



Dear Educator,

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The “Australia” unit offers 16 pages.

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Australia



Australia

COUNTRIES



Australia is also a country. It is the sixth largest country in the world. It is the only continent that is not divided into more than one country. Canberra is the federal capital of Australia.

The states and territories of Australia include: South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory. There are six islands that are external territories.

TOPOGRAPHY

Australia is the flattest and driest continent in the world. It ranges in elevation from 39 feet below sea level at Lake Eyre to 7,316 feet above sea level at Mt. Kosciuszko. Two-thirds of Australia is desert or semi arid.

The main mountain system is along the entire eastern coast. It is called the Great Dividing Range. The mountains have rounded peaks. The highest peak is Mt. Kosciuszko at the New South Wales-Victoria border.

The Central Basin lies to the west of the mountains. It is a lowland region. The Great Australian Plateau lies to the west of the Central Basin. It is a very dry region with rolling hills and mountains.



Read each sentence below. Fill in the missing word.

1. There are _____ islands that are external territories.
2. Australia is the flattest and _____ continent in the world.
3. The _____ lies to the west of the mountains.
4. The main mountain system is along the entire _____ coast.

Australia

WATERWAYS

The main river in Australia is the Murray River and its tributaries, the Darling, and the Murrumbidgee rivers. It flows west from the mountains in the east to southern Australia.



Many of the rivers and lakes have water in them during the rainy season, but dry up for the rest of the year. Most of the lakes are shallow. The rivers in the west flow west into the ocean. The rivers in the east flow east into the ocean.

Artesian wells are wells that spout or flow to the surface under their own pressure. They are very important in Australia. When wells are drilled, water comes to the surface. Artesian wells provide water for stock and cattle in many areas of Australia.

POPULATION



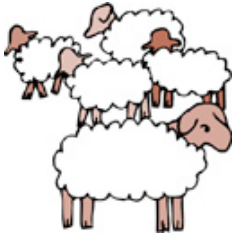
Australia's population was nineteen million five hundred thousand at the beginning of 2002. It is one of the least populated continents in the world. Towns in the country are usually small. Most of the people live in or near the capital cities.

Look up the words in the dictionary. Write the definitions on the lines below.

1. tributaries _____

2. continent _____

Australia



CRISS CROSS

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

kangaroo
reef

nomadic
wheat

farmers
sheep

desert
mutton

