents the British monarch in the Australian government.
20. Tasmania is named for Dutch explorer Abel Tasman.
21. Sea level rose as ice sheets melted at the end of the last ice age. Water covered the land bridge between the mainland and Flinders Island, to the north of Tasmania, just under 14,000 years ago. Tasmania became a separate island about 12,000 years ago. As Tasmania became separated from the mainland, the Aboriginal peoples of Tasmania became isolated.

22. Ned Kelly is seen as a symbol of revolt against authority and injustice.
23. Following a bushfire, the surviving plants are able to flourish due to the reduced competition for light and nutrients. The ash left after a bushfire is rich in nutrients and can make for fertile soil, helping the surviving plants repopulate the area.
24. James Cook claimed Australia for the British. He named it New South Wales.
25. The First Fleet was the name given to the first group of British settlers (convicts and guards) to arrive in Australia.
26. The Commonwealth of Australia came into being on January 1, 1901.
27. The gold rushes were followed by a period of growth from 1860 to 1890 that historians call the *long boom*.
28. The children who were taken from their homes are often called the Stolen Generations.
29. The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps was a group of soldiers during World War I. They became known for their bravery and fighting ability during a military campaign on Turkey's Gallipoli Peninsula.

Crossword puzzle answers:

Across:

2. Gough Whitlam
3. Robert Gordon Menzies
6. Harold Holt
9. Edmund Barton
10. Andrew Fisher

Down:

1. Julia Gillard
4. Kevin Rudd
5. William Morris Hughes
7. Paul Keating
8. John Howard

Extension activities 1, 2, and 3: Answers will vary.