

SS6G12 The student will be able to locate selected features of Australia.

a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea, Ayers Rock, and Great Victoria Desert.

- Australia is the world's smallest and flattest continent.
- It has some of Earth's oldest and least fertile soils.
- Only Antarctica receives less rainfall than some parts of Australia!
- It's surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- The Commonwealth of Australia also includes Tasmania, an island south of the mainland.
- Huge desert plains stretch across the country's middle.
 - Central Australia's climate is hot and dry.
 - There are milder climates along the southeastern and southwestern coasts.
 - Most Australians live in the southeastern coastal region.

The Coral Sea

- It's off the northeast coast of Australia, part of the Pacific Ocean.
- When the earth's crust moved millions of years ago, it created the Coral Sea and the Great Dividing Range (largest mountain range in Australia).
- Coral Sea islands are scattered over thousands of miles of ocean.
 - No one lives on the islands except for a small group of weather specialists.

The Great Barrier Reef

- This is the world's largest coral reef.
 - It's over 1,200 miles long!
- It lies off the northeast coast of Queensland, in the Coral Sea.
- It contains an amazing variety of marine life, including the world's largest collection of coral.
 - 400 types of coral, 1,500 species of fish, & 4,000 mollusks (snails, clams, octopi, & squid) are found here.
 - It's also home to rare species like the sea cow and the large green turtle.

Ayers Rock

- A huge, reddish rock in the center of Australia.
 - It's located very close to the geographic center of the continent.
 - It's a monolith, which is a single, large rock sticking out of the earth.
- It appears reddish because its iron content "rusts" at the surface.
- It's nearly 12 stories high and almost 6 miles wide!
- Aborigines call it "Uluru", which is its official name.
- A European surveyor visited the rock in 1873 and named it after Sir Henry Ayers, an English government official in South Australia.
- In 1950, Australia created Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park around Ayers Rock.
 - It is located in the southwest corner of the state called Northern Territory.

The Great Victoria Desert

- The first Europeans to cross the desert named it after British Queen Victoria in 1875.
- It's 160,000 miles long, and is a protected wilderness area.
- Very few Australians live here because it's too hot and dry.
- The desert stretches through the states of South Australia and Western Australia.
- It receives only 8 to 10 inches of rain each year, and it never snows!
- There are some grasslands in the desert along with the sand hills.

SS6G13 The student will explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Australia.

a. Describe how Australia's location, climate, and natural resources have affected where people live.

b. Describe how Australia's location, climate, and natural resources impact trade.

Location

- Australia is both a continent & a country.
- It lies about 2,000 miles southeast of Asia.
- It's surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on the east and the Indian Ocean on the west.
- It's in the southern hemisphere.
 - Literally the "land down under"!

Climate

- The climate varies across the continent.
- Australia is south of the equator, so it's climate is opposite that of North America.
 - Summer: December through March
 - Winter: June through September
- The northern part of Australia is closest to the equator.
- It has a tropical climate and is warm-to-hot all year round.
 - It gets more rain than any other part of the country.
 - Winter: wet and cool
 - Summer: hot and dry
- Central Australia is mostly desert.
 - This is the largest part of Australia.
- Very little rain falls here.
 - Most of this area gets less than 10 inches of rain per year!
- Only the southeast and southwest corners along the coasts have a temperate climate.
 - Summers aren't too hot & winters aren't too cold.
 - The climate in these regions is the one that most Australians prefer.
 - Most Australians live along southeastern coast.

Tourism

- Tourists from the northern hemisphere visit Australia's warm beaches when it's winter in their country.
- Tourists usually wait until spring or fall to visit the rural areas and the outback.
 - It's not too hot then.

Natural Resources

- Outback refers to the dry interior of Australia.
 - It's mainly open countryside, including vast expanses of grazing land.
 - There are only a few widely scattered settlements in the Outback.
 - Many of them grew up around mining operations.
- Across much of Australia, the ground is barren & not ideal for farming (outback).
 - Many minerals are found here: gold, silver, uranium, coal, copper, & iron ore
 - Australia has exported nearly \$400 billion worth of metals, minerals, & fuels in the past 20 years.
 - Natural resources account for 1/3 of the country's economy!
- Australia exports more coal & iron ore than any other country.
- It leads the world in mining bauxite, titanium, & diamonds.
- No other country has more reserves of lead, cadmium, or nickel.
- Natural resources have always been important to Australian trade.
- In the mid-1800s, Australia had a gold rush in the southern region.
 - Thousands of immigrants moved to Australia to find gold.
 - Many came from England, Ireland, Germany, & China.
- In the non-desert regions, Australians grow many grains.
 - Grains are grown in inland regions of the coastal states (not too hot/dry here).
 - Grains include a wide range of different crops:
 - Wheat, barley, sorghum, rye, rice, chickpeas, lentils, & oilseeds

Where People Live

- The coastal areas are the most populated.
 - Most people live along the east coast.
- The most populated city is Sydney, in New South Wales.
- Another populated city is Brisbane, Queensland.
- Nearly 80% of Australians live in urban areas.
 - Australia is one of the world's most urbanized countries.
 - 70% of all Australians live in cities of more than 100,000 people.
 - Sydney has 3.5 million people.
 - Melbourne has about 3 million people.

Trade

- Australia's top trading partners for exports are: China (29.5%), Japan (19.3%), South Korea (8%), & India (4.9%).
- Australia's top trading partners for imports are: China (18.2%), US (11.6%), Japan (7.8%), Singapore (5.9%), Germany (4.6%), Thailand (4.2%), & South Korea (4%).
- Australia exports tons of natural resources to China.
 - 50% of iron ore exports go to China.
 - In return, China provides Australia with affordable finished goods (cars, kitchen appliances, etc.).
- Foreign tourists create only 1/4 of Australia's \$81 billion tourist industry.
 - Australia's location makes it expensive for people to visit from other countries.
- Australians do the majority of tourism within their own country.
 - Its remote location in the Southern Hemisphere makes it expensive for Australians to leave & visit other countries.

SS6G14 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of people who live in Australia.

- a. Explain the impact of English colonization on the language and religion of Australia.
- b. Evaluate how the literacy rate affects the standard of living.

Language

- Australians and the British share many characteristics
- Many Australians are descendants of English explorers, missionaries, and prisoners
- The majority of Australians are descendants of English settlers
- Like the British, Australians speak English
- Australian English is similar to that spoken in Great Britain
- It has its own unique accent and vocabulary
 - Australians call themselves "Aussies"
 - Call swimsuits "cozzies"
 - Call a young woman a "sheila"

Religion

- The religions also reflect Australia's British heritage
- The majority claim to be Christians
- Almost half belong to the Catholic or Anglican faiths
- Religious origins date back to the 1600s
- England sent Roman Catholic prisoners from Ireland to Australia
- They established their Catholicism

- English settlers and missionaries brought their Anglican faith and teaching from the Church of England

Literacy Rate & Standard of Living

- The ability to read and write is called *literacy*
- When a country has a high literacy rate, they also have a high standard of living
- Educated citizens are more productive and will help a country's economy grow!
- In Australia, 99% of men and women can read and write
- Australia has very good schools
- The government provides elementary, middle, and high school for all students
- They also have a growing university system and technical training institutes
- The more educated a society is, the better life will be
- It all starts with school!