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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](http://www.worldbookonline.com)**  
Then, click on "Kids." If prompted, log on with your ID and Password.

### 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. Australia is the only country that is also a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why is Australia often referred to as being "down under"?
3. What is Australia's capital?
4. Australia is surrounded by water, like an island. Why do geographers consider it a continent?
5. What are Australia's three land regions?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ are one of Australia's most important resources. They provide the towns and cities with drinking water, and they supply farmers with water for their crops.

7. Australia has \_\_\_\_\_ states. They are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Australia also has \_\_\_\_\_ territories.

They are \_\_\_\_\_

8. Australia is the world's biggest producer of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

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The following questions are about Australia's history. To answer these questions, you may find it helpful to navigate to the article "Australia, History of."

9. Scientists have found tools and other materials that show that the Aboriginal peoples of Australia have lived on the continent for more than \_\_\_\_\_ years.

10. Who was the first European known to see Australia?

11. Who claimed Australia for Britain?

12. What name is given to the group of British ships that brought the first British settlers to Australia?

13. The first British settlers in Australia established what kind of colony?

14. The first British colony in Australia later became the site of what major Australian city?

15. When was gold discovered in Australia?

16. The gold rushes were followed by a period of growth from 1860 to 1890 that historians call the \_\_\_\_\_.

17. As the colonies grew, the Indigenous peoples of Australia suffered greatly. What were some of the causes of this suffering?

18. When did the Commonwealth of Australia come into being?
19. After World War II, the government began a program to bring \_\_\_\_\_  
to Australia to strengthen the economy and populate the country.
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ program, together with the \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ movements, had a profound impact in shaping modern Australia.
- .....

## Hear It!

The following questions let you experience more of Australia. To answer these questions, you may find it helpful to navigate back to the “Australia” article.

Under the tab “Pictures, Videos, and More” you will find Videos and Sounds.

21. Use two adjectives to describe the sound clip from Australia’s national anthem.
22. Use two adjectives to describe the sound clip of traditional Australian Aboriginal music.
23. Use two adjectives to describe the sound clip from “Waltzing Matilda.”
- .....

## Watch It!

The Australia article provides several videos of animals native to Australia. Choose one animal video and describe what the animal is doing in the video.

24. Animal I Chose: \_\_\_\_\_
25. What is the animal doing in the video?





# Teacher page

## Answers:

1. Continent
2. Because it lies entirely within the Southern Hemisphere
3. Canberra
4. Because of its great size
5. The Eastern Highlands, the Central Lowlands, and the Western Plateau.
6. Rivers
7. Australia has 6 states. They are New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia. Australia also has two territories, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.
8. Wool and iron ore.
9. 65,000
10. Dutch sea captain Willem Jansz
11. English captain James Cook
12. The First Fleet
13. Prison colony
14. Sydney
15. 1851
16. Long boom
17. The lands of many Indigenous peoples were taken from them. Many Indigenous people died from diseases that had not existed before in Australia, from violent conflicts with settlers, and from the loss of their lands and the foods and resources those lands had provided.
18. January 1, 1901
19. Immigrants
20. The immigration program, together with the women's rights and Aboriginal rights movements, had a profound impact in shaping modern Australia.
- 21-23. Answers will vary
24. Students can choose to view a koala, cockatoo, dingo, emu, lyrebird, or Tasmanian devil
25. The koala is climbing a tree. The cockatoo is looking at its surroundings. The dingo is looking around and pacing. The emu is walking with its young. The lyrebird is shaking its feathers in an attempt to attract a mate. The Tasmanian devil is walking among rocks.