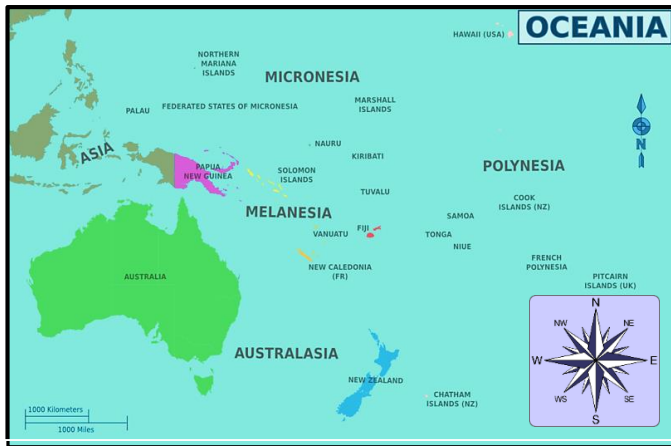


Australia / Oceania



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Oceania.png by Cacahuete

Climate



Australasia has a varied climate from temperate conditions in the north of the continent to the more temperate climes of New Zealand. The northern areas of Australasia lying between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn experience a predominantly tropical climate. In New Zealand, however, the climate ranges from subtropical in the north to temperate in the south, with snowfall in the higher regions of the southern island. The Pacific Ocean islands have mainly a tropical climate, so it is warm and humid all year round. Australia is well-known for its enormous expanse of outback and desert-like conditions where temperatures can soar above 40°C in the day and as cold as -2°C at night.

Longest Rivers



-  Murray (Australia) – 2508km
-  Murrumbidgee (Australia) – 1485km
-  Darling (Australia) – 1472km

Largest Populations



Australia
(25 million people)

Papua New Guinea
(8.6 million people)

New Zealand
(4.8 million people)

Tallest Mountains



Mount Wilhelm (Papua New Guinea) 4509m
Mount Giluwe 4367m
Mount Kubor 4359m

Physical Features

The Great Barrier Reef



Located in the Coral Sea, off the north-eastern coast of Australia, sits the world's largest coral reef system, composed of 2900 individual reefs and 900 islands. It stretches for over 2300km. Global warming is having a devastating effect on the coral, with over half disappearing since 1985.

Uluru (Ayres Rock)



Ayres Rock is an enormous sandstone rock located in the northern territory of Australia. Uluru is sacred to the Pitjantjatjara Anangu, the Aboriginal people of the area. It is estimated to be around 600 million years old.

The Outback



Often called 'the bush', the Australian Outback is a vast, interior area of dry land with a very low human population due to high temperatures. Indigenous Australians have lived here for over 50,000 years.

Polynesia



Polynesia is made up of over 1000 separate islands scattered over the Pacific Ocean. The largest country in Polynesia is New Zealand. The settler's ancestors originally came from south-east Asia 30,000 years ago.

Human Features

Indigenous Peoples



Long before European settlers arrived in Oceania, they inhabited all of the land and were native to the islands. Many have struggled to adapt to the modern way of life and were victim to disease and loss of hunting land by the European settlers.

Sydney Harbour

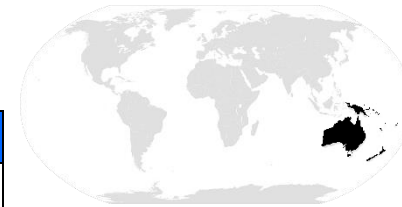


The famous Opera House and Harbour Bridge are iconic landmarks of Australia. The steel bridge was built in 1923 and connects the commercial and residential parts of Sydney. The Opera House was built in 1959.

Sports and Recreation



Australia and New Zealand are famed for their sporting accomplishments considering the size of their populations, particularly in rugby, cricket and football (soccer). A strong rivalry exists between the two nations.



Fact Box

It is the smallest continent in the world covering 8.6 million km² and is the second least-populated continent (after Antarctica) with around 40 million

Key Vocabulary

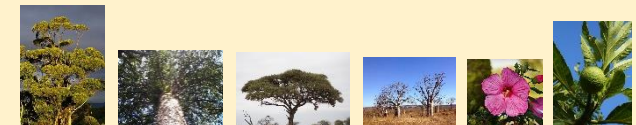
archipelago	a stretch of sea having many islands
assimilation	integration of people into a wider society and thus losing their original sense of culture/identity
atoll	a ring-shaped reef or islands formed of coral
cash crops	sweet potato, sugar cane, coffee, rubber and copra (dried coconut meat) sold for profits
colonisation	Portuguese navigators reached the islands in 1512
Equator	imaginary line across the earth separating the north and south hemispheres
lagoon	shallow body of water separated from a larger body of water by barrier islands or reefs
Maori	indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand
nuclear tests	Due to sparse populations, nuclear testing has occurred here. In 1952 the fallout from one such test meant inhabitants from the Rongelap Atoll had to be evacuated.
Stolen Generation	Children of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent were removed from their families by the Australian Federal and State government agencies to aid assimilation between 1905 and 1967. An apology was given by Kevin Rudd (the Australian PM) in 2008 but much of the hardship and problems it caused remain.

Fauna (animals)



Examples: kangaroos, koalas, platypus, crocodiles, Tasmanian devils and koala bears (also – dingoes, emus, Kiwis and kookaburras).

Flora (plants)



eucalyptus kauri acacia baobab hibiscus breadfruit



AUSTRALIA / OCEANIA



Mini-Quiz #1

Name: _____

Date: _____

1) How much coral from the Great Barrier Reef has disappeared since 1985?

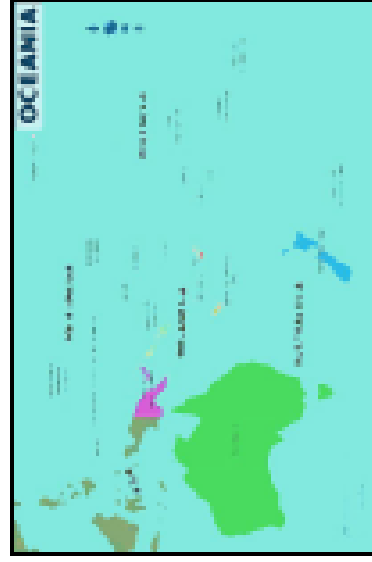
- a) 25%
- b) 50%
- c) 75%

2) What is the name of the giant sandstone rock in the northern territory of Australia?

- a) Anangu
- b) Uluru
- c) Kauri

3) What is the name of the longest river in Australia?

- a) Murray
- b) Darling
- c) Murrumbidgee



4) What is the largest country in Polynesia?

- a) Papua New Guinea
- b) Australia
- c) New Zealand

5) Which country is an island in Oceania?

- a) Philippines
- b) Madagascar
- c) Fiji

6) What is the 'Outback' often known as?

- a) the bush
- b) the hedge
- c) the shrub

7) When was the Harbour Bridge built?

- a) 1983
- b) 1923
- c) 1839

8) Which animal is native to Oceania?

- a) Tasmanian Devil
- b) Giant Panda
- c) reindeer

9) Where are the tallest mountains in Oceania?

- a) Australia
- b) New Zealand
- c) Papua New Guinea

10) How cold can the outback get at night?

- a) -2°C
- b) -20°C
- c) -40°C

Total Score

___ out of 10





77 (MORE) Simple STEM Activities for Families

- Create a treasure hunt with a map & clues.
- Learn to identify trees by their leaves.
- Read a book with a STEM theme.
- Make the alphabet from sticks or other natural items.
- Make your name or words out of recycled materials.
- Interview a relative using storycorps.org
- Take your bike apart and put it back together!
- Make something from old puzzle pieces.
- Watch Hidden Figures
- Make a LEGO maze
- Test objects in your house to see if they float or sink.
- Write instructions to make a sandwich & let someone follow them exactly.
- Use the cards A-10 & play War, but see who can add, subtract, or multiply fastest.
- Play Battleship
- Build a paper airplane launcher
- Build a fort using couch cushions & blankets
- Plant some flowers
- Make something useful from duct tape
- Invent something to solve a problem in your home
- Make "rubber stamps" out of cardboard & pasta
- Learn to solve a Rubik's Cube
- Write your own book, including drawings & cover
- Rearrange furniture in a room to improve function & movement in the room
- Track & graph your high score in a game
- Make ice cubes from various liquids & see how long each takes to freeze

- Make dinner for your family
- Determine how much waste there is from cooking a meal
- Invent your own musical instrument
- Try making gears using the website gearsket.ch
- Create a secret code using a shift or "Caesar" cipher
- Pick a word & see how many other words you can make from the letters
- Measure & graph temperature or rain totals
- Draw your own comic book
- Make a time capsule to open in 10 years
- Make artwork using shaving cream, food coloring, & a toothpick
- Plant a butterfly garden
- Invent a toy for your pet
- Watch Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
- Freeze a small toy or coin in water & make a time-lapse video of it melting
- Put different amounts of water in glass containers & tap gently to make music
- Make paper airplanes using foldnfly.com
- Try sprouting a carrot top, dried bean, or fruit seed
- Put some dirty pennies in vinegar
- Put celery or flowers in water that contains food coloring
- Learn bird calls
- Build the tallest tower with 1 piece of paper & tape
- Turn an old book into a secret hiding place
- Learn to cook a new recipe or invent your own
- Observe the moon each night & take pictures to make a time-lapse video

- Measure things with a tape measure
- Build a model city with items in your house
- Make a bird feeder using a pinecone, suet, & birdseed
- Count how many & what type of birds come to your birdfeeder
- Make a mini-golf course
- Read a book & make a "book trailer"
- Paint rocks with encouraging words
- Weave a bracelet
- Learn about a STEM career
- Write a story, act it out with your family, & record it
- Make a sundial
- Invent a board game using bottle caps or other small items as pieces
- Draw something with isometric dot paper
- Make a slow-motion video of something in nature
- Learn to fold cloth napkins
- Make bread using yeast
- Draw 20 circles & turn each into something (pizza, planets, wheels, etc)
- Build something using toothpicks or straws
- Practice coding using Scratch or code.org
- Learn to crochet or knit
- Make your own tangrams
- Learn how cellphones work
- Draw a detailed map of a room in your home
- Learn to sew
- Make something from an empty toothpaste tube
- Look at the clouds
- Learn about the history of technology in your area
- Make cardboard automata (movable sculpture)

Chris Woods @dailySTEM
dailystem.com/resources

