World Geography

This chapter requires a companion activity book in which students respond to questions on text content. A quiz follows every fifth lesson. Answers are found in the *Teacher's Resource Kit.*



Chapter 6

WGO76350

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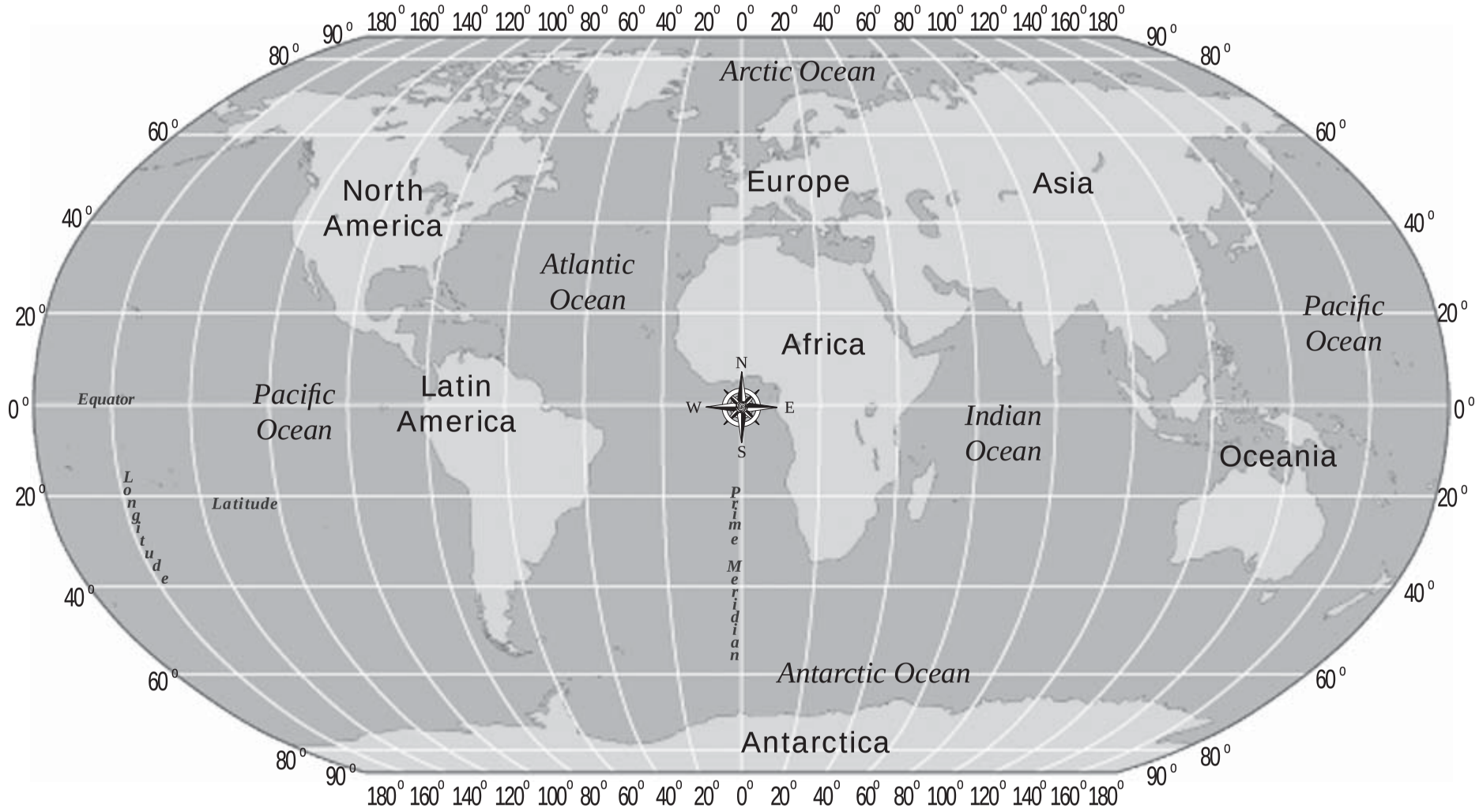


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MAP A

The World

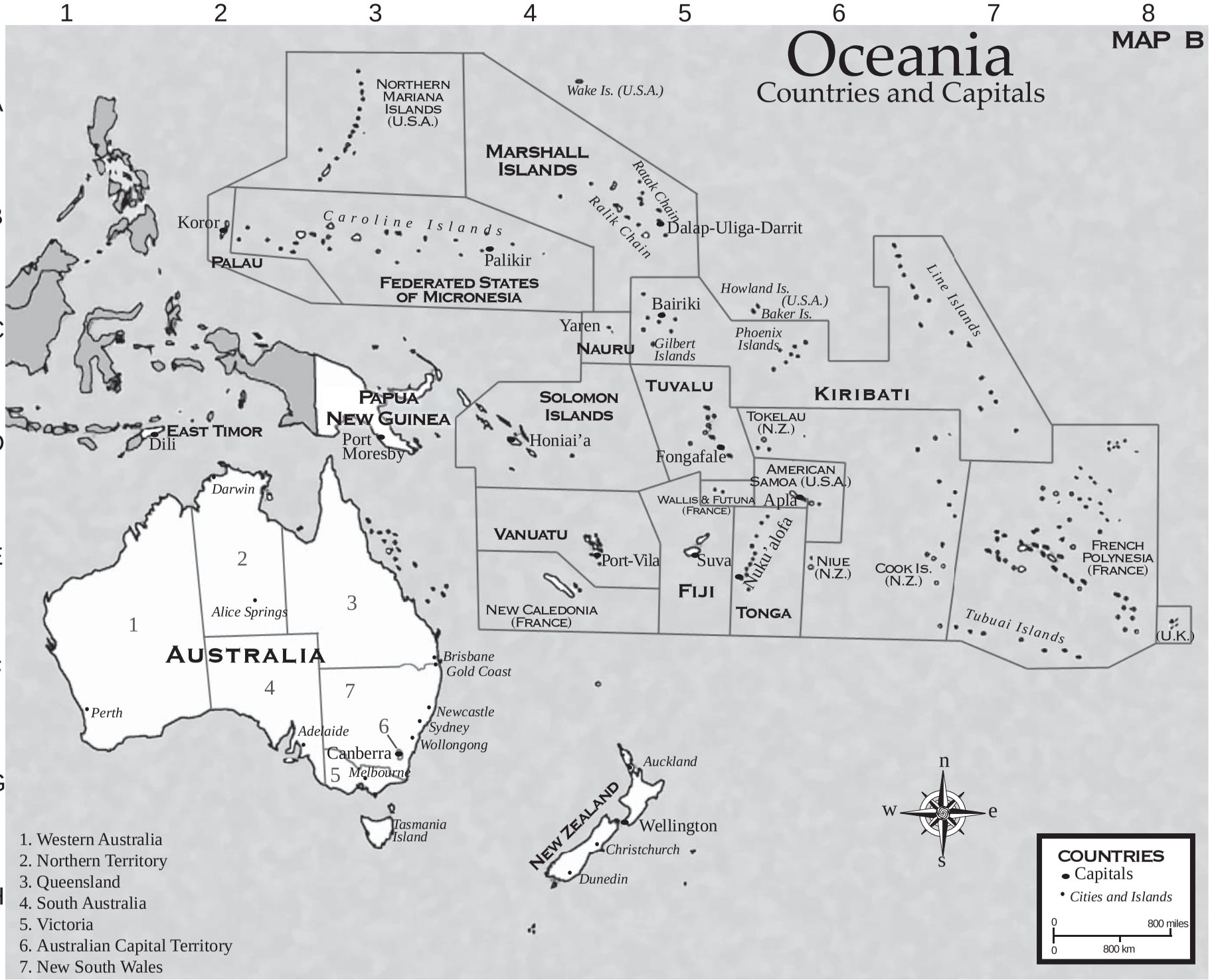


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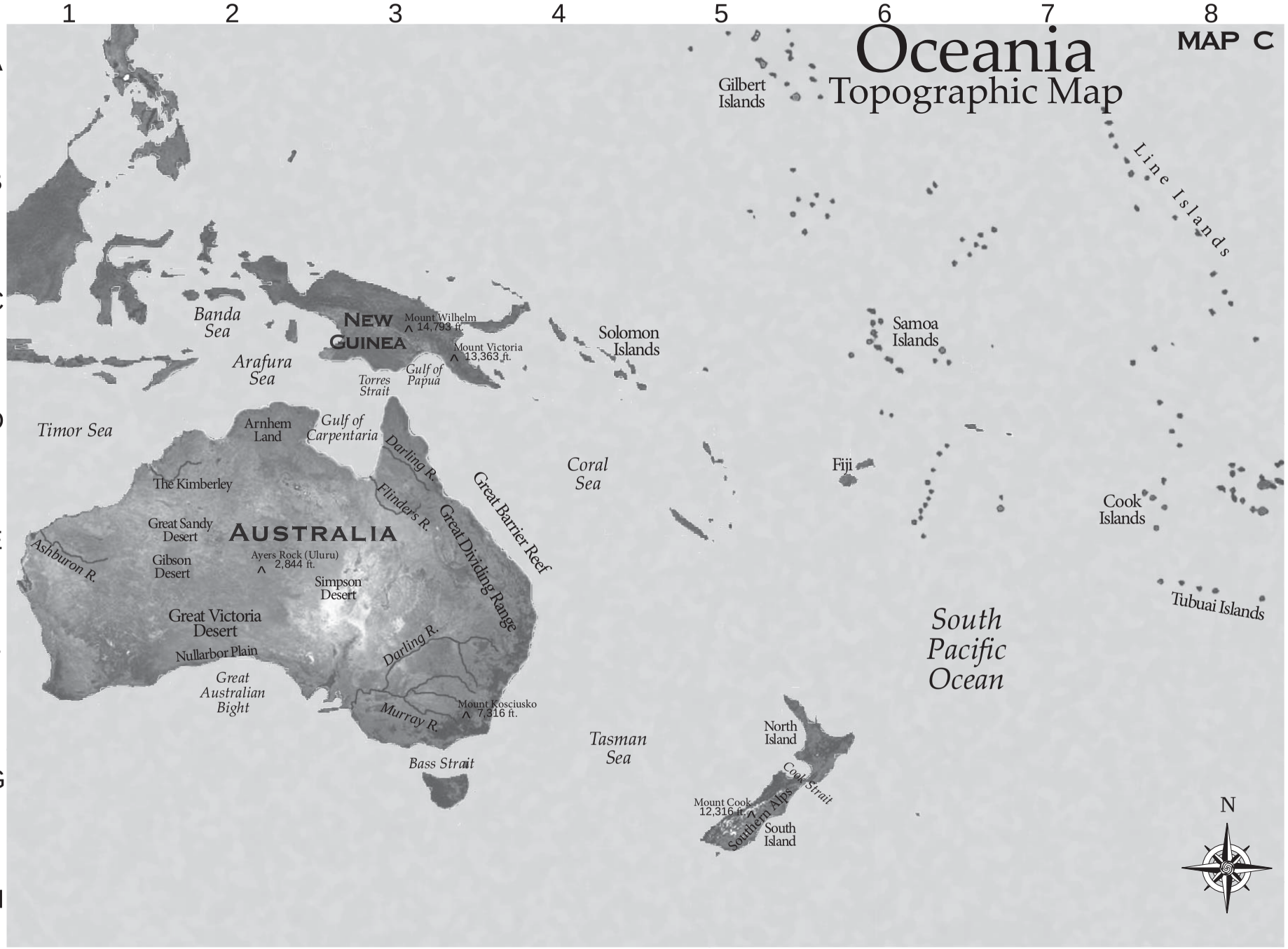
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Largest Metropolitan Areas

Oceania



World Rank	Rank	Central City	Country	Population	Outlying Areas / Suburbs
76	1	Sydney	Australia	4,475,000	
=88	2	Melbourne	Australia	4,000,000	
=207	3	Brisbane	Australia	2,025,000	
=278	4	Perth	Australia	1,660,000	
=351	5	Auckland	New Zealand	1,340,000	
=398	6	Adelaide	Australia	1,190,000	
	7	Gold Coast	Australia	560,000	Tweed
	8	Newcastle	Australia	530,000	
	9	Canberra	Australia	395,000	
	10	Christchurch	New Zealand	385,000	
	11	Wellington	New Zealand	380,000	
	12	Wollongong	Australia	285,000	
	13	Port Moresby	Papua New Guinea	255,000	
	14	Sunshine Coast	Australia	240,000	
	15	Hobart	Australia	210,000	
	16	Hamilton	New Zealand	195,000	
	17	Suva	Fiji	175,000	
	18	Geelong	Australia	170,000	
	19	Townsville	Australia	165,000	
	20	Cairns	Australia	140,000	
	21	Toowoomba	Australia	125,000	
	=22	Napier	New Zealand	120,000	
	=22	Darwin	Australia	120,000	
	=24	Tauranga	New Zealand	115,000	
	=24	Dunedin	New Zealand	115,000	

All information from http://www.citypopulation.de and accurate as of December 31, 2009.

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World Geography

Chapter 6

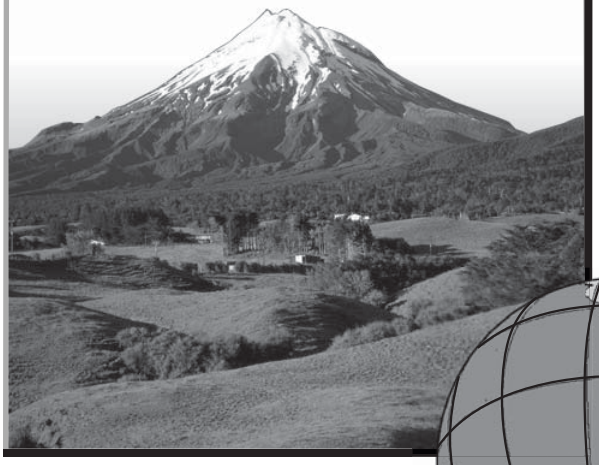


Lesson 1
Borders and Boundaries

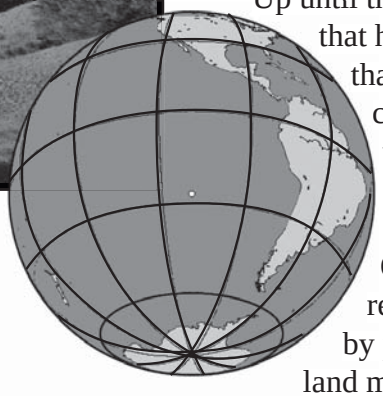
Section 1
Lessons 1-5



Borders and Boundaries of Oceania



In Chapter 2, we learned about the region called Latin America, and how the term does not describe a continent, but a geographical and cultural zone. While Latin America coincides with the continent of South America, it also generally encompasses Central America (and traditionally Mexico and the Caribbean, although this text includes those areas in North America).



Up until this point, that is the only chapter that has dealt with a region rather than strictly with a continent. This chapter is the other exception: we will be discussing Oceania, a term given to a variety of islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Oceania is the smallest of all the regions, both geographically and by population; culturally, the many land masses that comprise it are quite similar as well. Nonetheless, there exists a wealth of interest, heritage, and diversity in every sense imaginable in this isolated area, and so this is, perhaps, among the most exciting of all the chapters.

Additionally, Oceania is perhaps the hardest region to define concretely, more so than Latin America or Europe. The most accepted definition admits the continent of Australia, the islands of New Zealand and New Guinea, and a wide smattering of adjacent and proximate islands, including Fiji, New Caledonia, and the Solomon Islands. Farther out, Oceania often includes Samoa and the Mariana Islands, the largest of which is Guam, which holds several U.S. military bases. Hawaii is typically considered part of Oceania geographically, despite its being a U.S. state. But

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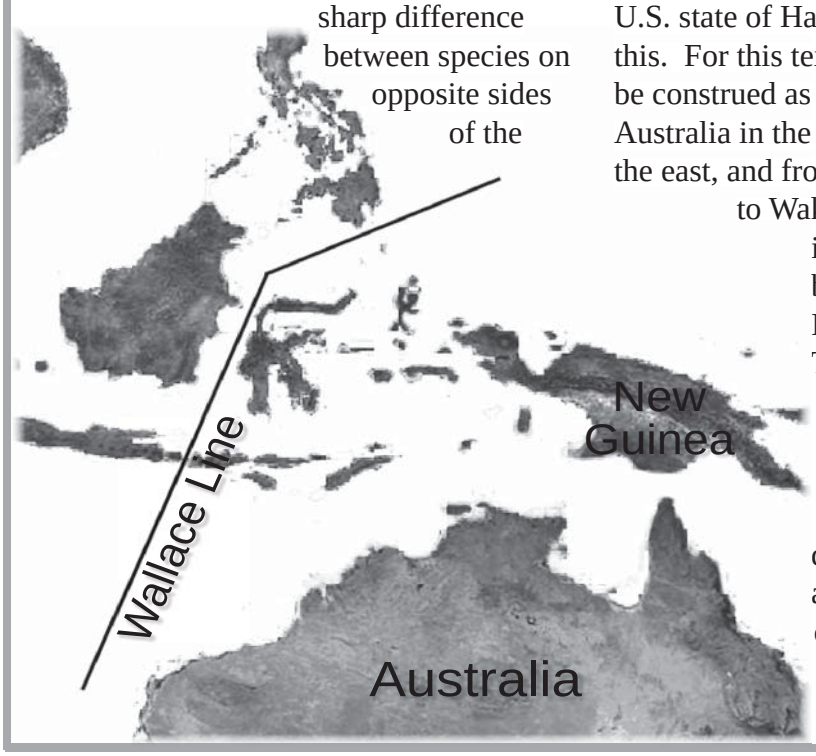
Zoological: pertaining to the study of animals and their classification and properties
Uninhabited: unoccupied
Trajectory: path; direction
Culminate: to climax; to peak

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these boundaries pose some problems. The island of New Guinea is split vertically into two independent states, Papua New Guinea in the east and Indonesia in the west. While Papua New Guinea is definitely Oceaniac, most of the Indonesian archipelago lies in Asia, so placing the New Guinean portion in Oceania does not make much sense. The fate of East Timor is similarly uncertain. Just 400 miles from Australia, the small nation is both a geographical and cultural candidate for admittance into Oceania. Yet because it shares an island with an Indonesian province, it is often lumped in with Southeast Asia. Geographers sometimes refer to the Wallace Line as the boundary between Asia and Oceania, a ***zoological*** boundary that separates species of the two regions. The line was discovered in the 19th century by a British biologist, who observed the sharp difference between species on opposite sides of the line. Many animals, including both marine species and birds, refuse to cross the narrow water strait, which measures just 22 miles in width. But acknowledging the Wallace Line would separate some Indonesian islands from Asia, including Indonesia's half of New Guinea, which comprises a large chunk of its area.



Other objections are less consequential, but still warrant consideration. A few countries have territories that geographically lie in Oceania but are typically grouped with their parent country when being discussed. An example is Chile's Easter Island, which is located in wide open Pacific waters 2,000 miles from Chile. Similarly, Japan has an ***uninhabited*** island, Marcus Island, that lies nearly 800 miles from the main islands and is consequently considered Oceaniac. The U.S. state of Hawaii is another example of this. For this text, however, Oceania will be construed as most of the islands from Australia in the west to French Polynesia in the east, and from New Zealand in the south to Wake Island in the north. It will include Papua New Guinea, but will exclude all of Indonesia; will include East Timor, the Mariana Islands, Palau, and Easter Island; and will exclude Hawaii, Marcus Island, and all land outside the boundaries described above. Ultimately, as is so often the case, choosing which countries belong under which label is often a cultural decision



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rather than a geographic one, and Oceania is no exception.

Within Oceania are several subregions into which geographers have grouped the islands. Australasia is generally understood to be Australia and New Zealand. Melanesia lies directly north and east, and includes Papua New Guinea and the islands southeast, all the way to Fiji. Often, Melanesia includes the western half of New Guinea and the islands east of the Wallace Line, but in this text, they will be excluded. Above Melanesia, Micronesia stretches to Wake Island and notably includes the Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Kiribati. Finally, Polynesia is sometimes perceived as a triangle, with points at New Zealand, Easter Island, and Hawaii. Its most significant included island groups are the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Samoa. Because this chapter will not cover Hawaii, and because New Zealand is large enough to be referred to by name, Polynesia will generally designate the smaller islands within this triangle. Most of these terms are accepted labels for the different areas of Oceania; the least common is probably Australasia. They provide important insights into similarities and contrasts between cultures, plants and wildlife, and other aspects of the region.


New Zealand

As defined here, Oceania—which logically derives its name from the ocean across which it is scattered—has around 36 million people spread over about 3.27 million square miles of land. Australia accounts for the vast majority of land area—about 2.94 million square miles—and most of the population, which numbers about 22 million. Most of the rest is comprised of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, the second and third largest Oceaniac countries. These three countries account for 92% of Oceania's population and 98% of its land area. Australia is both the smallest and least populous continent in the world, earning the nickname the "island continent." It is also the only country that is a continent in its own right. In addition, Fiji adds another 850,000 people, and East Timor (also called Timor-Leste) has slightly more than a million. Around 180,000 people live in Samoa, and the Mariana Islands contribute around 70,000, most of whom live on Guam. All told, there are thousands of islands in Oceania, but many are sparsely inhabited or not inhabited at all.

Oceania covers a vast area, but most of it is water. The southernmost point, at Slope Point, New Zealand, is located at 46°40'S, while the northernmost point is Wake Island at 19°20'N. Steep Point in Australia is the westernmost point, located at 113°10'E, and Easter Island is the easternmost at 109°15'W. As such, Oceania is located in all four hemispheres. Because it is a region and not a continent, however, it does not join Africa and Asia on the list of continents touching all four. The only continent in Oceania, Australia, is located exclusively in the Southern and Eastern Hemispheres.

Australia is located between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In the west, the Indian Ocean washes on its shores, and the coastline follows an irregular ***trajectory*** from about 34° to 12°S. Numerous bays

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and natural harbors exist, such as those at Derby and Wyndham, and the West Australian coast is home to most of the population on that side of the country. The north central coastline borders on the Arafura Sea, and moving northeast the Gulf of Carpentaria carves a deep swath out of the continent. The coastline turns back northward and heads almost due north before ***culminating*** at Cape York, then dives south again and touches the Coral Sea, site of a major naval battle in which U.S. ships defeated Japanese aircraft carriers and destroyers during World War II, marking a turning point in the war. The city of Brisbane is located nearly at the easternmost point of Australia, and south of this point the coast turns very slightly southwest. In the south, the coast wraps around to the west and then northwest, where it follows a broken path up to Port Augusta before heading west and southwest again. South of the state of Victoria lies the island of Tasmania, separated by Bass Strait. The island is about 25,000 square miles in area, making it one of the world's larger islands.



New Zealand is comprised of two islands, usually simply called the North and South Islands. The North Island is actually northeast of the South Island and is the smaller of the two, measuring about 49,000 square miles to the South Islands' 58,000. The Cook Strait separates the two, which are bordered by the Pacific Ocean in the east and the Tasman Sea in the west. Papua New Guinea somewhat mirrors the Indonesian side of New Guinea. Surrounded by a number of different seas, the island is wide in the middle and tapers off to a peninsula in the east, which stretches several hundred miles into the water. Most of the assorted islands throughout Oceania are in the Pacific. Some of them are among the most isolated places on Earth. East Timor and Papua New Guinea are the only countries to share a land border with another country.

Life Principle

No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character.

John, Viscount Morley of Blackburn
(1838-1923), 19th century British statesman and social critic

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World Geography

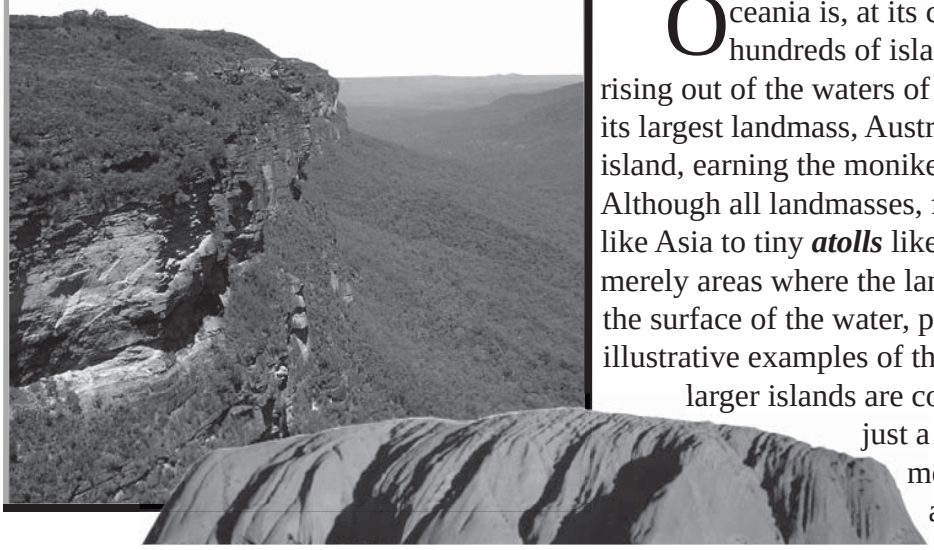
Chapter 6



Lesson 2
Terrain



Section 1
Lessons 1-5



Oceania is, at its core, comprised of hundreds of islands and island chains rising out of the waters of the South Pacific. Even its largest landmass, Australia, is decidedly an island, earning the moniker the "island continent." Although all landmasses, from huge continents like Asia to tiny ***atolls*** like Wake Island, are merely areas where the land's elevation breaks the surface of the water, proper islands are more illustrative examples of this. Though many larger islands are composed of more than just a single mountain or mountain chain, most are still distinctively recognizable as islands, and Oceaniac territory is no exception. To chart the terrain of Oceania, then, is to chart the terrain of an array of islands strewn throughout vast distances of ocean. Except for Australia, most of the islands are built entirely on the slopes of mountain valleys, which breed a familiar pattern of high elevations in the interior and gradual slopes down to the exterior coastlines. But there is probably no place on Earth quite as naturally beautiful as Oceania. After all, it is not large monuments or impressive skyscrapers that draw tourists to the region, but rather the sun-drenched beaches of Tahiti, the glistening harbor of Sydney, and the staggering mountains of New Zealand. Perform a simple Google search for "Oceania," and you're in for a breathtaking photo tour of paradise. Oceania is every city dweller's dream retirement destination, where one can sit contentedly and watch the surf while sipping a fruit drink, as waves lap the sand and palm trees sway gently in the breeze.

When Peter Jackson's inaugural installment of the

VOCABULARY

Atoll: island consisting of a circular coral reef surrounding a lagoon
Monolith: single, free-standing mountain of rock or stone, typically rising from much lower land surrounding it
Iconic: symbolic image
Aquifer: underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock or unconsolidated materials from which groundwater can be extracted
Quagmire: a soft, wet area of low land that sinks underfoot

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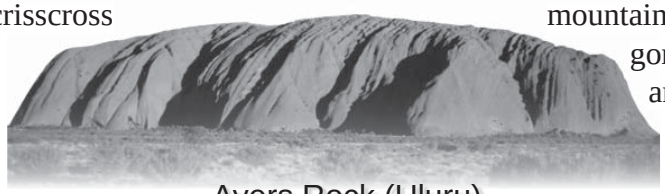
Lord of the Rings trilogy debuted in late 2001, it did more than just bring an epic adventure to cinematic life. Part of the reason the films were lauded so highly is for the stunning visuals and cinematography. Jackson introduced Western audiences to the grandeur of New Zealand, which, with its dazzling mountains and lush green plains, did a fine job standing in for Middle-Earth. Moviegoers understood why the actors and several thousand extras were flown halfway around the world: because the geography of New Zealand seemed so natural and unspoiled. Much of Oceania actually mirrors majestic New Zealand, even the large deserts of Australia. In a region with so comparatively little land area, Oceania offers all the topographic regions anyone could desire.



The Kimberley

Australia is obviously the most significant landmass in Oceania, and it has several topographical zones. Most of the country is desert, particularly in the west, where lies the Western Plateau. Much of the land is indeed plateau—moderately high, open, and flat—but a number of mountain ranges crisscross the continent. In the extreme west is the Hamersley Range, which is relatively short and low, although it is the highest range in Western Australia. The entire range spans about 280 miles, the highest point of which is Mount Meharry, 4,098 feet above sea level. Outside these rugged hills, the average elevation is moderate in this part of the country, between 500 and 1,500 feet. As a whole, Australia's average elevation is the lowest of any continent—just about 1,100 feet—and the Western Plateau is responsible for raising the average that high. North of the Hamersleys, the Great Sandy Desert covers about 140,000 square miles, bringing a low-lying area several hundred miles inland from the coast. Across that desert lies the Kimberley, a hot and seasonally wet region dominated by several mountain regions. Among these are the Napier Range, King Leopold Range, and other relatively low neighboring ranges. The Kimberley region is one of the most pristine and unspoiled areas in all of Australia. In the north central part of Australia, between the Timor Sea and the Gulf of Carpentaria, lies Arnhem Land.

In the dead center of Australia are the MacDonnell Ranges. These desert mountains are surrounded by dry plateaus on all sides and are rugged and low. The highest peak, Mount Zeil, measures only 5,023 feet high, and most of the mountains are irregular and craggy, resembling large rocky shelves more than typical conical mountains. Canyons and gorges abound in this area, and dry-climate trees and low scrub live here. Perhaps the most striking feature of this area is not the mountains, but a large ***monolith*** called Ayers Rock (Uluru in the region's indigenous language). Rising 1,000 feet from the surrounding plateau, the reddish island mountain is a spectacular sight, with caves, natural springs, and ancient drawings on the rock and nearby formations. Next to Sydney Harbor, Ayers



Ayers Rock (Uluru)

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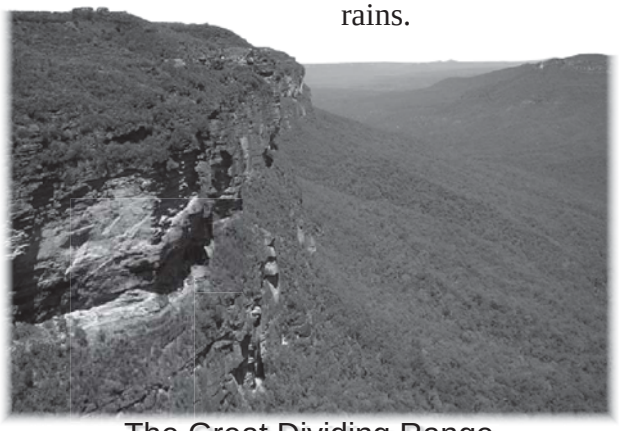
Rock is the most ***iconic*** symbol of Australia.

West of the MacDonnell Ranges lies the Great Artesian Basin, which is the largest artesian basin on Earth. The 660,000-square mile tableland lies atop a giant ***aquifer***, which is Australia's main source of fresh water. Elevations here are the lowest on the continent, dipping to 49 feet below sea level at Lake Eyre, which is rarely filled. Along with most of Australia, the Great Artesian Basin is a dry region, so Lake Eyre is typically almost dry. Every few years, a heavy monsoon season will bring rainfall and runoff as far south as Lake Eyre, dumping large amounts of water onto the saltpans at the lake bottom. Most of the entire basin is under a few hundred feet in elevation, significantly lower than the surrounding lands.

Australia's largest mountain range is the Great Dividing Range, located along the country's eastern coast. It is the fourth-longest mountain range in the world, running more than 2,000 miles from Cape York in the north to beyond Melbourne in the south. The highest peaks are in the south, crowned by Mount Kosciuszko at 7,310 feet. The range is 150 miles in width in places and leaves a very narrow plain on their eastern side, between the slopes and the ocean. Interestingly, most of Australia's population is located along this strip of land, including the three largest cities—Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane—and the capital Canberra. Australia's continental divide is located along the mountains of the Great Dividing Range.


Mount Wilhelm
14,793 feet

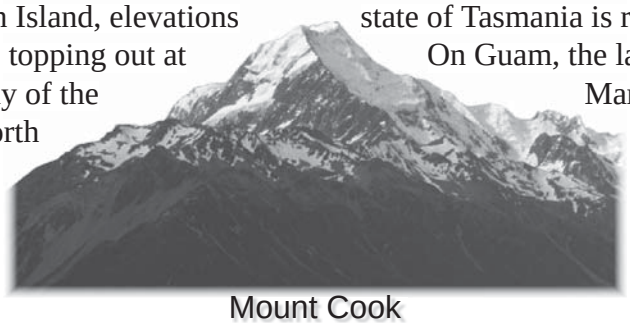
A few hundred miles north of Australia, in Papua New Guinea, the terrain is a dramatically different picture. In contrast to Australia's large expanses of flat desert, most of Papua New Guinea is rainforest, and quite mountainous. The single mountain range in the country is the New Guinea Highlands, which is located in the country's north and extends to the Huon Peninsula. Mount Wilhelm is the highest peak in the chain, measuring 14,793 feet—more than twice as high as Australia's highest mountain. On Mount Wilhelm and other high mountains, snow falls, which is unusual in these tropical latitudes. South of the Highlands, large areas of rainforest mixed with swampland dominate the terrain. ***Quagmires*** are common in this area, kept soft by the frequent and heavy rains.


The Great Dividing Range

New Zealand, like all other islands, is merely a chain of mountains emerging from the sea, and thus, virtually, the entire country is mountainous. The country is comprised of two islands, the North and South Islands, of which the South Island is larger and more mountainous. The range on the South Island is called the Southern Alps. Elevations vary dramatically among the peaks, but a general average is between 5,000 and 10,000 feet. Mount Cook is

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the highest point, at 12,316 feet. On this island, small plains exist in the west and the south, where Christchurch and Invercargill are located, respectively. The eastern plains are known as the Canterbury Plains. On the North Island, elevations are somewhat lower, topping out at just 9,176 feet. Many of the mountains on the North Island are volcanic, and geysers are common throughout the land. In the far north, the Northland Peninsula stretches a few hundred miles out to the sea. This area, which includes the capital, Auckland, is low in elevation and is the most extensive non-mountainous region in the country.



Mount Cook
12,316 feet

Other islands are largely beaches and low hilly regions. The Fiji archipelago includes more than 800 individual islands, capped by the 4,350-foot Mount Tomanivi. South of the Australian mainland, the island state of Tasmania is rugged and hilly.

On Guam, the largest island in the Mariana Island chain, most mountains are several thousand feet in elevation. Numerous islands of Oceania, such as Guam, Wake Island, and the Marshall Islands, were sites of significant naval battles between U.S. and Japanese forces during World War II.

Life Principle

ILL FARES THE LAND . . .
WHERE WEALTH ACCUMULATES,
AND MEN DECAY . . .

Oliver Goldsmith 18th century
English poet, novelist, and playwright

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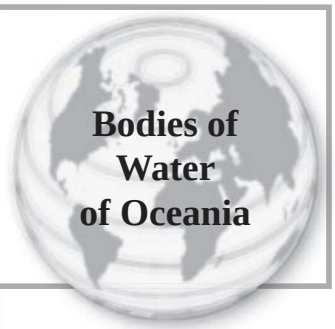
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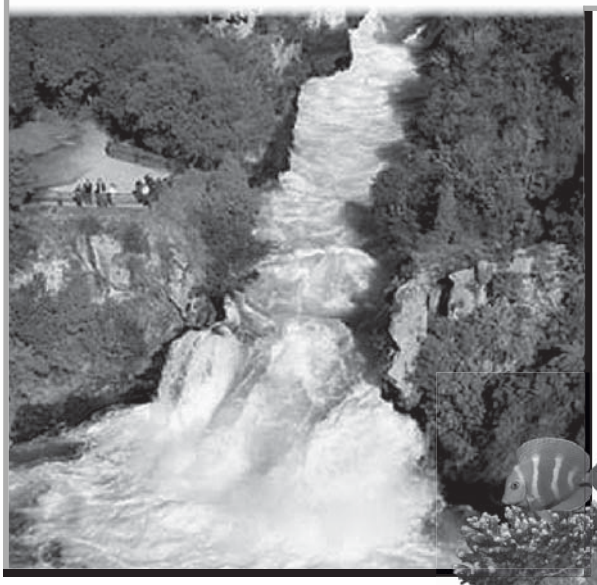


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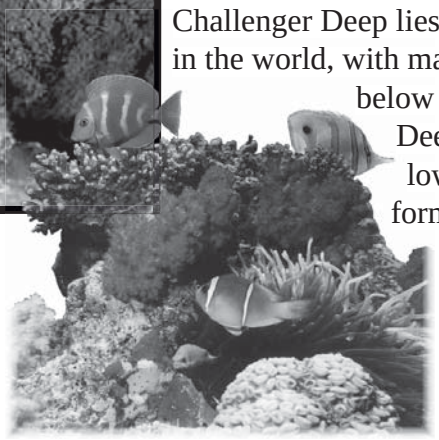
Lesson 3
Bodies of Water

Section 1
Lessons 1-5





About 190 miles southwest of Guam, near the southernmost point of the Mariana Trench, is a small depression at the ocean bottom called Challenger Deep. This narrow slot is the deepest known point in the oceans, approximately 36,000 feet below the surface, which is 7,000 feet lower than Mount Everest is high. The Mariana Trench, the 1,600-mile ocean gorge in which Challenger Deep lies, is itself the deepest ***trench*** in the world, with many places measuring well below -25,000 feet. Yet Challenger Deep plunges thousands of feet lower into a basin possibly formed by tectonic movements through centuries. Little is known about the spot, or the larger area surrounding it. Three descents have been made, the first in 1960 and the most recent in 2009, and different depth measurements have been registered, leaving the precise elevation measurement uncertain. These missions have reported various simple life forms, including single-celled organisms and small shrimp and sea cucumbers. The pressure at the bottom is estimated at 1,100 times the surface pressure, which makes descents a precarious task. No sunlight penetrates the waters at these depths, meaning that seeing-enabled life forms that make their homes here are fully reliant on senses other than sight.



In spite of the best efforts of oceanographers and marine biologists around the world, the oceans continue to be one of the most mysterious parts of the world—somewhat ironic, given that they cover 70% of Earth's

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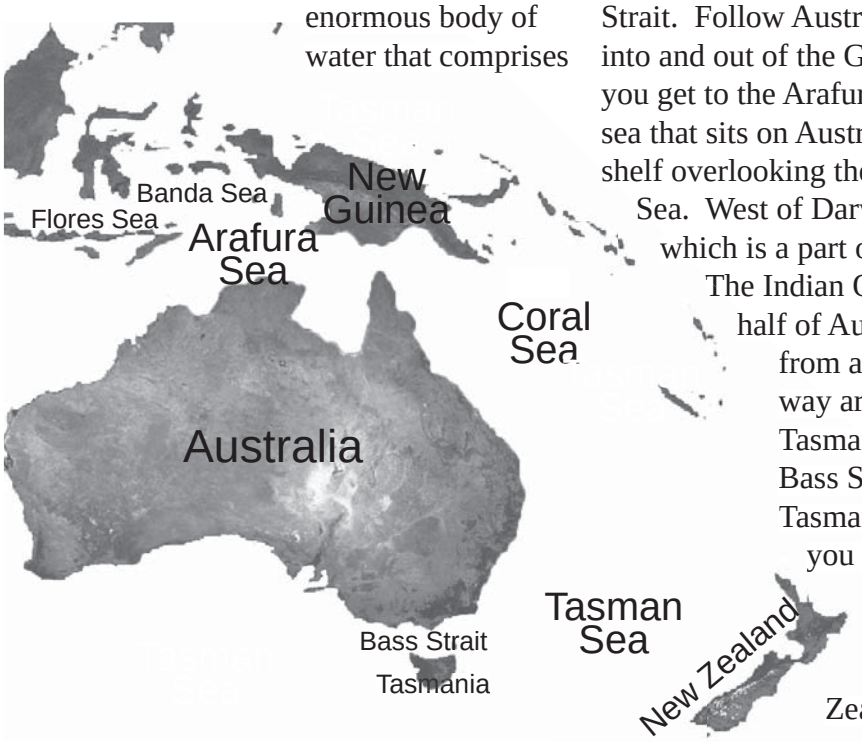
Trench: long, steep-sided depression in the ocean floor
Continental divide: line that separates the oceanic drainage basins of a continent, so that the river systems on opposite sides flow toward different oceans
Salinity: saltiness
Waterhole: in Australia, deep hole in rock that has filled with rainwater or river water or is fed by aquifers

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surface. The deeper areas—such as Challenger Deep—are even less studied, as the environmental challenges pose major hazards to researchers. Yet, the Mariana Trench is one of the most fascinating points in Oceania's oceans. The rivers and lakes in Australia are nearly as intriguing. Australia features many long and important rivers, despite that most of the country is desert. A few smaller rivers abound in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, as well. Studying Oceania's bodies of water truly gives a sense of appreciation for the name "Oceania."

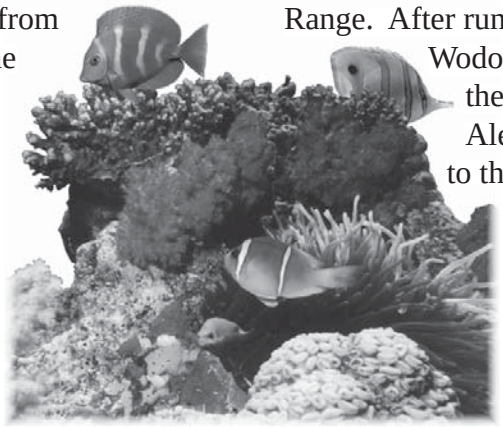
While Oceania takes its name from the large open portions of ocean that surround its many islands, the water encircling the land actually takes many forms, from vast stretches of unbroken Pacific to tiny inlets and lagoons. It is all the same water, of course—these inlets and lagoons are ultimately connected to larger ones, which are, in turn, connected to gulfs and seas, which eventually spill into the enormous body of water that comprises world's four oceans—but to make things easy, cultures and regions have given specific names to the smaller bodies nearby landmasses. In the northwest, the island of New Guinea is bordered on the north by the Pacific Ocean, technically the South Pacific, because it is below the Equator. Flung off the northeast coast of Papua New Guinea is the Bismarck Archipelago, a Papua New Guinean territory. These islands enclose the Bismarck Sea, a small water body rich in mineral deposits. South of these islands, between Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, lies the Solomon Sea. West of Papua New Guinea's peninsula, tucked between Port Moresby and Daru, is the Gulf of Papua.

Take the Gulf of Papua southwest into open waters, and before long you'll hit Cape York. Australia's northernmost point borders the Gulf of Carpentaria in the west and the Coral Sea in the east. The narrow section of water between Cape York and Papua New Guinea is known as the Torres Strait. Follow Australia's coastline west into and out of the Gulf of Carpentaria, and you get to the Arafura Sea next, a shallow sea that sits on Australia's continental shelf overlooking the much deeper Banda Sea. West of Darwin lies the Timor Sea, which is a part of the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean accounts for half of Australia's coastline, from about Darwin all the way around to the island of Tasmania. Passing through the Bass Strait, which separates Tasmania from the mainland, you reach the Tasman Sea, which is the body of water between Australia and New Zealand. Around Cape



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Byron, Australia's easternmost point and not far from Brisbane, the Coral Sea takes over. One of the larger seas in the world, the Coral measures about 1.85 million square miles and takes its name from the Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest collection of coral. East of the Coral Sea—and east of New Zealand—lies open Pacific Ocean.


Great Barrier Reef

About 1,700 miles east of Australia lies Fiji. The many islands that make up this tropical paradise are scattered in the open Pacific, but south of the two main islands, Vanua Levu and Viti Levu, is the Koro Sea. This sea is bounded by these two islands in the north and a rough arc of islands farther south. Bligh Water is the name of the strait between Vanua Levu and Viti Levu, just 38 miles across at its narrowest point. The shallow waters here are a deposit for numerous beautiful coral formations. Other island groups, including the Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, and French Polynesia, do not lie in waters designated as a separate sea; they are all considered to be in the Pacific Ocean. In the north, the Mariana Islands lie on the boundary between the Pacific Ocean and the Philippine Sea. This 2 million-square-mile body of water is extremely deep and measures about two-thirds the size of the United States.

As Australia is the only territory in Oceania with considerable area to support substantial rivers, all of Oceania's long rivers are located here. Nearly all run west, as Australia's ***continental divide*** is in the Great Dividing Range in the far east. The Murray River is the longest and the most significant, politically and economically, winding for 1,476 miles through Australia's southeast. Its source is in the Australian Alps, which are part of the Great Dividing Range. After running through the Albury–Wodonga area and Mildura, the Murray drains into Lake Alexandrina, which lies next to the Indian Ocean. Lake Alexandrina is actually connected to the ocean, technically making it a bay or inlet, but the waters mix very little, so the lake's ***salinity*** stays quite low. The Hindmarsh Island, located at the juncture of the lake and the ocean, is intriguing in that it is bordered by freshwater on one side and saltwater on the other. The Murray River is fed, partially, by the Darling River, a 915-mile waterway whose drainage basin occupies much of southeastern Australia. Together, the two rivers form the 18th-longest river system in the world—quite an impressive claim for ocean-dominated Oceania.

A few other important rivers exist in the land down under. Cooper Creek rises in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range and traverses Queensland before dumping into Lake Eyre, in the state of South Australia. Together with the Barcoo River, the system is 880 miles long, Australia's second longest. Cooper Creek's flow relies on monsoon rains from northern Queensland; because the terrain in which it lies is dry, the river often is as well. The flow also determines to a large extent the volume of Lake Eyre, which in most years is hardly more than a puddle. Both rivers are worked heavily for irrigation, and quench the dry soils along their banks

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where cattle graze. The combination of the flat topography, usual dryness, and occasional heavy monsoons makes the land prone to flooding.

Also draining into Lake Eyre is the Warburton–Georgina river system. Together, these shallow creeks measure 870 miles long, although often they are nothing more than dry riverbeds. During floods, the width of the rivers can swell to 15 miles or more, particularly in the case of the Georgina. Although the widespread flooding can threaten agriculture and livestock raising in the region as well as transportation, the high degree of evaporation usually dissipates standing water quickly. Most rivers in this region are relatively poor in quality, with muddy waters and dry soils surrounding them. Often, the rivers carry runoff and rainwater for a short distance, only to dump it into ***waterholes***, where the water evaporates.



Waikato River

New Zealand's longest river is the Waikato. Originating 1,170 feet above sea level in Lake Taupo, the Waikato River zigzags across the North Island to Port Waikato, located on the Tasman Sea. On the South Island, the longest river is the Clutha, which spills into the Pacific Ocean. The Clutha is New Zealand's largest river by discharge and is among Oceania's most scenic. On New Guinea, the Sepik River is the island's longest, primarily located in Papua New Guinea. It rises high in the mountains, 7,100 feet in elevation, before making its long trek to the Pacific Ocean. In the south, the Fly River is nearly as long and also grazes Indonesia along its journey, ultimately emptying into the Gulf of Papua.

A few significant lakes lie in Oceania. Lake Te Anau is the largest by volume, located on New Zealand's South Island. Te Anau is also quite large by surface area, and measures 1,368 feet deep at its deepest point. Lake Taupo, the source of the Waikato River, is 238 square miles in area and is New Zealand's largest by surface area. When Australia's Lake Eyre is completely filled, it measures 3,668 square miles—though this rarely occurs. Lake Torrens and Lake Gairdner are also significant in Australia. Both are salt lakes.

Life Principle

Still waters run no mills.

William Aglionby, 17th century English writer

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World Geography

Chapter 6



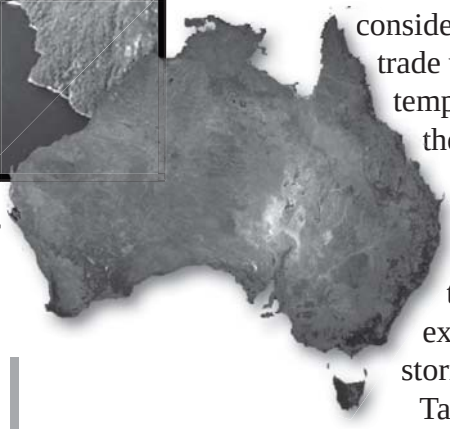
Lesson 4
Climate and Precipitation

Section 1
Lessons 1-5

Climate and Precipitation of Oceania



Next time you're in need of a tropical vacation, try Tahiti. The beautiful beaches of the South Pacific have summer all year. Summertime highs rarely rise above 90°F, and wintertime lows don't typically dip below 70°F. While it does get wet and humid from time to time, most days sparkle with ***copious*** sunshine. The wet season is December through February—when most Americans aren't even considering beach getaways. Gentle trade winds cool off afternoon temperatures, and in the evening they provide just enough chill for a dip in the warm ocean. Plus, tourists don't have to contend with the hurricanes that the Gulf of Mexico experiences—it's rarely stormy.



Tahiti's sun-drenched climate is one of the island's biggest tourist draws. French Polynesia lies in a tropical wet and dry climate zone, where the rainy season is during the winter when mild humidity is prevalent. The mild climate is part of the driving force behind the bustling tourism industry, attracting tens of thousands to the white sandy beaches each year, many of them Americans. Most islands in Oceania are similar: warm temperatures year-round, cool trade winds, and fluctuating humidity levels that occasionally get a bit uncomfortable. Although eight different climate zones exist in Oceania, most are found in Australia.

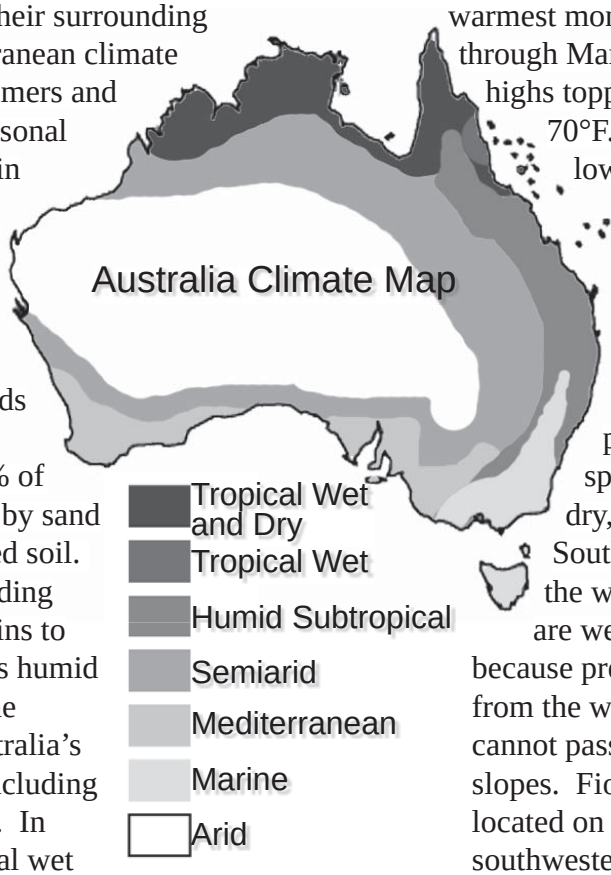
From south to north, New Zealand and part of southeastern Australia is in a marine climate zone. Moderate

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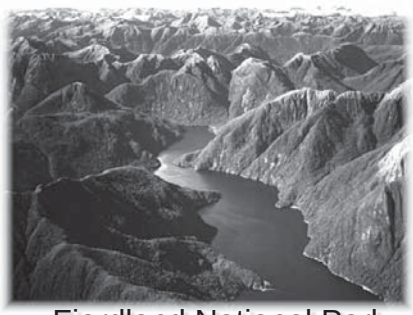
Copious: abundant
Volatile: fickle; unpredictable
Outback: desert and scrubland in the interior of Australia
Bushfire: in Australia, wildfire
Desiccated: extremely dry
Flash flood: flood occurring rapidly due to heavy rainfall and overflowing rivers or streams
Billabong: in Australia, U-shaped body of water formed when a wide meander from the main stem of a river is cut off to create a lake; elsewhere, called an oxbow lake

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to high humidity and frequent precipitation characterize this region. Adelaide and Perth, Australia and their surrounding areas have a Mediterranean climate zone, with warm summers and mild winters with seasonal rainfall. Above this, in a ring around the country, a semi-arid zone appears, wide in the east and narrow in the north and south. It surrounds an arid region that comprises nearly 40% of Australia, dominated by sand dunes and dry, cracked soil. Along the Great Dividing Range and on the plains to the east, the climate is humid subtropical. This zone blankets most of Australia's population centers, including Brisbane and Sydney. In the far north, a tropical wet and dry zone dominates. Across the Gulf of Papua on Papua New Guinea, the entire country is in a tropical zone except for the New Guinea Highlands, which bear a highland climate very unusual for these latitudes. All of Oceania's assorted island groups have tropical or marine climates.



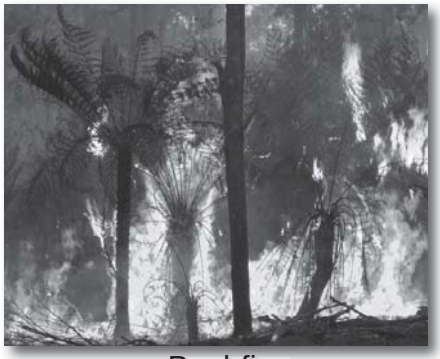
New Zealand's climate is decidedly marine, but cooler than one might expect. Wellington, New Zealand, lies at about 40°S, the same latitude below the Equator that Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, or Denver, Colorado, lie north of it. While this is nowhere close to polar, wintertime temperatures can drop somewhat low. The warmest months are December through March, with February highs topping out around 70°F. In July and August, lows can fall below freezing quite often. Other areas are even cooler. Although humidity and rainfall are both abundant in most places, a few isolated spots are particularly dry, especially in the Southern Alps. Areas to the west of the mountains are wetter than areas east because precipitation comes from the west, falling when it cannot pass over the mountain slopes. Fiordland National Park, located on the South Island's southwestern coast, receives about 300 inches of precipitation a year. Every so often, this precipitation comes in a tropical cyclone, a storm that is known as a hurricane in North America.


Fiordland National Park

Tasmania also lies in a marine climate zone. The marine zone also extends into the southern parts of Victoria and New South Wales, mostly along the slopes of the Great Dividing Range. Tasmania's climate is complex and cool. While coastal areas are milder, inland cities are among Australia's coldest. Nighttime temperatures even in summer can dip to freezing, and summertime highs rarely surpass 90°. Western areas of the island are also much wetter than eastern parts. On the

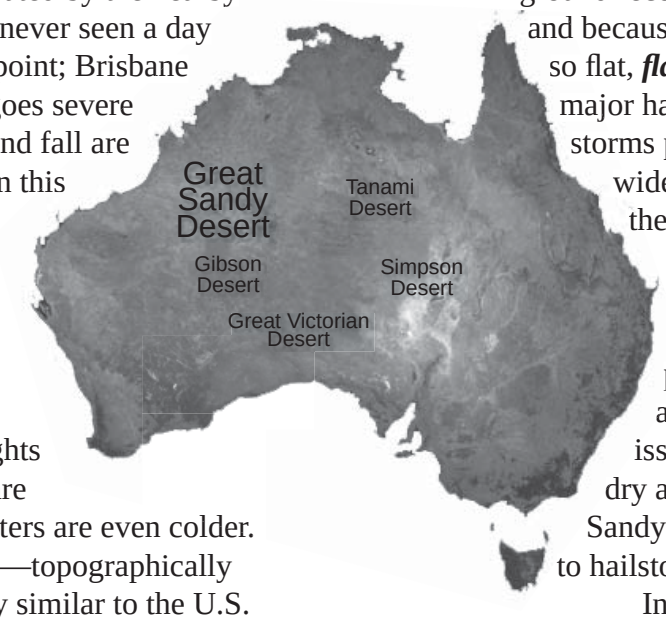
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mainland, the climate is slightly warmer, but quite ***volatile***. Melbourne, Australia generally averages mild temperatures year-round, usually between 40° and 80°F. But its location between the coast and the hot desert means wild fluctuations occur, such as a 116°F day recorded in February 2009.



Bushfire

The Great Dividing Range experiences cooler temperatures than most places in Australia and, typically, sees snow every winter. The snow is drier in the south than the north, where the weather is warmer and wetter. A few subzero temperatures have been recorded in these mountains, but generally, lows drop only into the teens. Along the east coast, a humid continental zone dominates. This area includes the cities of Sydney and Brisbane, and features mild weather moderated by the nearby ocean. Sydney has never seen a day below the freezing point; Brisbane has, but also undergoes severe drought. Summer and fall are wetter than winter in this region.



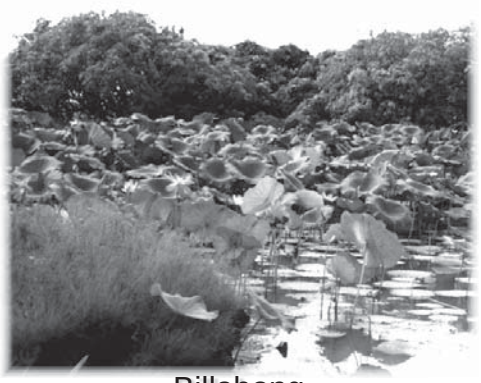
Most of Australia lies in a semi-arid or arid zone. Across the Australian ***outback***, days are hot and nights are cold, summers are even hotter and winters are even colder. The region is desert—topographically and climatologically similar to the U.S. Southwest. Few people live in the region, but a few small towns exist. Often, summertime highs can near or top 100°F, but nights hover in the 50s or 60s. In towns like Alice Springs, winter can mean bundling up in temperatures at or below freezing. Generally speaking, the farther inland, the more dramatic the temperature swings are, which is characteristic of interior areas of large landmasses. ***Bushfires*** are also common in many areas because of the heat and the flat, open expanses enabling strong winds.

Precipitation totals are low nearly everywhere in Australia's interior, but they are influenced to some extent by monsoons. Many places receive ten inches or less of rain a year—not exactly ***desiccated***, but still dry enough to be considered desert. If one season is to be considered the wet season, it is summer, as up to 70% of the precipitation can fall from December to March. Because the ground receives little water, and because the terrain is so flat, ***flash floods*** are a major hazard when tropical storms push south. The wide openness of the area enables the water to evaporate quickly, so standing water or persistently soaked areas are not an issue. As are many dry areas, the Great Sandy Desert is subject to hailstorms.

In Australia's southwest, and in an area roughly between Melbourne and the Spencer Gulf, the climate is Mediterranean. Despite that these areas are largely coastal, temperature

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extremes occur due to moderate elevation changes and fronts blowing in from the desert. Rainfall is disproportionately concentrated in the winter, while summers can be quite warm. Perth, on the west coast, is a perfect example of this: highs in February generally average near 90°F—the hottest temperature ever recorded was 115°F!—but precipitation is sparse during summer. In contrast, 70% of Perth's rainfall is received from May to August. In Perth and Adelaide, the largest cities in this region, refreshing sea breezes bring coolness to the land.


Billabong

The northern region is by far the wettest in Australia. Inside a tropical wet and dry zone, this region experiences drastic swings between wet and dry seasons. Unlike Perth, most rain falls during the summer. For instance, in Darwin, January is the wettest month, with an average of 16.5 inches of rain. In July, however, virtually no rain at all falls—an average of about one-twentieth of an inch. Because of proximity to the Equator, weather in the Kimberley and in cities like Darwin can be very warm. But there is little difference in temperature between summer and winter, usually only a few degrees. Most often, precipitation arrives violently in thunderstorms and monsoons, often accompanied by lightning. Numerous ***billabongs*** exist here.

Elsewhere in Oceania, climate differs somewhat. Papua New Guinea is in a very wet tropical wet zone, with regular precipitation most of the year and warm, humid weather. The mountains in the country are warm and humid in low elevations as well, but the higher elevations escape this muggy weather. The summits of high peaks like Mount Wilhelm are actually alpine, with high, chilling winds and perpetually cool temperatures. On the islands spread throughout the Pacific Ocean, summers and winters mostly blend together into one, with little temperature variations. Humidity is common throughout, as there are no real interior areas into which to escape the sea breeze.

Life Principle

After the rain, cometh the fair weather.

Aesop, 6th century B.C.
Greek fable writer

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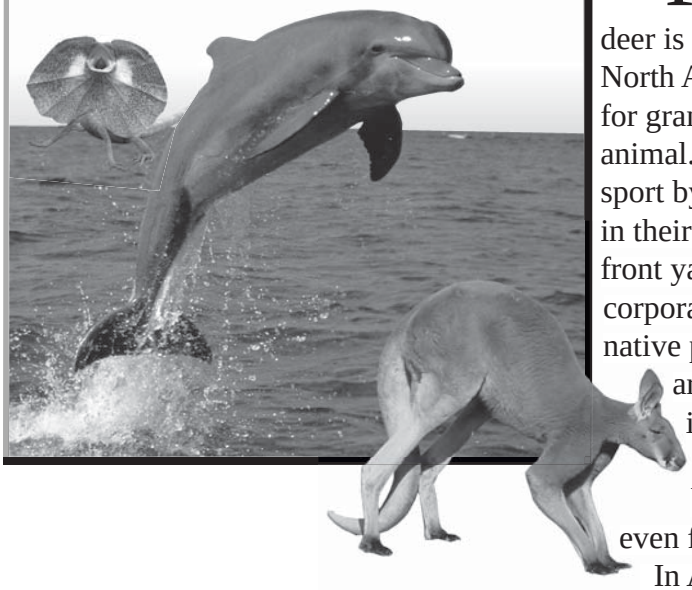
World Geography

Chapter 6

Lesson 5
Vegetation and Wildlife

Section 1
Lessons 1-5

Vegetation and Wildlife of Oceania



Ranging throughout much of the United States and Canada, the white-tailed deer is a familiar fixture in the plains and hills of North America. Most North Americans take it for granted, so widespread and numerous is the animal. In Texas, it is hunted for meat and for sport by hunters who proudly mount the racks in their living rooms. In Kentucky, it grazes in front yards, nibbling on grass and tree roots. On corporate campuses from Colorado to Florida, native populations wander freely, where they are kept to enhance the natural beauty and interest. And everywhere, vehicle collisions are a major hazard—slamming into a large buck can cause serious damage or death, even for drivers in large trucks.

In Australia, the functional equivalent of the white-tailed deer is the kangaroo. The animal is an icon of Australia much in the same vein as America's eagle. It is featured prominently on Australia's coat-of-arms; it is depicted in the logo of Qantas Airlines, Australia's national air carrier; sculptures abound in major cities throughout Australia, such as those outside the Council House in Perth. And while white-tailed deer have not found a way to cross the Pacific into Australia (although when they do, you can bet they'll take over the country, just as they've done here), kangaroos have stepped in for them. Motor vehicle collisions are common in the Australian desert, so common that kangaroo crossing signs, just like deer crossing signs in America, are a regular sight. Officials estimate that around 60 million kangaroos live in Australia, or about three times as many kangaroos as people. There is not a



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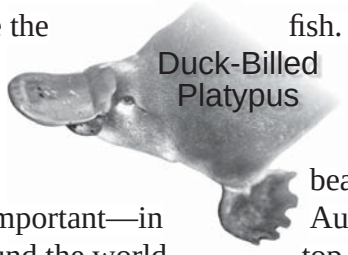
Coral reef: structure produced by the skeletons of soft-bodied coral animals or polyps, generally found in shallow, warm waters
Cay: small, low, sandy island formed on the surface of coral reefs
Toxin: toxic or poisonous substance
Endemic: native, indigenous

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place on the continent, even Tasmania, where kangaroos are not found.

While Oceania's plant life may be humdrum compared to places like Asia or Latin America, its foilage is varied. Most of Australia is desert—fairly wet desert, but desert nonetheless, meaning vegetation is scarce and undeveloped. In a few areas, such as North Australia and Queensland, and east of the Great Dividing Range, growth is common and complex. Likewise, New Zealand is a beautiful world in all respects, vegetation included, while Papua New Guinea is a thriving, dynamic rainforest. But throughout the great bulk of Oceania, which means primarily Australia, there simply isn't widespread plant growth. On the other hand, Oceania harbors some of the most fascinating animals found anywhere on Earth. Australian exhibits are probably next to African exhibits as the biggest crowd-pleasers at American zoos, featuring animals like the kangaroo, koala, crocodile, and duck-billed platypus.


Clownfish


Duck-Billed Platypus

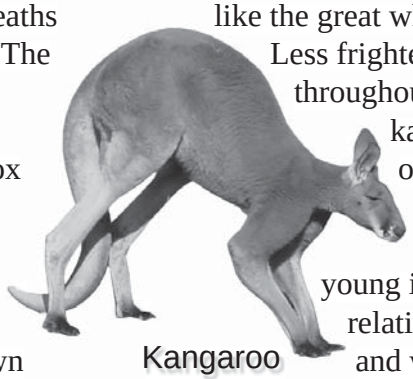
Truth be told, none of these animals is even the most intriguing—or most important—in Oceania. Geographers around the world agree that the Great Barrier Reef is the South Pacific's most important life form. Located just off the Australian coast in the Coral Sea, the Great Barrier Reef is the largest in a number of categories: the largest ***coral reef*** in the world, the largest structure of any kind composed of living organisms, the only living object visible from space. It is 1,600 miles long and is a depository for all kinds of threatened and endangered species, and others that are merely limited to these warm waters. Animals in the area include whales, such as the humpback and the sperm whale, varieties of dolphins and porpoises, sea turtles, sea snakes—including the faint-banded sea snake, the world's most venomous snake—seahorses, trout, jellyfish, clownfish—popularized by Nemo in the movie *Finding Nemo*—giant clams, starfish, and thousands upon thousands of others. Literally millions of birds, including species of eagles, crows, seagulls, and doves, roost on the hundreds of scattered islands and ***cays*** throughout the reef. And there is the coral itself—millions of small, hard, calcium-covered shell animals, sprouting from the ocean floor like plants in every kind of screaming fluorescent color imaginable. Coral were once thought to be plants and resemble plants in appearance, as they are rooted in place and do not move. But the tiny animals communicate, reproduce, and have tentacles that paralyze and catch passing fish. Like describing the Grand Canyon or a Hawaiian beach, words don't do the reef justice. Pictures of the Great Barrier Reef are astoundingly beautiful, which is why it is one of Australia's top tourist attractions—and top moneymakers.


Seahorse

Oceania has some of the world's best-loved animals, but also some that make the skin crawl. From the ocean to the desert, many Oceaniac animals are outright dangerous, and they are best avoided at all costs. One of these is found right in the middle of the Great Barrier Reef: the box jellyfish. Commonly dubbed the most venomous animal—not just fish, or marine animal, but animal of any kind—in the world, the jellyfish's tentacles can be several feet long. It often travels in schools and its venom is extremely toxic, often

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causing death within minutes. In addition, a sting is excruciatingly painful, attacking the skin, the heart, and the central nervous system simultaneously. Because of the absurdly fast kill rate of these jellyfish, and because they live near population centers on Australia's coast, they have been responsible for thousands of deaths over the past several decades. The Irukandji jellyfish, which lives near Australia as well, may be far more venomous than the box jellyfish. In contrast, it is tiny, often just a few centimeters in length; because of its small size, it does not kill nearly as many people, and little is known about it. But comparisons aside, if you see either one while vacationing in Australia, you might want to leave, fast.


Kangaroo

Less venomous than the faint-banded sea snake is the taipan. But don't buy one as a pet just yet—the taipan is the most venomous land snake on Earth, with enough ***toxins*** in a single bite capable of killing 250,000 mice. Highly reclusive and found in remote desert areas away from settlements, the taipan has never caused a recorded human death. The snake's diet consists mostly of rats and other small rodents and mammals, and it can grow up to twelve feet in length. Other venomous snakes in Australia compete with the taipan for food. The unassuming brown snake is highly venomous, as is the tiger snake. Most snakes here are shy and will not attack humans unless provoked. Also in the desert, the redback spider is one of Australia's most dangerous spiders. It resembles a black widow, and thousands of bites are recorded across Australia each year, though mortality rates are low. The funnel web spider looks like a tarantula, with its hairy legs and fangs.


Taipan

People have obviously learned to survive in Australia despite the abundance of dangerous animals mentioned above (plus the blue-ringed octopus, a tiny but deadly species, and better-known creatures like the great white shark and crocodile). Less frightening creatures live all throughout the continent. The kangaroo is actually a kind of marsupial, a designation that encompasses all the animals that carry their young in a pouch. The kangaroo's relatives include the wallaroo and wallaby, both of which are smaller than the kangaroo, but resemble it. Hopping on their strong hind legs, these animals are capable of speeds up to 40 miles per hour. Marsupials are among the largest animals in Oceania, but they are preyed upon by the dingo and, in Tasmania, the Tasmanian devil, which is a marsupial itself. The Tasmanian devil resembles a dog somewhat and is extremely noisy and aggressive. Until the 1930s, the thylacine, sometimes called the Tasmanian tiger or Tasmanian wolf, was a major predator in Tasmania. Bounty hunting and human encroachment thinned out its numbers, and it is now extinct.

In the eucalyptus trees of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, koalas live and make their home. The marsupials were once thought to be bears because of their physical resemblance but are now known not to be. They are herbivores, feeding on eucalyptus leaves, and they have a knack for climbing trees. The koala in some ways looks like the wombat, a fellow Australian marsupial, yet

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wombats live in burrows and are sluggish compared to the nimble koala. In coastal waters nearby, the duck-billed platypus grows up to two feet long. The animal is one of creation's absurdities: the body resembles that of a beaver, the feet those of an otter, and the bill that of a duck. It is venomous, one of the world's few venomous mammals, its venom injected by a spur on its hind leg. The animal spends most of its time in water, but can live on land, as well.

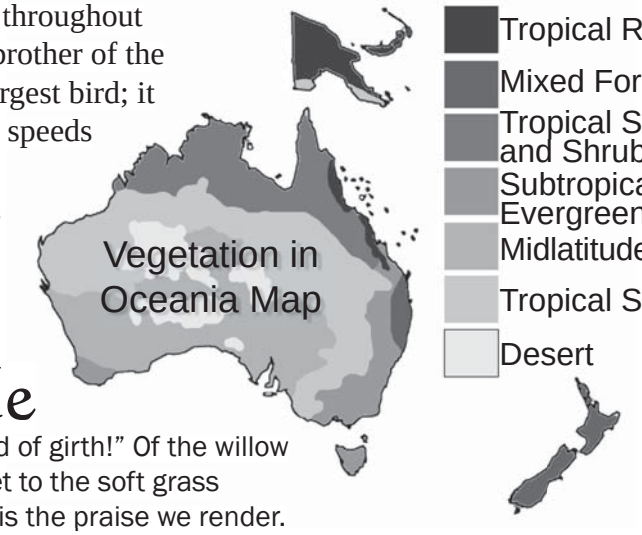
In the interior of Australia where the climate is dry, typical desert animals can be found. The frill-necked lizard lives here, as well as in tropical forests to the north, and is so named because of the large frill around its neck. The frill is usually kept closed, but when threatened, the lizard opens its frill, in much the same way the cobra spreads its hood when provoked. Various kinds of mice and other rodents live in the desert, often in caves or by burrowing into the ground. Anteaters are often found in Australia's interior, sometimes in forests. Australia's largest bird, the emu, ranges throughout Australia. It is the younger brother of the ostrich family, the world's largest bird; it is flightless, and it can run at speeds over 30 miles per hour.



Frill-Necked Lizard

Elsewhere in Oceania, wildlife varies by climate, latitude, and the relationship humans have developed with the land. New Guinea is a thriving center for numerous wildlife species—reptiles, amphibians, insects, arachnids, mammals, birds, and fish. The tropical jungles on the island support some of the most diverse animal life on the planet, and new species are discovered every year. In New Zealand, many small animals live in the forests and large birds soar overhead. The kiwi, a relative of the emu, is another flightless bird, perhaps best known for the disproportionately large egg it lays. Kiwis live throughout New Zealand. In the waters off these countries and the many small islands are sharks, dolphins, whales, squid, and other marine life.

Refer to the Vegetation map below for the vegetation regions of Oceania. Most of the rain falls on Australia's northern region and on New Guinea and New Zealand; consequently, these areas are more lush than the interior of Australia. Eucalyptus trees are perhaps the most famous Australian plant. The trees have a variety of uses beyond mere timber and are ***endemic*** only to Oceania. They have been introduced to Arizona, California, and other warm-weather areas.



Life Principle

We say of the oak, "How grand of girth!" Of the willow we say, "How slender!" And yet to the soft grass clothing the earth, how slight is the praise we render.

Edgar Fawcett (1847-1904)

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World Geography

Chapter 6



Lesson 6
Famous Events and Sites

Section 2
Lessons 6-10





The spring of 1942 was a turbulent time in world affairs. Most of the globe was caught up in World War II, which pitted Germany, Italy and Japan against much of the world. In December 1941, Japan had unceremoniously attacked the U.S. at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, forcing the United States to declare war against the Axis Powers (Japan, Italy, Germany). The Pacific Ocean quickly became a major battleground.

Two battles within several months of the attack on Pearl Harbor gave the U.S., and the rest of the Allied forces, a decided upper hand in the war. The first came in early May in the Coral Sea, the body of water between Australia and the Solomon Islands. Australia was a key ally of America, thus Japanese naval forces decided to occupy Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, effectively controlling the surrounding region and blocking Australia from supporting American forces. The U.S. intercepted Japanese plans, and sent a fleet of warships and aircraft carriers to intercept the Japanese Navy. For five days, U.S. and Japanese navies engaged in fierce combat. Both sides suffered significant losses. America lost several ships and aircraft, plus 600 servicemen. Japan lost even more by every measure. Finally the opposing forces disengaged, but Japan had been successfully thwarted from capturing Port Moresby. Aside from the losses, however, the battle was important for other reasons. Although Japan had emerged with its navy surprisingly intact, the Battle of the Coral Sea marked the first time Japanese expansion had been halted. Moreover, it was



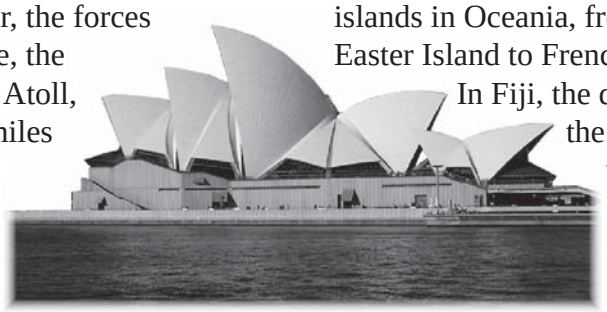
VOCABULARY

Urban design: arrangement, appearance, and functionality of towns and cities and, in particular, the shaping and uses of urban public space
Metropolis: large city; important political, economic, religious, or cultural center
Lagoon: body of comparatively shallow salt or brackish water separated from the deeper sea by a shallow or exposed sandbank, coral reef, or similar feature

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the first naval battle that was conducted entirely by air warfare. Ship crews actually never spotted each other during the battle, and all losses were a result of airstrikes rather than ship fire.

One month later, the forces met again. This time, the setting was Midway Atoll, a tiny island 1,000 miles northeast of Hawaii. Rejuvenated after their loss in the Coral Sea, Japan scattered its navy throughout the Pacific and then planned to lure America into a trap, ambushing the U.S. with a superior fleet. Midway Atoll hosted a valuable U.S. airstrip, which was indispensable to American presence in the Pacific. The Japanese hoped to wrestle control of this base as well, seriously hampering U.S. positioning. Unfortunately for the Japanese, however, U.S. codebreakers had already cracked Japanese codes, and once again the U.S. knew Japan's plan in advance. Furthermore, Japan's insistence on spreading its navy was a risky manuever that ended up weakening it considerably, as reinforcements were slow to arrive. America sank four irreplaceable Japanese aircraft carriers and shot down nearly 250 aircraft. Once again, Japan had been defeated, and this battle turned the tide of the war, securing America's superiority in the Pacific.



Sydney Opera House

Both battles were fought in perhaps incongruent locations. Midway Island is one of the most isolated places in the world, hundreds of miles from the nearest land and a thousand from the nearest populated place. It is a characteristic shared by many islands in Oceania, from Wake Island and Easter Island to French Polynesia and Fiji. In Fiji, the quiet is calming, and the islands' remoteness undergirds this feeling, as Fiji is hundreds of miles from the nearest land. Consequently, tourism to the islands is the foremost industry. The beaches are pristine, the weather is warm, and when you're eight thousand miles from home, it's pretty easy to put things like bills and deadlines on the back burner.

Midway Atoll and the Coral Sea, as well as Fiji, are just a few of the important sites in Oceania, and their importance has as much to do with the natural characteristics of the land as with history. Throughout Oceania, some of the important sites in the region are historical and cultural in nature—places such as the Sydney Opera House, Parliament House, and Black Mountain Tower in Canberra, Ayers Rock. Others build upon Oceania's stunning natural beauty and biodiversity to attract visitors and compete with cultural landmarks for prominence and popularity with tourists. Cultural development and settlement in most of Oceania is recent, especially when compared with Europe or Asia. Australia was first settled in the late 1700s and did not become a nation until 1901. New Zealand was explored in the 15th and 16th centuries

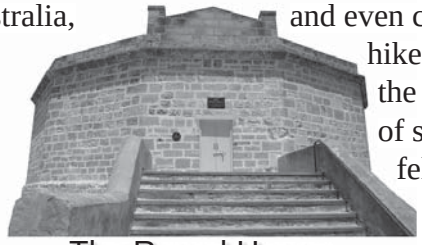


Fiji Islands

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but was a colony of Britain until 1947, so its traditions and landmarks are relatively recent. Some important historical sites are connected to the indigenous Australian Aborigines. Many spots throughout central and western Australia are sacred to Aborigines.

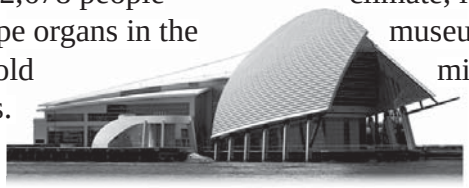
When you think of Australia, you probably picture the flamboyant Sydney Opera House, overlooking glistening Sydney Harbor. The 1973 building is a marvel of architecture, as well as a symbol of Australia, housing the Sydney Symphony, Opera Australia, the Australian Ballet, and the Sydney Theatre Company. Other groups and performing acts use the complex from time to time. The structure consists of ten buildings called shells (which, appropriately, resemble shells) covered with a million self-cleaning tiles. Several different auditoriums are inside the building, the largest of which is the Concert Hall, home of the Sydney Symphony. The Concert Hall can hold up to 2,678 people and has one of the largest pipe organs in the world. Other auditoriums hold between 200 and 1,500 seats. Hundreds of thousands of people visit the opera house each year, and it greets many thousands more flying into Sydney or sailing through the natural harbor.



The Round House

Next to the Sydney Opera House, Ayers Rock is perhaps Australia's best-known landmark. The massive rock island in the middle of the Australian desert is remarkable. It rises more than 1,100 feet from a flat, open plateau, possibly uplifted by some tectonic event in the distant past. The rock is a reddish-orange in color, but can have many hues from yellow to purple depending on the time of day and location of the sun. Today, it is a popular vacationing and sightseeing location, located about 200 miles from Alice Springs, the largest town in the desert. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the climbing and hiking opportunities the rock affords, and even casual walkers can easily hike the 5.8 miles around the rock's base. It is made of sandstone, specifically feldspar and quartz, and its color is given off by the small concentrations of iron on its outside, which oxidize into rust. Numerous species of trees and shrubs, land animals and birds live on or around Ayers Rock, or inside its numerous caves and crevices. Named Uluru by ancient Aborigines, the rock was and is sacred to native people, who tell intriguing stories of its creation.

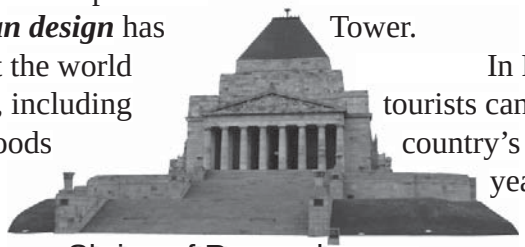
Other places in Australia are significant for the local atmosphere as a whole, with performances, cuisines, climate, leisure activities, museums, and other offerings mixing to attract tourists. Perth is considered one of the most livable and pleasant cities in the world, its climate a good host for cultural and historical events. The Round House, completed in 1830, was once a prison that is now open for tours and sightseeing. It is the oldest building in the western part of Australia. At Kings Park, visitors can view the skyline while contemplating the noble monuments to Australian's fallen soldiers from the two World Wars. Visitors interested in architecture can survey the Western Australia Maritime Museum and other



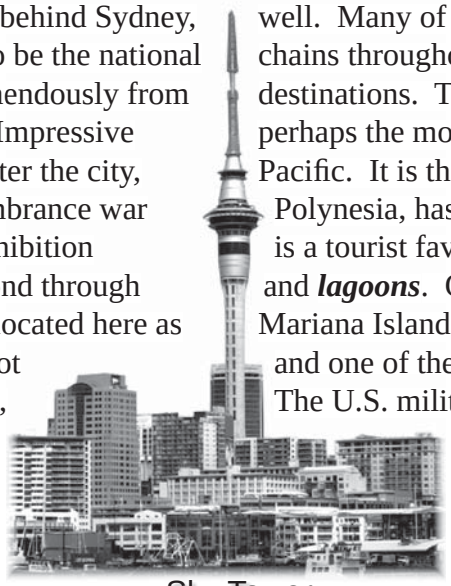
Maritime Museum

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unique museum structures. Australian football, one of the most popular sports down under, is a big draw as well, turning out hundreds of thousands of spectators each year. Perth's ***urban design*** has been lauded throughout the world for a variety of reasons, including its walkable neighborhoods and environmentally sensitive building codes.


Shrine of Remembrance

Melbourne is located far across the continent, but is just as impressive. The second largest ***metropolis*** behind Sydney, Melbourne once aspired to be the national capital and benefitted tremendously from a gold rush in the 1850s. Impressive and historical buildings litter the city, from the Shrine of Remembrance war memorial to the Royal Exhibition Building. Australia's second through sixth tallest buildings are located here as well, including the 984-foot Eureka Tower. Like Perth, Melbourne has a mild climate and is extremely pleasant to visit.


Sky Tower

On New Zealand, the high mountains of the Southern Alps are of preeminent importance to rock climbers and backpackers. The peaks are both beautiful and challenging: Mount Cook, 12,316 feet high, is covered by glaciers and is a favorite for hiking. In Christchurch, visitors can dine and play amidst a mountain backdrop, seeing places such as the Christchurch Cathedral. The Anglican Cathedral features a Gothic style and was completed in 1904 after forty-plus years of construction. On the North Island, Auckland is another popular tourist destination, where the waters are a bit warmer. Sky Tower, a 1,076-foot communications and observation tower, is the Southern Hemisphere's tallest freestanding structure. It resembles a smaller version of Toronto, Ontario's CN Tower.

In Papua New Guinea, tourists can visit Port Moresby, the country's capital. The city is warm year-round but is plagued by high crime and pollution. Government buildings are the biggest draw, including the Parliament Building, and the beaches are pretty as well. Many of the archipelagos and island chains throughout Oceania are important destinations. Tahiti ranks next to Fiji as perhaps the most popular island in the South Pacific. It is the largest island in French Polynesia, has most of the population, and is a tourist favorite due to its clear water and ***lagoons***. Guam is a U.S. territory in the Mariana Islands, the largest of the islands and one of the Pacific's most beautiful. The U.S. military has a large presence on Guam, including Andersen Air Force Base and the U.S. Naval Base Guam, which guides a large part of the economy and lifestyle. On the Australian island of Tasmania, diverse wildlife and rugged terrain make a strong lure for tourists.

Life Principle

The way out of the wilderness is the truth.

- Mark Helpin

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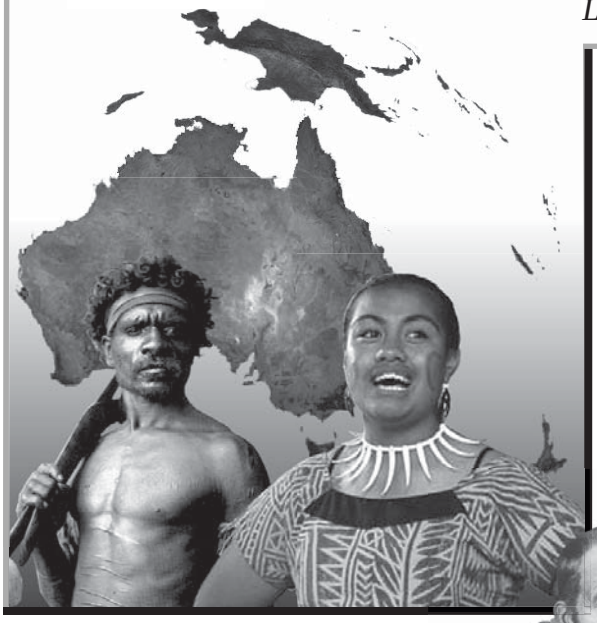
World Geography

Chapter 6

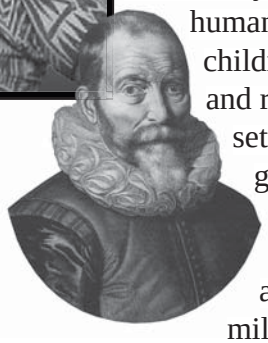
Lesson 7
Races and Ethnicities

Section 2
Lessons 6-10

Races and Ethnicities of Oceania



The 2002 Australian film *Rabbit-Proof Fence* chronicles the story and plight of the Australian Aborigines during the late 19th century and much of the 20th. Based on Doris Pilkington Garimara's book *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*, the true story focuses on Molly and Daisy, young Aboriginal girls who live with their mother, grandmother, and ten-year-old cousin, Gracie, in the northeast Australian town of Jigalong. Proponents of Darwinian evolution erroniously considered Aboriginals to be sub-humans. Thus, nearly a century's worth of children were removed from their families and relocated to white-run schools and settlements during this period. The three girls are unfortunate victims of this misguided policy, and the Australian government removes them to a school at Moore River, many hundreds of miles away from Jigalong. There, they join others plucked from their homes and are taught various domestic skills in preparation to become servants for white Australians. After a short time, the trio plots an escape, and soon afterward they find the rabbit-proof fence, which they realize they can follow back to Jigalong. When word spreads of their getaway, the government steps in and hires a tracker to find the girls. The girls are surprisingly adept at navigating the desert terrain, however, and manage to elude authorities for quite some distance. Obstacles mount as government officials attempt to deceive the girls about their family's whereabouts, and chances of ever getting back to Jigalong look increasingly slim.



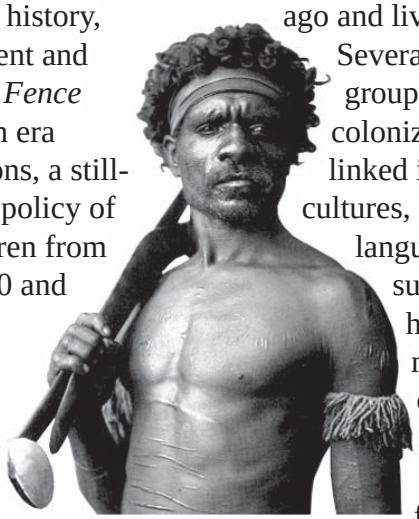
Aborigines in Australia were woefully mistreated—

VOCABULARY

Miscegenation: mixing or blending of races in marriage or procreation
Aboriginal: indigenous, native
Census: official count of members of a population, typically performed at regular intervals
Demographic: characteristic of a human population, including such factors as ethnicity, national origin, religion, level of education, and socioeconomic status

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much of their land was overrun by British colonizers, and they were subsequently viewed as a pest or a problem—Aborigines endured embarrassingly poor treatment during much of Australia's history, including disenfranchisement and segregation. *Rabbit-Proof Fence* derives its material from an era called the Stolen Generations, a still-controversial name for the policy of removing Aboriginal children from their families between 1870 and 1970 in order to assimilate them into white society. Motives for this policy were diverse. When Aboriginal populations fell rapidly after white contact as a result of disease and other factors, many whites falsely reasoned that Aboriginals could not sustain themselves, and so the children should be removed to carry on their race. Other motives were more sinister. Darwinian evolutionists proposed ***miscegenation***, and so, by mixing Aborigines—"blacks," as they were often called—with whites over several successive generations, they hoped to breed out most of the Aboriginal ancestry. These aims appear to be contradictory, and indeed they are. But the extent of the Stolen Generations and reasons behind it are still fiercely debated, and quite polarized.



Aboriginal Man

The term ***aboriginal*** is a synonym for "indigenous" or "native," and can be applied to the native people in any place. In North America, the American Indians are considered aboriginal; in Israel, the Jews are technically the aboriginal group. The term Aborigine, with the capital A, is usually reserved for the indigenous people of Australia, the adjectival form being Aboriginal, also with a capital A. The Aborigines are assumed to have arrived from Southeast Asia several thousand years ago and lived throughout Australia. Several hundred distinct Aboriginal groups existed at the time of British colonization, and though many were linked in some form, a multitude of cultures, diets, lifestyles, religions, and languages persisted. Estimates vary substantially, but Aborigines may have numbered around half a million at the end of the 18th century.

Dutch explorer Willem Janszoon discovered Australia for the Europeans in 1606, but it was largely ignored for nearly two hundred years. In the late 18th century, the British established the land as a penal colony, exiling prisoners there, who became Australia's first white inhabitants. Settlement by both prisoners and free people continued throughout the 19th century, and Great Britain formally claimed part of Australia in 1829. In the 1850s, gold discovered in Victoria swelled Australia's population, propelling Melbourne to prominence as a population center. In 1901, Australia's colonies came together in a loose federation, and in 1931 Britain adopted the Statute of Westminster, which gave all British possessions, including Australia, sovereignty over their own affairs.

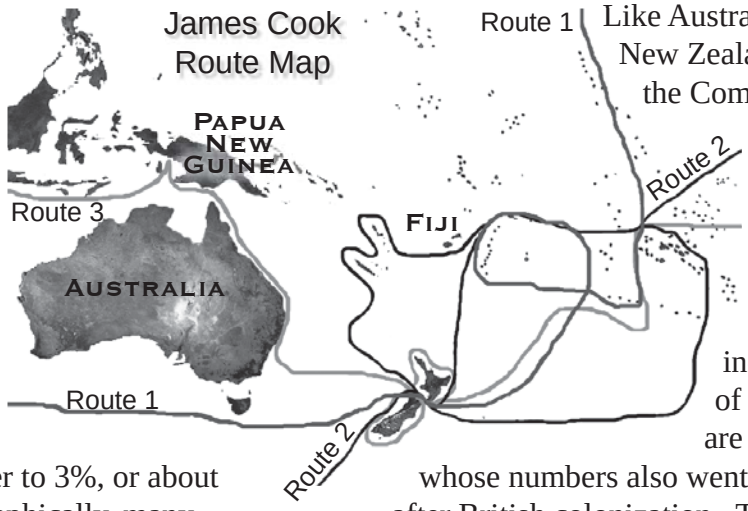


Willem Janszoon

Ethnically, Australia is exceptionally uniform. About 92% of the country is white, mostly of British descent. A few non-British European ethnicities, mostly

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Italian and German, exist in cities, but their numbers are only in the low hundreds of thousands, and for ethnic classification these people are considered white as well. About 450,000 Australians are New Zealanders. Five to seven percent of Australia is Asian, most coming from a few primary groups. About 200,000 of these are Japanese; about 100,000 are Persian. Around 350,000 are of Indian or Pakistani descent, and another 400,000 are Chinese. Other Asian groups include about 125,000 Filipinos and various Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander groups. The remaining percentage consists of Aborigines. The CIA World Factbook estimates that less than 1% of the population is Aboriginal, but other sources put the number closer to 3%, or about 500,000. Geographically, many of the minorities assimilate with the white majority. Asian peoples live mostly in the large cities on the coasts, especially in the northern city of Darwin. The Aborigines are disproportionately concentrated in the barren western areas, often in rural villages or on long-held tribal lands. Almost 30% of the Northern Territory population is Aboriginal, including 17% of Alice Springs. Darwin has a high number of indigenous peoples as well.



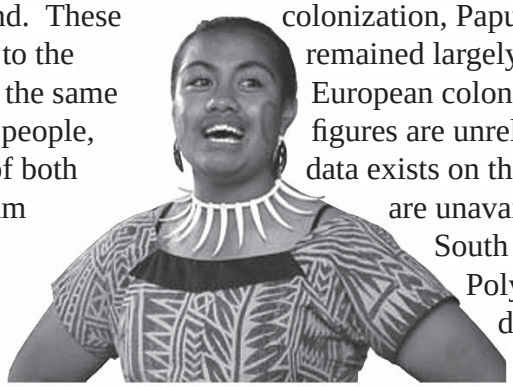
New Zealand's colonization largely mirrored that of Australia. British explorer James Cook first mapped the islands in the late 18th century, and the country's highest mountain still bears his name. Sleek British sailing ships, such as schooners and clippers of the 1700s and 1800s were usually equipped with masts from New Zealand's forests. The British first settled the land shortly thereafter, but it was not a penal colony like Australia. New Zealand was part of the Australian state of New South Wales until 1841, when it became a separate British possession. Self-governance gradually increased through the latter part of the 19th century and the First World War until the Statute of Westminster formally gave the country sovereignty. Like Australia, today New Zealand is part of the Commonwealth of Nations, the continuing legacy of the British Empire.

The indigenous people of New Zealand are the Maori, whose numbers also went into decline after British colonization. They are not dated back nearly as far as the Aborigines: evidence suggests their initial settlement came around 1300, by Polynesian explorers and travelers. The Maori have fared better than the Aborigines as well, today constituting somewhere around 550,000 to 625,000 people, about ten percent of New Zealand's population. Geographically, the Maori are scattered throughout both islands, and many have assimilated into the predominant white culture.

About 70% of New Zealand is white, mostly from British background. The Maori are the secondary ethnic group, constituting around 10% of the population, although exact figures are hard to come

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by. Five or six percent of New Zealand is Asian, about 100,000 of whom are Chinese. Japanese and Korean claim populations in the tens of thousands. Approximately 125,000 Samoan and about 50,000 Tongan people live in New Zealand. These people are closely related to the Maori, having come from the same geographical area. Many people, particularly descendants of both the Maori and whites, claim to be of mixed ancestry, as intermarriage and crossbreeding has produced people of mixed race.


Samoan Woman

In Papua New Guinea, most residents hail from native New Guinean or Melanesian ancestries. More than 1,000 distinct ethnic groups, many closely intertwined, live throughout the nation, and most of the population is remarkably uniform in physical appearance. Despite brief stints of European ownership and colonization, Papua New Guinea has remained largely free from large-scale European colonization. Because ***census*** figures are unreliable, little ***demographic*** data exists on the island, so exact figures are unavailable. On most of the South Pacific archipelagos, Polynesian and Asian groups dominate. The most notable exception is Guam, where many U.S. military service members are stationed for tours of a few years at a time.

Life Principle

A person's a person,
no matter how small.

- Dr. Seuss

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World Geography

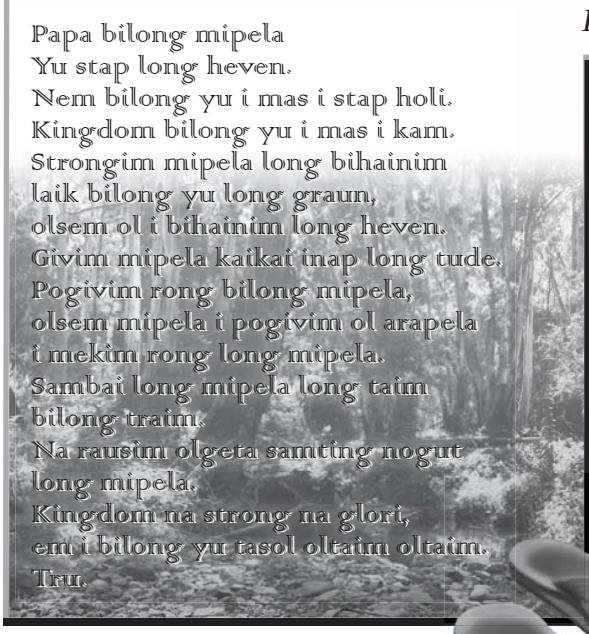
Chapter 6



Lesson 8
Languages



Section 2
Lessons 6-10



Before you book a vacation to Papua New Guinea this summer, you may want to brush up on your Abadi, Kairiru, or Tabo.

If you're impressed by the sheer number and breadth of languages in Africa, you'll be dumbfounded by Papua New Guinea. This island country hosts at least 850 languages across its 6.5 million people, more than any other country in the world. These range from major languages spoken by tens of thousands of people—English, for instance, or Tok Pisin—to nearly extinct tongues spoken by only a handful of people.

The official languages are English, Tok Pisin, and Hiri Motu, and as in many countries, government and commercial activities are often conducted in more than one language. But even the "large" languages on Papua New Guinea are not large by normal standards. Probably a few million people speak Tok Pisin, making this the largest language in the country, but only a few hundred thousand speak it exclusively. No other language comes anywhere close in numbers, although English is encouraged in schools and commerce.

The reasons for the plethora of languages on this island are numerous. Despite its position between the dense, populous nation of Indonesia and developed Australia, Papua New Guinea is one of the most mysterious countries on Earth. The 850-some languages derive from at least that many tribes and people groups, most of whom still maintain their cultures today. Most of the country is dense rainforest, where deeply isolated tribes experience limited interference



VOCABULARY

Pidgin: simplified language that develops as a means of communication between two or more groups that do not share a common language
De jure: by law
De facto: in practice, though not necessarily by law
Intonation: variation of pitch while speaking that is not used to distinguish words

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from the outside world. Unlike other nearby countries, Papua New Guinea was not colonized by Europe, but was owned by Germany for several decades before World War I. In the absence of an invading race or a strong central government, natives have continued their own traditions, including language. The average number of speakers per language in Papua New Guinea is just 7,000.

According to linguists, Papuan languages constitute their own family on par with the great language families of the world, such as Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan. Most languages in the region identify with the Austronesian family, or, to the south, Pama-Nyungan (Aboriginal tongues) and Indo-European. The language family predominates across the entire island of New Guinea, not just Papua New Guinea, and numbers probably just shy of ten million. It is subdivided into several groups by language relationships, but the relationships between many are still uncertain. The largest particular languages are Tok Pisin, English, and Enga. Tok Pisin is the primary language of most official functions of government and society, rooted throughout much of the country. Port Moresby enjoys perhaps the widest use, but even elsewhere it seems to have shed its former ***pidgin*** language status and evolved into a legitimate tongue. Enga, concentrated in the eastern New Guinea Highlands, counts about 180,000 speakers, good for second place in the country. English, which was once more widespread, is now spoken mostly by only a handful of people, mostly in urban areas such as Port Moresby and along the coast. Unfortunately, the number of languages spoken in Papua New Guinea is decreasing, and many are in danger of falling out of usage entirely. On the other hand, the tradition of numerous languages spoken in homes and elementary schools complicates academic achievement, as students struggle to learn in a common tongue.

Papua New Guinea is culturally far removed from the Westernized countries of Australia and New Zealand. Because language is often so closely linked to ethnicity, only a few languages prevail in Australia and New Zealand. English is both the ***de jure*** and the ***de facto*** official language in Australia, used by about 17.5 million people, or 80% of the population. Like British English and American English, Australian English features unique vocabulary, pronunciations, and accent. Early settlers of Australia spoke with a heavy Cockney accent. The Cockney manner of speech derives from poorer areas of England, where speakers often slur words and swap correct vowel sounds for incorrect ones, and is generally considered unpleasant and nonstandard; it is featured famously in the 1964 film *My Fair Lady*, which

The Lord's Prayer in Tok Pisin

Papa bilong mipela
Yu stap long heven.
Nem bilong yu i mas i stap holi.
Kingdom bilong yu i mas i kam.
Strongim mipela long bihainim
laik bilong yu long graun,
olsem ol i bihainim long heven.
Givim mipela kaikai inap long tude.
Pogivim rong bilong mipela,
olsem mipela i pogivim ol arapela
i mekim rong long mipela.
Sambai long mipela long taim
bilong traim.
Na rausim olgeta samting nogut
long mipela.
Kingdom na strong na glori,
em i bilong yu tasol oltaim oltaim.
Tru.

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illustrated dramatically the variety of speech sounds in the English language. Cockney accents still exist, particularly in the east. In western areas, Aboriginal words have entered the English-speaking vocabulary, often used as part of everyday language.

Next to English, the most widespread languages are not Aboriginal tongues, as might be expected, but a broad assortment of major world languages. Italian is spoken by a few hundred thousand people, while German claims about 135,000 and Greek at least 100,000. These people came to Australia during the early and mid-20th century, when Australia pursued an ambitious immigration policy and many Europeans sought to leave Europe in the wake of World Wars I and II. Chinese claims several hundred thousand speakers, as well, and rivals Italian in numbers, while a large number of Arabic speakers live in large cities on either coast. Recently, Vietnamese immigration has been high—records indicate many Australians designate Vietnam as their country of birth—but these are more likely to abandon their native language upon arriving. About 50,000 Aborigines retain some knowledge of an Aboriginal language, but this number is dropping. Australia hosts more than 200 languages, the vast majority of which are Aboriginal tongues; but unlike Papua New Guinea, most are so narrowly used that they are not counted.



"The Bush"



"Jandals"

In New Zealand, English is the predominant language as well, but it is scarcely different from Australian English. Other than differences in vocabulary, some vowel sounds and ***intonations*** are different, likely as a result of contact with Maori speakers. New Zealand's official languages are English, Maori, and New Zealand Sign Language, which makes it the only country to recognize a form of sign language as an official language. About 80% of the population speaks English primarily, while a great percentage can converse in other languages. About 70,000 New Zealanders speak Maori as their principal tongue, and many others employ the language casually. Unlike many other areas where native languages have been overtaken by colonial languages, Maori has experienced a resurgence. Statistics indicate that the 70,000 figure is up from 60,000 in 1991; this is due to aggressive efforts by Maori people to save their language from extinction, including teaching it in school and using it increasingly in homes. The most significant areas in which this occurs are rural areas still occupied by Maori in large numbers. Up to 25,000 people in New Zealand's deaf community speak sign language. The New Zealand variety differs from Australian and British versions in several key areas, but many words and phrases are the same.

Although Americans or English speakers from Europe can visit both these countries and get along well, some vocabulary terms are different. Some of these following examples are well known around the world. What Western

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English speakers would typically refer to as a thicket or scrubland, Australians call "the bush." The term does not refer to extremely developed vegetation like forests (except in New Zealand), but to low, woody, usually grassless or nearly grassless areas. "Trolley" or "shopping trolley" refers to a shopping cart; "jumper" to a sweater; "biscuit" to a cookie. In New Zealand English, a few terms differ from Australian English. Flip-flops are called "thongs" in Australia, but "japanese sandals" in New Zealand, or the shortened "jandals." Australians call swimwear "bathers" or "swimmers," but in New Zealand they are "togs." A big truck is called a "lorrie," and a person who steals something is said to "pinch" it. Usually, English-speakers unfamiliar with the language can deduce the meaning of these words by context clues.

In Fiji, the linguistic landscape is dichotomous, with about 45% of the country speaking Fijian and 40% speaking Fijian dialects of Hindustani tongues, mostly Hindi and Urdu. The former is part of the Austronesian family, the latter the Indo-European; Fiji Hindustani breaks significantly with the parent form of Hindi spoken in India in vocabulary and pronunciation. This owes partly to its geographical isolation, as Fiji is thousands of miles from India. A small minority speak English, and many are multilingual. In New Caledonia, French is spoken by 97% of the population, many of whom also understand native tongues. In the Mariana Islands, about a quarter of the people speak Chinese, a quarter speak Philippine languages, a fifth speak Chamorro, and 10% speak English. Numerous Austronesian languages are quite similar in many aspects, enabling bilingualism and multilingualism. Maori, for instance, is very similar to Hawaiian.



Tagalog (Philippine) Language

Life Principle

Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice. . . .

William Shakespeare (1564 – 1606)
16th century English playwright

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World Geography

Chapter 6



Lesson 9
Religions

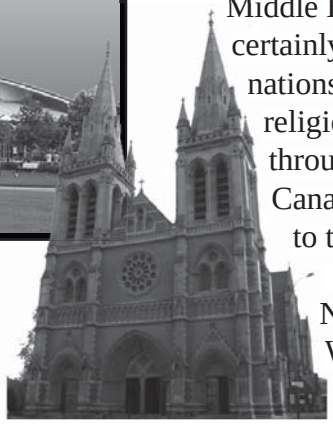


Religions of Oceania

Section 2
Lessons 6-10



In Chapter 4, we discussed a Gallup poll taken in 2008 that revealed the relative importance of religion in daily life throughout the world. On the map included here, we see how Africa, poor as it is, views religion as absolutely critical to life both in Muslim and Christian countries. Some other places are similar: the Middle East, parts of South America, and certainly Southeast Asia. Many Western nations have long since abandoned religion as a core aspect of life, as seen throughout Europe; even the U.S. and Canada are "below average" according to the map.



In Oceania, Australia and New Zealand continue the trend of Western countries that have grown post-religious in their affluence. Both are developed countries that meet all the criteria contained in that designation: an urbanized population, free and open democracy, a capitalist economic system, a high standard of living. Religious belief in the South Pacific owes to the region's cultural heritage and history of being settled by Protestant British, and reflects contemporary tendencies in that Christianity is no longer a major force in society. While most Oceanians continue to identify with Christianity, actual practices blur their identification. Few Oceanians attend worship services on a regular basis, increasing numbers have dropped even the pretense of faith, and non-native, Eastern religions are growing rapidly.

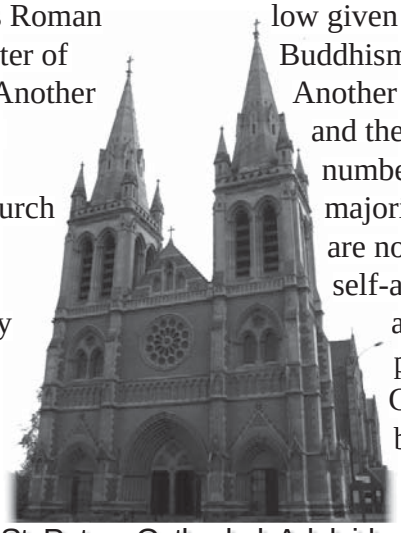
In Australia, on paper, Christianity is the dominant religion. About 64% claimed Christianity in 2006, a drop of

VOCABULARY

Doctrine: theological belief or belief system
Humanism: philosophy that upholds reason, human ethics, and tolerance over religious belief or supernatural authority
Parachurch organization: Christian organizations that work outside of and across denominations and local churches to engage in evangelism and social welfare
Shaman: medium between physical and spirit worlds

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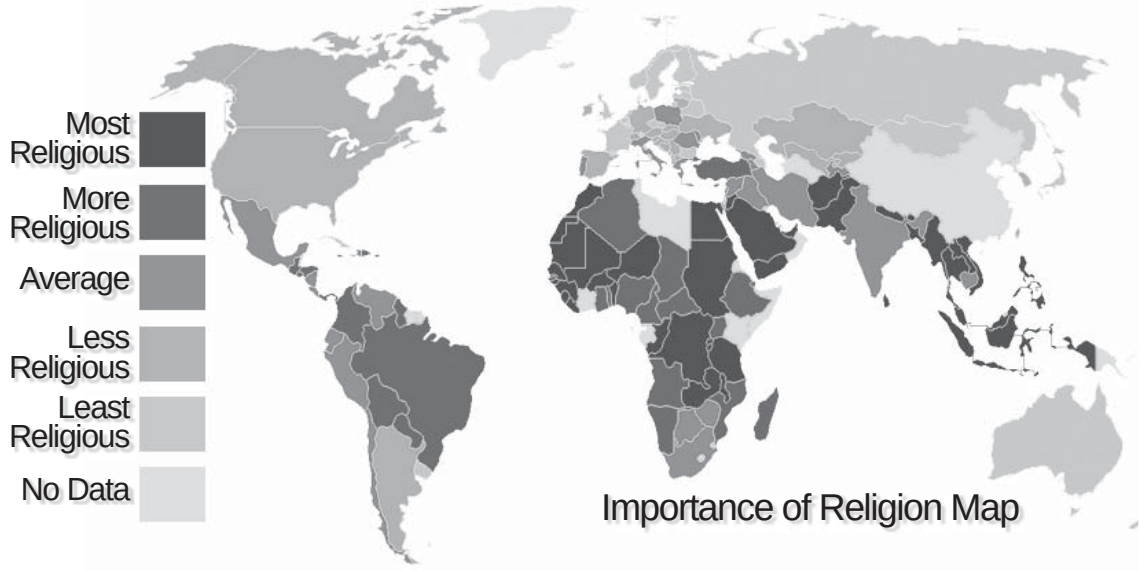
four percent from five years earlier. The largest branch of adherence is Roman Catholic, with about one quarter of Australia's total population. Another 19% of Australia is Anglican. Anglicans in Australia do not affiliate with the Anglican Church as it is usually known, which is headquartered in England. Although that church certainly influenced the large number of Anglicans in Australia, Australian Anglicans identify with the Anglican Church of Australia, a wholly separate entity. The Uniting Church in Australia, a denomination most closely associated with Methodism, carries about six percent of the country, while Protestant denominations of independents, Presbyterians, and Lutherans, as well as Eastern Orthodoxy, number a few hundred thousand each.



St. Peters Cathedral, Adelaide

About eight million Australians identify with non-Christian religious groups. Most established religions are actually quite small, similar to numbers one would expect in the U.S. Two percent are Buddhist, which is actually quite low given Australia's proximity to Buddhism's heart in Southeast Asia. Another two percent are Muslim, and there are scattered but low numbers of Hindus and Jews. The majority of these eight million are nonreligious. This includes self-avowed atheists, agnostics, and Australians who have perhaps long identified with Christianity, but no longer do because that identification was in name only. The 3.7 million Australians in this category in 2006 represented a 28% jump over 2001's numbers, when they numbered only 2.9 million.

In New Zealand, conditions are grimmer for Christianity. The 2006 census revealed that 56% of the country identified as Christian, down from 70% in 1991. Based on the rate of decline over the past two decades, today barely half the population is Christian. About 35% claimed to be nonreligious, atheistic, or agnostic in 2006, a figure far higher than in Australia, where the 3.7 million nonreligious in 2006

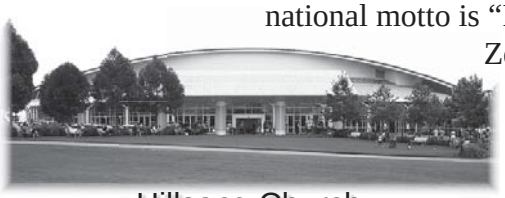


Importance of Religion Map

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represented 19% of the total population. Anglicans are the largest Christian denomination, followed by Catholics and Presbyterians. Geographically, Anglicans are established throughout the North Island and northern part of the South Island, while Presbyterians dominate in the south; Catholicism is scattered throughout the country, but larger numbers live in Wellington and Auckland. Behind Christianity and nonreligion, Buddhism and Hindu each count about two percent of the country; most other faiths are marginally established. The local Maori religion, which was once widespread before Europeans imported Christianity, counts a negligible total.

The reasons for recent downward trends in these countries are similar to those in other Westernized countries. Increasing religious plurality and a general boredom with traditional Christian church services are among the main factors. ***Doctrines*** of secularism, ***humanism***, and materialism have accompanied Oceania's general wealth over the past century, particularly following World War II, as was the case in Europe and the Americas. Interestingly, the decline is not shared by all Christian denominations, nor is it uniform across all geographical areas. Similar to the boom they are presently experiencing in Latin America, Pentecostal Christian denominations are growing impressively in Australia and New Zealand, churches are bulging in attendance, and new congregations are being founded. In New Zealand, Catholicism is increasing at a slower pace, but it still stands in contrast to most other dwindling denominations. Churches attribute the growth in part to aggressive social outreach programs, which have sought to improve local communities and better the lives of residents. The nation's largest church has been a pacesetter in this arena for years. Sydney's Hillsong Church draws 20,000 worshippers each week and has rocketed to international fame with its music ministries, which write songs that are sung in thousands of churches throughout the world. A large number of ***parachurch organizations*** operate in Australia, as well.

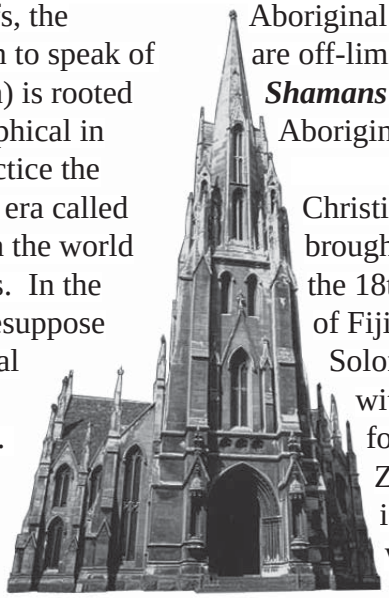

Hillsong Church

Culturally, both New Zealand and Australia identify with Christianity, and despite how people's spiritual tendencies lean, well-ingrained cultural practices will be slower to change. Christian holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, are celebrated by most of the population, whether or not they identify with the spiritual side. Both nations have ties to Britain, where the Church of England occupies a similar ceremonial role. That tie will likely keep Christianity as at least the de facto official religion. New Zealand's national anthems are "God Save the Queen," which is the British national anthem, and "God Save New Zealand." In many respects, the situation is similar to that in the United States (where the national motto is "In God We Trust"). New Zealand, however, does not have as much of religious diversity as the U.S., thus concerns about religious discrimination and equal treatment of all religions is not as paramount.

Aborigines are of special interest in Australia because of the beliefs they share, even across groups that were historically separate. The Aborigines' religion (although different Aboriginal

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societies hold different beliefs, the similarities are strong enough to speak of them here as a single religion) is rooted in animism and often geographical in nature. Aboriginals who practice the traditional faith believe in an era called the Dreamtime, during which the world was created by ancient spirits. In the belief system, Aborigines presuppose two parallel worlds, a physical and a spiritual, which come into contact at various points. Human souls are immortal, existing both before and after physical life, and all of creation is intertwined, with each event having profound and lasting effects, even if it appears insignificant. Various gods exist in the different cultures, but the common elements of the story are the same. Some Aboriginal sites are held sacred and are off-limits to outsiders under law. ***Shamans*** are common in traditional Aboriginal settings.



First Church Dunedin
Dunedin, New Zealand

In other countries, Christianity largely dominates, brought over by missionaries in the 18th and 19th centuries. Most of Fiji and virtually all of the Solomon Islands are Christian, without the diminishing effects found in Australia and New Zealand. Papua New Guinea is overwhelmingly Christian, which is somewhat surprising, given that it shares a border with Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country. In many places, animism is still practiced among indigenous people, and many professed Christians weave it into cultural practices.

Life Principle

Religion if in heavenly truths attired
Needs only to be seen to be admired.

William Cowper (1731-1800),
18th century English poet

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World Geography

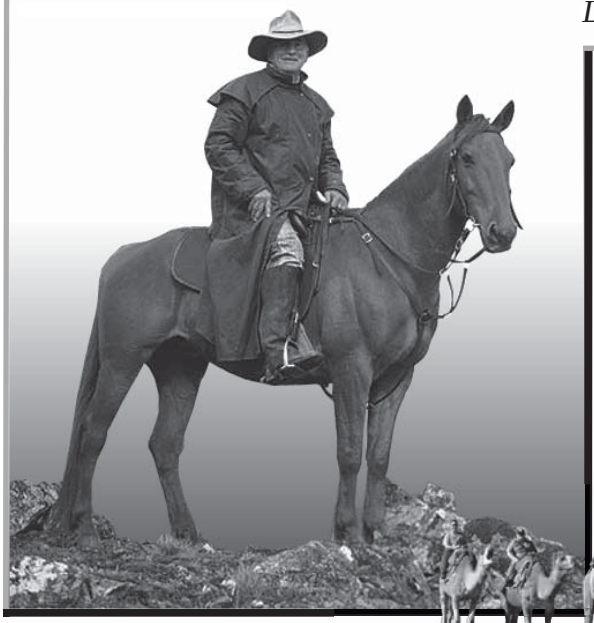
Chapter 6



Lesson 10
Transportation

Section 2
Lessons 6-10









Amelia Earhart was one of America's best known aviators and a staunch campaigner for women's rights. When flying was in its golden age in the 1920s and 1930s, Earhart studied aviation and gained flying experience alongside men. In 1928, she made history by becoming the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, cementing her place in history just one year after Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the same ocean. Throughout the 1930s, Earhart continued to fly and make headlines in the United States and the world.

In the summer of 1937, Earhart set off from the United States on an attempt to fly solo around the world, which would make her the first woman in history to complete such a feat. She traveled eastward, leaving the U.S. and heading south first to South America, then crossing the Atlantic to Africa. Earhart flew across Southeast Asia and eventually arrived in New Guinea, where she stopped before attempting to cross the thousands of miles of open Pacific waters. On July 2, 1937, Earhart left New Guinea for Howland Island, a tiny spit of land less than one square mile large, located roughly halfway between Australia and Hawaii. Earhart intended to land at Howland Island assisted by the U.S. Coast Guard, then continue on across the ocean.

But she never made it. Theories abound as to what exactly happened to Earhart that fateful day in July. The most widely held assumption is that she simply crashed into the ocean. Supporters cite transmissions in which she claimed she was low on fuel, and they believe this was the

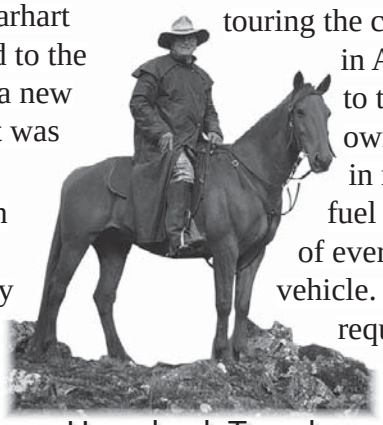
VOCABULARY

Gridlock: inability to move in a transport network
Freight: cargo; transported manufactured goods
Ordinance: local law, statute, or regulation

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cause of her disappearance. Other theories are more sinister and bizarre. Some purport that she crash-landed on another island and was captured by Japanese troops. Another outlandish theory suggests Earhart survived the trip and returned to the United States, then assumed a new identity. In any case, Earhart was never heard from again.

The presence of aviation in Oceania in the early 20th century contrasts dramatically with more primitive methods of travel, utilized in Australia for decades. As they were in 19th-century America, cattle drives were a big part of life for Australians a century ago. Before the advent of automobiles—even in 1939 Australia, cars were few and far between—Australians relied on horses just as Americans did, as horses were the best option for covering long stretches of uninhabited desert. Australia's barren interior led to the development of commercial hubs along the coast, first in the east and later on in the north and west. Yet this was a traveler's nightmare, because Australia is nearly the size of the United States. Australians required efficient ways to travel long distances quickly, even without multiple towns along the way in which to lodge—because when you're traveling from Sydney to Perth, the only place to stop and sleep is under a rock, or in the occasional cave. For more than a hundred years, horseback travel was a way of life in Australia, especially for people living in the vast, empty deserts.



Horseback Travel

Today, divided highways have replaced dirt trails and SUVs have supplanted horses as the preferred method of touring the country. Road travel flourishes in Australia, which is second to the United States in vehicle ownership and, similarly, high in miles traveled per capita and fuel consumption. About one of every two Australians owns a vehicle. Urban sprawl encourages and requires car ownership, which, in turn, demands high-capacity roadways and sprawling urban areas—it is a cycle. Many cities actually top American cities in car ownership. Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, and other cities average 450 to 475 cars per 1,000 population, far higher than, say, San Francisco, California, or Boston, Massachusetts. Most of Australia's population is urban, and the majority use personal vehicles as their primary transportation method, whether for commuting, leisure, or vacationing.



All told, nearly 600,000 miles of roadway exist in Australia, about 40% of them paved. Roads are high-quality, particularly major freeways near population centers. Australia's national expressway system is called the National Highway, connecting all the major hubs and including a stretch in Tasmania. Vehicles travel on the left side of the road, which is common throughout Oceania, but atypical

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across the world. Despite good roads, connections between major cities can be severely inadequate to handle personal and commercial traffic, which seems to be exceeding capacity as soon as new lanes are opened or new thoroughfares built. In Sydney and Melbourne, ***gridlock*** is a daily occurrence and costs commuters millions of dollars in wasted fuel and lost productivity every year. National highways are numbered, but are better known by their names: the Hume Highway connects Sydney and Melbourne, the Stuart Highway links Adelaide and Darwin; the Great Northern Highway conducts traffic between Darwin and Perth. Most of Australia has speed limits, but the Northern Territory notably does not. In the outback, collisions with wild animals, such as kangaroos, are common. Ford and Toyota both operate manufacturing plants in Australia, and many of the vehicles produced are bought domestically.


Camel Safari

Travel congestion and rising fuel prices have sparked renewed interest in alternative transportation methods. Most of Australia's rail traffic is still commercial. Subway systems in cities are the next big alternative to highways. Australia's rail gauge was recently standardized, hurtling a major barrier to intercontinental shipping. The government has taken an active role in funding rail transport and regulation, with the federal government owning the main manufacturer of rail track. Large ***freight*** companies in Australia include QRNational and Pacific National; there is a host of smaller operators throughout the country. State governments own most of the rail carriers for personal travel and connect all the important cities. Well-maintained and popular metro systems in Sydney and Melbourne help alleviate some of the clogged road traffic, and ordinances promoting rail travel have diversified transportation somewhat.

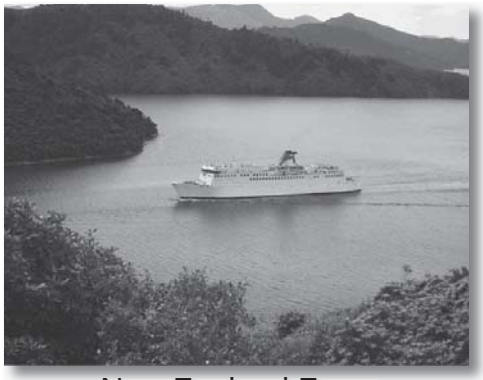
For travel across the clear waters of the Pacific or the exotic Indian Ocean, most coastal cities have large seaports and harbors. Among the largest are Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne. A few hundred paved and unpaved airports and airstrips exist in Australia. The top five busiest are the international airports at, in order, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide. In the outback, tourists can book camel safaris to travel the desert just as early settlers did.

Papua New Guinea lies at the other end of the spectrum: virtually no land transportation of any kind exists outside of the large cities. The national capital, Port Moresby, is almost completely isolated by road: there are no routes to Lae, the second largest city, and the only road connections Port Moresby does enjoy are with small and inconsequential settlements. The reason is mountainous terrain. The New Guinea Highlands tower well above 12,000 feet in some areas, which would make road building difficult in any country; the impoverished New Guineans cannot afford to build such infrastructure. Air travel—not in Boeing airliners, but in light aircraft—is for most purposes the


Airplane

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only feasible method of travel. Because of this, nearly 600 airports dot the Papuan landscape, most of them unpaved. The lack of transportation has contributed heavily to the isolation of indigenous people groups, enabling them to retain their cultures and customs without outside influence. In Port Moresby, Jacksons International Airport is the main gate in and out of the country, and serves airlines as well as private planes.



New Zealand Ferry

New Zealand water transport is of high importance. Like Papua New Guinea, New Zealand has high mountains throughout its interior and a population centered predominantly near the coast. Consequently, cargo shipping and personal travel via coastal waters has long been efficient and cost-effective. Roads rimming the country and even crisscrossing the mountains do exist, with city dwellers owning personal automobiles. In larger cities like Auckland, commuter rail lines are well used. On many islands throughout the South Pacific, native peoples still employ traditional methods of transportation, such as walking and pulling carts. Because towns are smaller and lifestyles are slower paced, widespread personal vehicle ownership is uncommon.

LIFE PRINCIPLE

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood . . .
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost (1875 – 1963)
20th century U.S. poet

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World Geography

Chapter 6

Lesson 11
Forms of Government

Section 3
Lessons 11-15

Forms of Government of Oceania





The weather is warm, with a trace of humidity, on sparkling white North Beach on Turtle Island, Fiji. It's no departure from the norm—the weather is always warm here. Few of Fiji's 840,000 residents live on this sheltered archipelago paradise, most of which is covered by rainforest. North Beach may not be the most secluded bit of coastline on the island, but then again, any Fijian beach is a far cry from crowded American hotspots like Miami Beach, South Padre Island, or La Jolla. As scattered palm trees waft gently in the salt breeze, forming a haphazard canopy over sections of sand, the South Pacific begins to feel increasingly surreal. Even most tourists don't know about this place—it is utter tranquility, free from the duties and pressures of industrialized life. However, Fiji life is not peaceful.

On Viti Levu, the capital city, Suva, is in chaos. Just one hundred miles southeast of North Beach, the Fijian halls of power are in stark contrast with the nation's blissful shores. On April 10, 2009, President Joseto Iloilo announced that he had suspended the constitution and disbanded the sitting government, personally assuming control of law enforcement agencies and the media. That harsh act was perhaps inevitable—the previous day, a court ruled that the current government, which seized power in a coup three years previously, was illegal. The present circumstances owe to a long running standoff between the government and the military, and to a lesser extent, the Methodists and the Hindus. As horrifying as Iloilo's actions may seem at

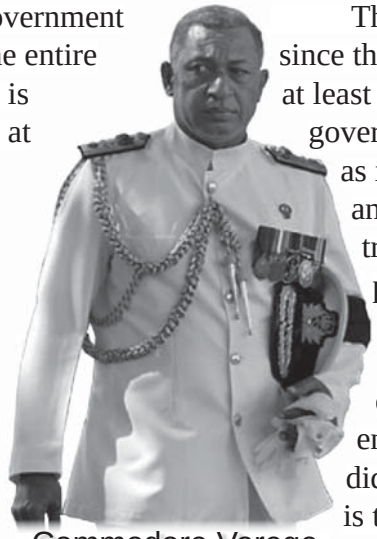
VOCABULARY

Junta: form of government in which political power resides with the military
Cabinet: body of high-ranking advisers and officials in the executive branch of government, usually appointed and presiding over agencies and departments
Proportional representation: electoral system in which the number of seats won is directly linked to the number of votes cast for each party

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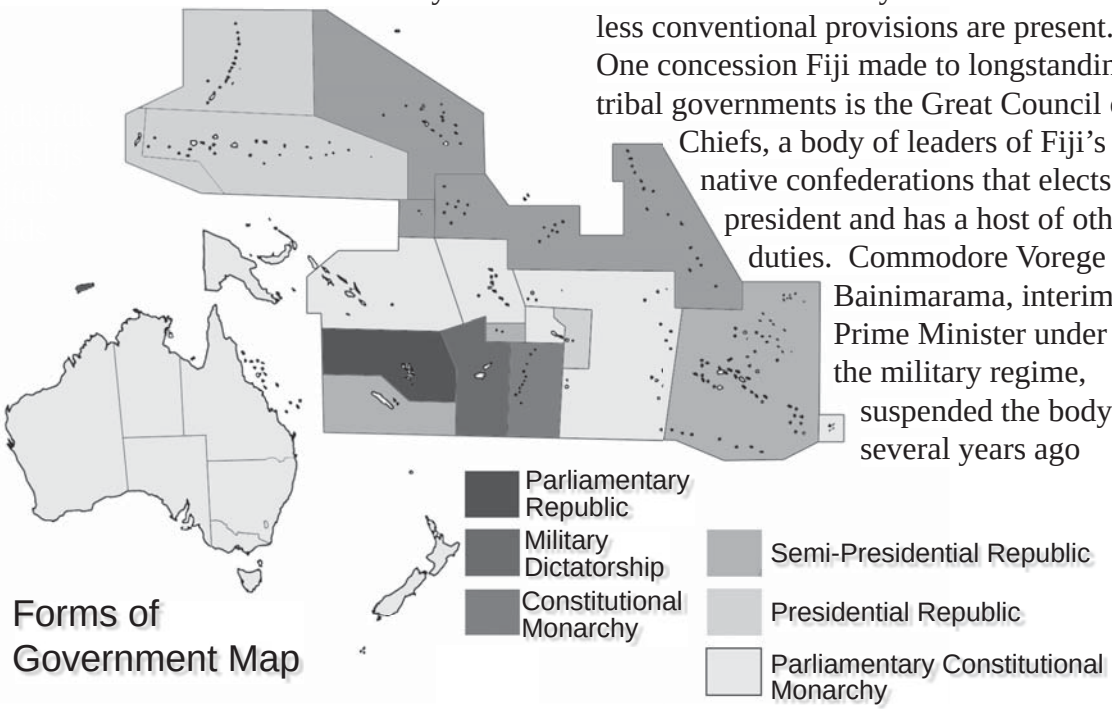
a glance, they would appear to be just what the court prescribed—as president, Iloilo does retain emergency powers such as these, but the current government is a sham. Wrapping up the entire nation's power in one man is frightening and ill-advised at best.

Over the past few decades, Fiji would have been more suited to Latin America than Oceania, as coup and coup attempts are now greeted with a collective yawn, so common are they. Today, Fiji operates under a parliamentary republic, with all the elements characteristic of such governments: a distinct head of state and head of government, a bicameral legislature, judicial review processes. But until 2009, Fiji was ruled by a series of military ***juntas*** normally found in places like Libya and Burma, turbulent states upon which the world keeps close watch.



Commodore Vorege (Frank) Bainimarama

The government of Fiji has stabilized since the 2009 constitutional suspension, at least for the present. In practice, Fiji's government is quirky in the present era, as it seeks to balance national unity and modern thinking with age-old traditions and systems. Like many parliamentary systems, the head of state is the president, who holds a mostly formal role, although the constitution stipulates that he may enact emergency powers as Iloilo did in 2009. The head of government is the prime minister, appointed by the president and confirmed by the lower legislative house. The prime minister appoints a ***cabinet*** to oversee various government functions and duties, and these are among Fiji's most powerful figures. All these features are typically found throughout the world; in them, Fiji is no different from many countries. But other less conventional provisions are present. One concession Fiji made to longstanding tribal governments is the Great Council of Chiefs, a body of leaders of Fiji's native confederations that elects the president and has a host of other duties. Commodore Vorege Bainimarama, interim Prime Minister under the military regime, suspended the body several years ago

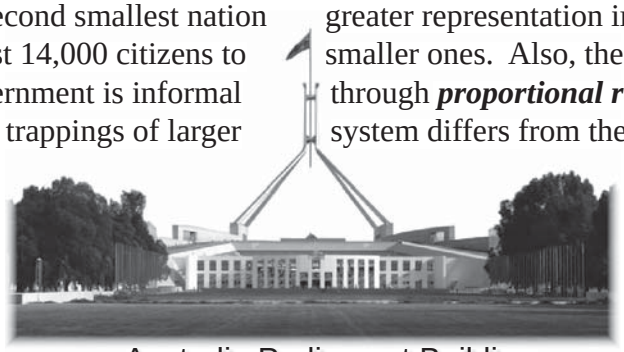


Forms of Government Map

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due to his difficulty dealing with it, but it is expected to rebound. Social issues are also political tug-of-wars. Indigenous Fijian landowners are treated preferentially over Indian immigrants and even other Pacific Islanders despite these groups' large numbers. Although it is in the 21st century, Fiji is moving away from coups reluctantly.

Nauru is the second smallest nation in the world. With just 14,000 citizens to manage, Nauru's government is informal and lacks many of the trappings of larger countries, and much of the inefficiency as well. Also holding a parliamentary system, Nauru has a president who is both head of state and head of government. Political parties are largely irrelevant, as many people on the island enjoy either close friendship or familial ties. Thus, government offices are often awarded based on personal connections rather than merit. In many ways, Nauru operates similarly to many small towns in America: the president is the equivalent of a mayor, and the eighteen-member parliament like a city council. Nauru is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations as are most nations in Oceania.


Australia Parliament Building

Of course, the major players in Oceania are its largest countries: Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. Politics in these places looks very different from the cozy, leisurely pace on Nauru. In Australia, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd heads up a parliamentary democracy with two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate is the smaller and upper of the two, and its duties are strikingly similar to those found in the United States Senate. Tax and appropriations bills cannot be proposed by senators and can be confirmed only after they have passed the House of Representatives. The Senate was originally installed to keep the interests of larger states in check, as larger states receive greater representation in the House than do smaller ones. Also, the Senate is elected through ***proportional representation***. This system differs from the American winner-take-all method in that states elect senators according to statues in their political party. It is the only part of government elected in this way.

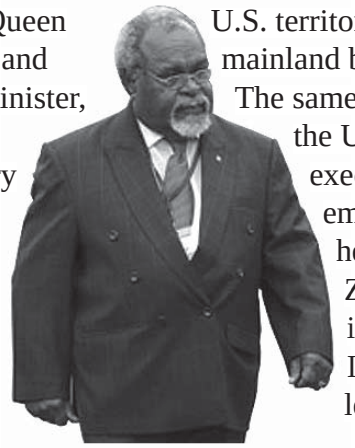

Kevin Rudd

When Australia was established in 1900, its political system was designed like the U.S. model. The bicameral system has two divisions named after the U.S. Senate and House with ***checks and balances***. The Prime Minister's cabinet and the Senate's rotating election calendar in which senators are elected every six years with half up for reelection every three years were inspired by the American political processes and elements. Certain other features evolved through the decades. While a multitude of political parties exist in Australia, for most purposes it is a two-party state, comprised of the Liberal and the Labor Parties (in Queensland and in various localities, the National Party enjoys support). Ironically, the Liberal Party is the more conservative of the two, and is often allied with the even more conservative National Party on the federal

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level. Australia exhibits a federal system as well, and its seven states elect officials locally and statewide.

In Papua New Guinea, Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state and Michael Somare is the prime minister, or head of government. Papua New Guinea has a parliamentary system of just one house, and many of its members are independents rather than adherents of a political party. The Economist magazine calls Papua New Guinea a "flawed democracy"—not a terribly poor designation, as it puts Papua New Guinea in the company of South Africa, Chile, and Taiwan. Stability is uncertain, and elected officials are often transient, serving for a term and then being voted out. Because of this instability—and the absence of a strong moral value system—crime is high in urban areas, and the government has not been able to produce a robust economic strategy. Most Papuans live in jungles and on mountains; thus, they are not overtly concerned with grading their nation's economic structure. They maintain the village lifestyles passed down to them for generations, enjoying their families and traditional land.


Michael Somare

Other countries of Oceania have differing systems of government. Guam is a U.S. territory, connected with the American mainland by the presence of U.S. Military. The same political parties exist as do in the U.S. proper, and Guam's chief executive is the governor. Kiribati employs a parliamentary system headed by the president; New Zealand has a prime minister in charge of its system. Easter Island is the property of Chile, led by a governor.

VOCABULARY

Checks and balances: system in which branches of government exercise controls over certain actions of the others, so as to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful

Life Principle

THE DETERIORATION (FALLING APART) OF A GOVERNMENT BEGINS ALMOST ALWAYS BY THE DECAY OF ITS PRINCIPLES.

Charles Louis de Montesquieu
(1689 – 1755), 18th century
French writer and philosopher

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World Geography

Chapter 6



Lesson 12
Diplomatic Relations

Section 3
Lessons 11-15





Nauru, which we noted in the last lesson, is the world's second smallest country behind the Vatican. The tiny nation of 14,000 people is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Closer in size to a small town than a country, the sovereign nation has a parliament and a prime minister, a modest court system, even political parties. However, most aspiring politicians choose not to identify with political labels. It is a member of various international organizations: the U.N.; the Asian Development Bank; and like most of its Oceanic neighbors, the Commonwealth of Nations. Although economic problems loom ahead in the wake of Nauru's depletion of its natural resources, most of the citizens are free, happy, and connected to other Nauruans by a dense web of family ties and close friendships. But with only a few thousand people and an accordingly meager national budget, Nauru can do little about its defense. In World War II, Japanese troops bombarded and occupied the eight-square-mile island. Later, the U.S. liberated the island by effectively dispatching Japanese occupants, but only a few hundred Nauruans remained. While the phosphates that comprise Nauru's chief economic activity are limited, they are a productive industry. Nauru protects them through an accord, that cedes defense responsibility to Australia. The agreement has been in place for some years now, and the initial cost to Nauru was the requirement that it accept a detention center for Australian ***asylum*** seekers. The trade was not balanced—Nauru, and other South



VOCABULARY

Asylum: protection from political or religious persecution, usually offered to refugees by another country
Protectorate: autonomous territory that is protected diplomatically or militarily against third parties by a stronger state or entity
Consulate: headquarters for a consul, who is a diplomatic representative from one country to another

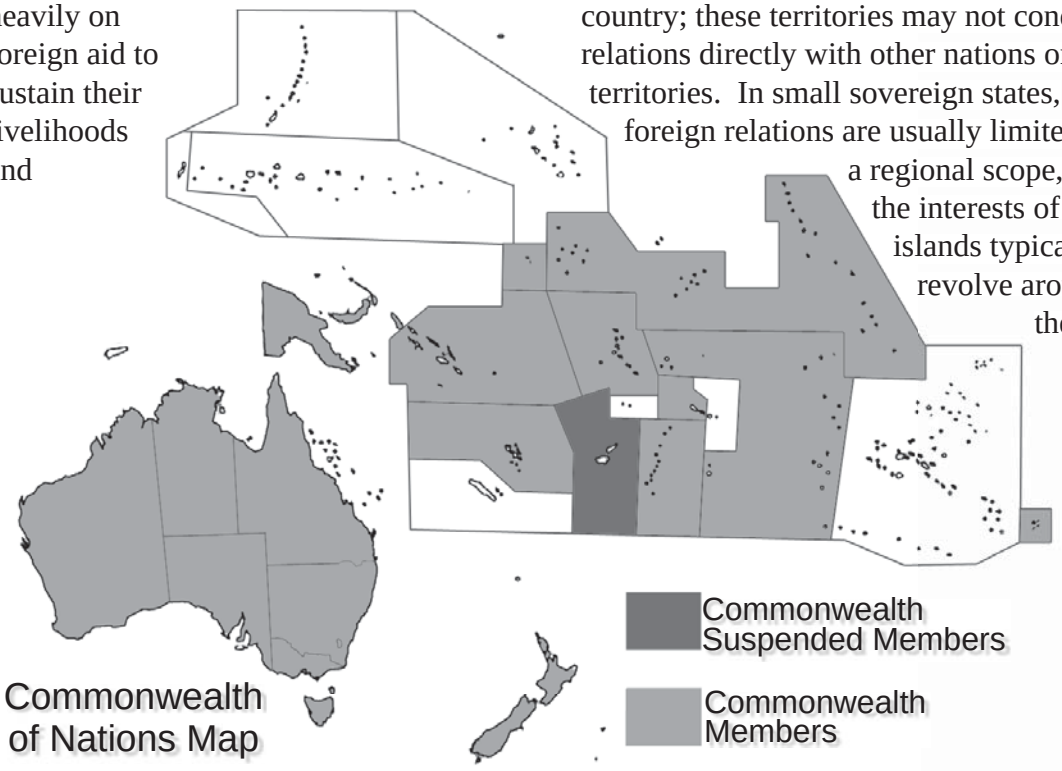
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Pacific islands that have signed similar agreements, receive financial benefits far outweighing the sacrifice—but it is in Australia's interest to keep Oceanic islands solvent and peaceful, and avoid creating chaotic places like Fiji. In 2008, Australia decided to close the asylum center. The two countries are currently working on an arrangement by which Australia continues to provide Nauru much-needed financial assistance.



Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

The pact, which was officially called a Memorandum of Understanding, was a practical example of how diplomatic relations in the South Pacific can assist small island nations. Indeed, many archipelagos and island chains in Oceania—Kiribati and the Solomon Islands, for instance—rely heavily on foreign aid to sustain their livelihoods and populations. Others have historically been ***protectorates***, a designation that in a strict sense would include Nauru, although most protectorates have closer relationships with their protector country than Nauru has with Australia. Some are overseas territories of larger countries, their economies stabilized by direct aid or mutually beneficial agreements. This is the case in New Caledonia (which has some aspects of a sovereign nation, though it still reports to France) and Guam; both receive direct aid from their parent countries and economic deals, such as the large payments Guam receives for hosting U.S. military installations. In these places, foreign relations are not conducted by the territory itself, but rather by the parent country; these territories may not conduct relations directly with other nations or territories. In small sovereign states, foreign relations are usually limited to a regional scope, as the interests of small islands typically revolve around their own



Commonwealth of Nations Map

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economic conditions and political stability, rather than overarching global concerns. Australia and New Zealand are the only two countries with developed foreign policies and many diplomatic missions.

Most Oceanic countries are part of the Commonwealth of Nations, meaning that they were once part of the British Empire. Queen Elizabeth II, the monarch of Great Britain, formally presides over these countries, although mostly as a figurehead. In most cases, this has led to good relations with the U.K., often one of the only Western powers with which these nations conduct diplomacy. In Kirbati, relations with Britain are carried out via embassies or ***consulates*** in other countries like Fiji. The U.K. pours money into Kiribati through the U.N. and the EU, aid that counts for a large percentage of Kiribati's economy. Tuvalu's relationship is a bit rockier. The country has considered abandoning the Commonwealth in recent years and has loudly protested certain British actions in Tuvalu.



Queen Elizabeth II

Fiji's rollercoaster diplomacy over the past decade has intensely strained its relations, both around the world and regionally. It counts Australia and New Zealand among close political and trade partners, but both countries have expressed concern about the lack of democracy and continuing military government. These countries have levied criticism on Fiji's pattern of coups d'état, its preferential treatment of native citizens over Indian and Asian immigrants, and other disconcerting behaviors. Australia and New Zealand would seem not to be alone: France, the United Kingdom, and the United States have also urged Fiji to reinstitute equity. Fiji has countered by criticizing what it sees as external meddling in its affairs; generally, its neighbors have continued to do business with Fiji, while Europe and the U.S. have withdrawn support and diplomacy. A few regional rifts plague Fiji as well, such as its dispute with Tonga over a reef between the two nations, and claims by Papua New Guinea that Fijians had entered Papua New Guinea illegally.



Commonwealth of Nations Flag

Canberra, Australia maintains a strong presence abroad, highlighted by its sterling relationship with neighbor New Zealand. The two nations share a common heritage and a prominence in the South Pacific that often thrusts both of them together against challenges that arise. Both trace their roots to British colonialism and identify a common language (English), religion (historically Christianity, though increasingly secular), levels of democracy (high), and economic policies (mainly capitalistic). Australia has free trade agreements with a few countries, including New Zealand, Thailand, Chile, and Singapore, and is exploring agreements with other nations. Australia is a member of the UN and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, an association of twenty-one Pacific Rim countries that work for trade integration. Australia has embassies or other diplomatic missions in most countries, and a series of consulates at provincial or municipal levels around the world.

South Pacific countries are, as a

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rule, not embroiled in diplomatic face-offs or international controversy. New Zealand has positive relationships with most countries and, as a smaller nation, focuses primarily on regional economic ties and political stability in the South Pacific. Papua New Guinea has had some struggles with neighbors recently, but these are due to internal strife rather than outside disputes. However, recent discoveries of petroleum reserves have escalated geographic disputes. Most nations—with the notable exception of Fiji—have strong relationships with the United States, aided by a joint interest in stemming terrorism, communism, and global economic recession. A few countries have waffled back and forth between recognizing Taiwan and China, alternately accepting one country's friendship and losing the other's.

Life Principle

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)
19th century American essayist, philosopher and poet

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World Geography

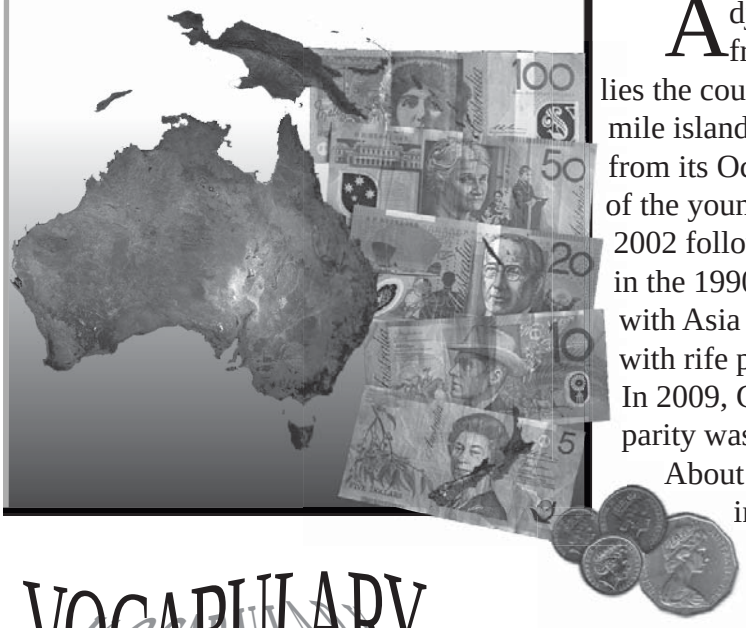
Chapter 6



Lesson 13
Economic Systems

Section 3
Lessons 11-15





Adjacent to East Nusa Tenggara, not far from the northern shores of Australia, lies the country of East Timor. The 5,700-square-mile island nation is a radically different world from its Oceanic neighbors. East Timor is one of the youngest nations in the world, birthed in 2002 following a bitter struggle with Indonesia in the 1990s. Economically, it falls more in line with Asia than with Oceania, challenged as it is with rife poverty and a low standard of living. In 2009, GDP per capita by purchasing power parity was about $2,400, or 179th in the world. About 90% of the population is engaged in agriculture, despite that industry's relatively low contribution to GDP. Political stability is still weak: in 1999, Indonesian troops devastated East Timor's few economically viable facilities and markets, and the emerging government is still recovering from the blow. All this is on top of sky-high unemployment (upwards of 20%, with underemployment figures much higher) and alarming inflation (7.8%, even as recessionary forces have driven rates into the negative in many countries). These two figures place East Timor in the bottom tier of countries, certainly a long way from rich Australia or New Zealand. And they are not news to the Timorese population—at least four in ten live below the country's own poverty line, which by Western standards is preposterously low.

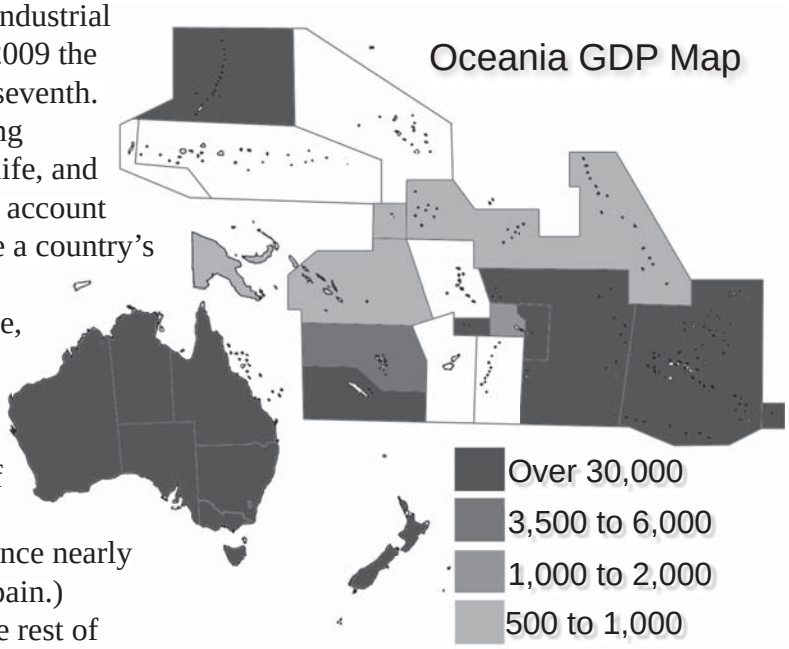
Paradoxically, there are some encouraging signs in East Timor in the wake of daunting economic challenges. The highest-profile is probably the discovery of oil and natural gas deposits offshore, activity that has given Timor's sagging economy a much-needed boost. In 2004, East Timor

VOCABULARY

Liability: debt or financial obligation
Trade union: organization whose members belong to the same trade and that acts collectively to address common issues
Protectionist: characterized by the economic policy of restraining trade between states in order to protect domestic industries from foreign competition

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had the sixth fastest growing industrial sector of any country, and in 2009 the GDP growth rate was ranked seventh. Surprisingly successful banking operations have also injected life, and Timor ranks highly on current account balance charts, which measure a country's income and dividends against its ***liabilities***. (By this measure, Timor ranks far above many developed Western countries, which are currently saddled with high national debt. As of 2009, the United States ranks dead last, with a negative balance nearly five times that of runner-up Spain.)



Timor contrasts with the rest of Oceania not only in its lack of affluence, but its restrictive economic policies. It is another example of the havoc that closed markets and strong government control can wreak on an economy—the country is ranked near the bottom of economic freedom charts. Fortunately, many Oceanic nations, including cornerstone nations Australia and New Zealand, are very capitalistic in their tendencies. Australia and New Zealand are generally considered more capitalistic than the United States, helped by low taxes and the relative ease of starting a business. A few other countries have decidedly less unfettered economic climates, but they are less significant—junta-governed Fiji, for instance, or Papua New Guinea.

On average, New Zealand's personal income tax level is just over 20%, making it one of the least taxed nations in the world. Corporate taxes are higher, but even they are low: corporations pay around one-third of their income to the government each year. It might sound high, but it is far better than in Europe, where some governments take half of citizens' personal salaries. New Zealand uses the New Zealand dollar as its currency, which enjoys relative strength around the world. It has also rebounded from a trying period in the early 20th century in which the state controlled large portions of the economy.

Beginning in the 1980s, government regulation and subsidies to certain markets have dipped dramatically. Tax rates have declined steadily as the government has limited its services and expenditures, and many sectors that were once under federal purview are now deregulated. Small business ownership has flourished as a result. Additionally, New Zealand is considered perhaps the least corrupt country in the world, with most politicians working in the interest of citizens rather than for their own pocketbooks. New Zealand's national debt is low in comparison to its GDP, which is rare for developed countries in recent years, and unemployment is around just 6%. Foreign investment is also encouraged, and several important free trade agreements (Australia, China, and the United States)

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have helped the economy. Recent legislation has furthered the breaking down of ***trade unions***, which have influenced New Zealand policy for some time.

In Australia, tax rates are low as well, and the country has generally followed the same trends of New Zealand. Income taxes are levied by the federal government, but not by the states, which have not collected income taxes since the mid-20th century. Local governments charge taxes for services similar to those in the U.S., such as city building construction and garbage collection. Deregulation has played a major role in Australian economics since the 1980s, particularly in the financial sector. Significant developments since have included breaking down tariffs and other ***protectionist*** policies, loosening restrictions on small businesses, and the decision to ***float*** the Australian dollar. Markets have responded enthusiastically: Australia has witnessed impressive growth for nearly two decades, without any major bumps in the road. Even through the current recession, the Australian economy has stayed somewhat healthy. Most hard-hit by the downturn have been affluent Western countries, and yet Australia's inflation rate was still around 2% in 2009. This was in contrast to many countries that saw negative inflation rates as businesses dramatically cut prices to attract conservative consumers. Next to the United States, Australia has perhaps the highest standard of living in the world.



Australian Bills

One item that has been received with some controversy is the federal government's goods and services tax, a 10% charge on most anything purchased in the country. The tax was introduced in 2000 as a replacement for the federal sales tax, and it was at least partially intended to encourage lower-income workers to save money, as saving would keep them from paying the tax. The chief items exempted are fresh food (as opposed to, say, food from a restaurant, which is subject to the tax), which keeps Australia consistent with much of the world, in which sales taxes do not apply to food. Critics have complained that the goods and services tax is unfair to low wage earners, that although it does not apply to fresh food, other necessary purchases (like vehicle maintenance, utilities, and clothing) are not exempted, and the taxes place a heavy burden on these less affluent Australians. On the flip side, a major concession by the government was to lower income taxes at the time of its introduction, thus relieving the financial burden placed on low-end consumers. Though more time is needed to assess whether the tax had the desired effect, it has provided the states—which receive funds collected from the tax, even though it is levied by the federal government—much-needed revenue. The goods and services tax only initially stifled consumer demand; demand dipped at first but soon bounced back to previous levels.

Papua New Guinea is a vastly different nation. Questions of taxes, economic policy, and regulation vs. deregulation are of little importance, largely because most of the people make a living from subsistence agriculture. As we have discussed, Papua New Guinea's

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people are incredibly fragmented, holding fast to local religions, languages, customs, and farming practices. As some have never been reached by the outside world, economic policy is a moot point to them. The government earns no money from taxing rural revenues; even if taxes were levied, government power actually to collect them is severely limited due to the country's rugged terrain and virtual impossibility of travel. Yet, one of the drawbacks of the subsistence lifestyle is that economic conditions are poor, whether in the jungle, on high mountain towns, or in the city. Per capita GDP is similar to African countries, around $2,300 in 2009. So far, the government has sought to protect its few productive industries by owning them or heavily regulating them, so economic freedom levels are low—perhaps tellingly, also near those of Africa.



Australian Coins

One bright spot is the existence of oil and natural gas off Papuan shores, which harbor the potential to send GDP soaring. Papuan commodities have survived the recent financial crunch quite well, so the world is cautiously optimistic about its future economic condition.

Elsewhere, policies are mixed. Fiji is decidedly progressive socialistic, about halfway between the laissez-faire of Australia and the tightly held government control of East Timor. Although some industries are in private hands, recent challenges have risen from political unrest during the past decade. Turmoil has cost the country tourism receipts and threatened its trade alliances. Like many small countries, Fiji imports far more than it exports, which most economists see as undesirable. Smaller countries in Oceania, such as Tuvalu, the Cook Islands, and Nauru, are heavily reliant on foreign aid from larger countries. GDP is relatively high in French Polynesia due to French support and a thriving tourism industry. France has also pumped money into New Caledonia, whose economy is volatile due to its strong focus on nickel production.

Life Principle

Economy is half the battle of life; it is not so hard to earn money as to spend it well.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon
(1834-1892), 19th century English clergyman and author.

VOCABULARY

Float: in economic policy, to allow a currency's value to fluctuate according to the foreign exchange market

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World Geography

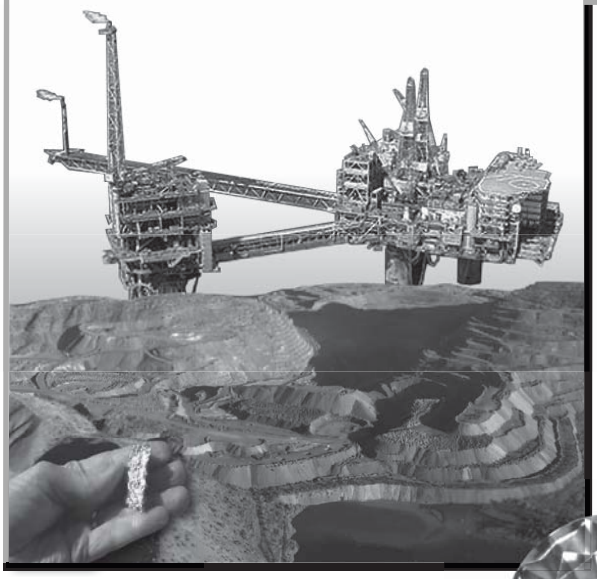
Chapter 6



Lesson 14
Natural Resources

Section 3
Lessons 11-15

Natural Resources of Oceania



The mid-19th century was an exciting time for gold prospectors and get-rich-quick schemers around the world. In 1849, frontier settlers in the U.S. territory of California discovered gold nuggets in a riverbed, prompting a massive wave of 300,000 prospectors. The prospectors, termed "forty-niners" (from which San Francisco's NFL franchise derives its name), turned out in droves to claim their fortune, some of whom ultimately found it but most of whom went home empty-handed.



Two years later and 7,500 miles away, the scenario was repeated. This time, the location was southeastern Australia. Beginning in New South Wales and eventually centering on Victoria, the rush brought hundreds of thousands of prospector-immigrants to the young colony, dramatically spurring growth in Melbourne and Sydney, among other large cities. The Australian event was by many measures more successful than California's, producing hundreds of tons of gold across thousands of square miles. The gold rush was quite long-lasting: the primary influx of settlers spanned nearly two decades, many of whom continued to find gold during this time. After gold dwindled, Australians continued to find gold throughout the region even into the 1870s. The scope also widened as prospectors poured in, as eventually gold was found in every Australian state and territory. Aside from the wealth it brought to Australia, the gold rush was even more significant for being the spark behind the Pacific Coast's development. It was the first step on a long road to a high standard of living and a Westernized culture.

VOCABULARY

Nickel: lustrous metal used in various industrial and decorative applications
Bevy: large amount; abundance
Opal: mineraloid gel occurring naturally in rock fissures
Plethora: high number
Aluminum smelter: facility that extracts aluminum from its oxide

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While prospectors no longer dig through riverbeds with pans and shovels, scouring soil for protruding gold nuggets, Australia's history of gold production was just beginning in the mid-19th century. Today, 11% of the world's gold still comes from Australia, allowing the land "down under" to vie with China and South Africa for first place. The 2007 yield was about 309 tons of gold for Australia, in total worth around $12 billion Australian dollars. The location of mining activities has shifted somewhat, however. While areas like the Latrobe Valley or Hunter Valley in Victoria and New South Wales, respectively, continue to provide gold, much of the mining today occurs in South Australia and Western Australia. One region of Western Australia is named Goldfields-Esperance, a testament to the lucrative industry. Australia's largest open-pit gold mine is located at Kalgoorlie-Boulder, a massive area that yields a couple dozen tons per year. Other significant deposits exist at South Australia's Olympia Dam and Challenger Mine. Tasmania has some gold, but aggressive mining has depleted much of its stores.



Australian Gold

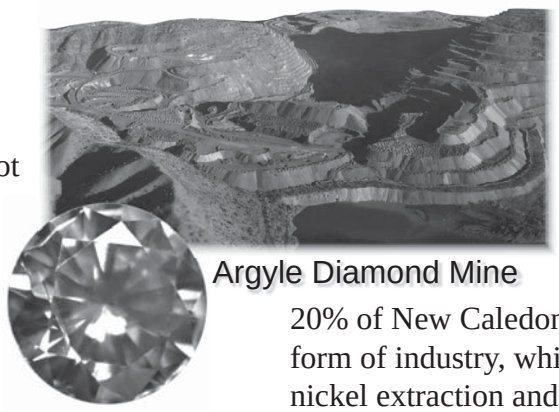
Australia's mineral deposits are its claim to fame in the world of natural resources. Gold is perhaps the best known of these minerals, but, intriguingly, it is not the only one Australia offers. The sparsely populated continent is home to a rich menu of uranium, iron, ***nickel***, zinc, and diamonds, some contributing heavily to both the local economy and Australia's national economy. Other countries throughout Oceania also boast large stores of minerals, along with a ***bevy*** of other resources. New Caledonia is among the world's foremost nickel suppliers, providing up to a quarter of the globe's total nickel resources. New Zealand has significant stores of natural gas and geothermal energy; Papua New Guinea has undeveloped oil resources that could position the country for major economic growth. Timber is also a tentative resource in Oceania, especially on Papua New Guinea; harvesting it is tricky, however, because it is in the form of dense tropical rainforest, with extremely high biodiversity levels. Indeed, Oceania's resources are among the chief driving forces behind the region's affluence and prosperity.

When most people think of diamonds, they immediately think of Africa. The association is warranted; we explored how Africa, in particular Botswana and South Africa, produce large portions of the world's diamond output. But Australia is a rival for diamond preeminence, extracting diamonds from the ground from just two main mines. The first (and better known) is called

Top Gold Producers		
Rank	Country	2008 Production (Kilograms)
1	China	295,000
2	South Africa	250,000
3	USA	230,000
4	Australia	225,000
5	Peru	175,000

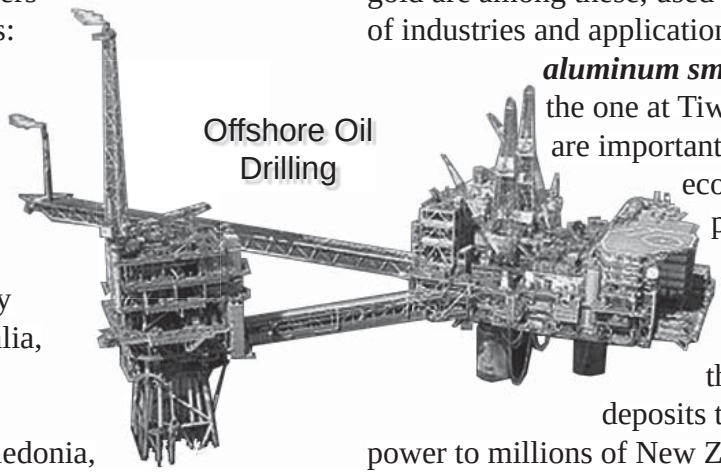
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Merlin, located in North Australia near the Gulf of Carpentaria. It has survived a haphazard series of closures and reopenings during the past decade, changing hands several times. As of early 2010, the mine was closed, but history suggests it will not remain inoperative long: nearly two-thirds of the mine's diamonds are of gem quality, meaning they are suitable for use in jewelry. This ratio is extremely high compared to a global average of just one-fifth, and the mine's value has reflected its high quality. The second mine in Australia is Argyle, located in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. This mine actually produces more diamonds than any other in the world—about a third of the entire global supply—averaging about 35 million carats annually. Most of Argyle's diamonds are low quality, not gem grade, and as such are employed in industrial applications, like saws and drills.



Argyle Diamond Mine

Other minerals can be found liberally throughout Australia. The country ranks in the top five producers of various minerals: zinc (2nd), nickel (3rd), iron ore (3rd), uranium (2nd), coal (4th), and ***opal*** (1st). Virtually all the world's opal supply comes from Australia, where opal is the national gemstone.



Offshore Oil Drilling

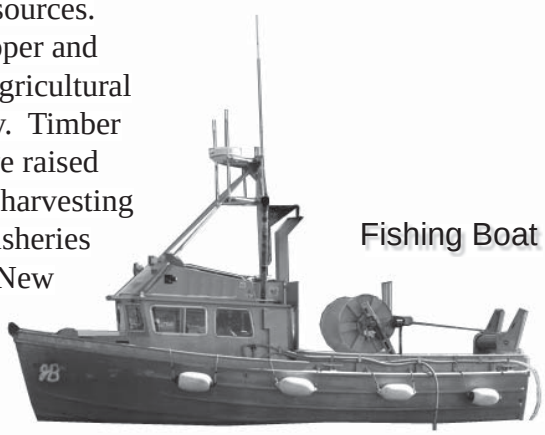
In New Caledonia, the primary economic activity is nickel extraction, which has contributed to topsy-turvy economic stability. Low on other resources, New Caledonia is nonetheless home to about 25% of the world's nickel deposits. The metal is used in a variety of applications, from coinage to appliance trims to magnets. An estimated 20% of New Caledonians work in some form of industry, which is dominated by nickel extraction and refinement. Yet, the dependence on this single industry has posed problems for the country. Nickel's price has fallen several times during past decades, forcing New Caledonia to mine increased quantities that it sells at lesser prices, deflating the national economy. When prices rise, the economy rebounds accordingly, but the relationship is a hazardous one. New Caledonia is exploring other industries to stabilize economic growth.

Like Australia, New Zealand enjoys a variety of mineral resources in its mountains. Iron ore, limestone, and gold are among these, used in a ***plethora*** of industries and applications. In addition, ***aluminum smelters*** like the one at Tiwai Point are important to the local economy. But perhaps more significant throughout the country are the natural gas deposits that provide power to millions of New Zealanders. Oil production has declined in recent years, elevating natural gas to primary importance

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among New Zealand's energy resources.

In Papua New Guinea, copper and silver combine with timber and agricultural resources to support the economy. Timber is important, though officials have raised concerns over large-scale timber harvesting in a sensitive ecological zone. Fisheries along the coast provide food for New Guineans as well as exports to neighboring countries, like Australia and the Solomon Islands.



Fishing Boat

Life Principle

All wealth is the product of labor.

John Locke (1632-1704)
17th century English philosopher

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World Geography

Chapter 6



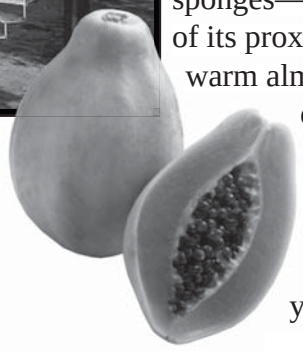
Lesson 15
Imports, Exports, and Major Industries

Section 3
Lessons 11-15

Imports, Exports, and Major Industries of Oceania



Killer jellyfish aside, the Great Barrier Reef really is a delightful place to visit. At 1,600 miles long, it is a color-infused ***labyrinth*** of coral formations, stunning underwater plant life, tiny ***cays*** and large islands, clear-blue water that stretches for uninterrupted miles, and more wildlife than you could ever imagine. There are turtles, starfish, seagulls, eagles, crocodiles, dolphins, blue whales, shrimp, sharks, tiny clownfish and huge trout, snakes, octopi, sponges—just avoid the venomous ones. Because of its proximity to the Equator, the waters are warm almost year-round, providing ample opportunity for activities like snorkeling or touring in glass-bottom boats. The reef also is a major tourist attraction in its own right: recent data indicates that it generates $5 billion for Australia each year.



The same reality is true in New Zealand. After the stratospheric success of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, tourism to New Zealand jumped dramatically. Viewers of the films arrived in droves to see the snow-capped mountains and the lush, rolling plains, and to rest on the beach in places like Auckland and Christchurch. New Zealand is one of the cleanest, most environmentally preserved places in the world, especially among developed and densely populated countries. While New Zealand is not densely populated as a whole, populations are high in areas that are habitable, such as along the coast or on the plains of the North Island. Tourists from Asia and the Americas flock here to take in the spectacular natural wonder of the country, and to browse its historical sites as well, such as

VOCABULARY

Labyrinth: maze; confusing path
Cay: an islet of coral or sand
Sociological: pertaining to human society or civilization
Nationalistic: strongly patriotic; favorable to one's home country
Interest rate: measure of return on borrowed money or deposited funds
Domain name: identification label that defines a realm of administrative autonomy or authority

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indigenous settlements and battlefields of the New Zealand land wars. All told, New Zealand's tourist industry annually attracts a couple million people and brings in several billion dollars in receipts.

Tourism is indeed a major industry south of the Equator, and not for reasons that are traditionally the case in other countries. Consider French Polynesia, where the island of Tahiti is world-renowned as a tourist destination and vacation hotspot. Tourist expenditures for the past few years have totaled between fifty and sixty percent of the total exports, which places the country in the top five in the world. In Fiji, prior to the turbulent political climate of the past ten years, more than 400,000 tourists were pouring in each year, dumping hundreds of millions into the local economy. Guam sees at least a million tourists annually, the overwhelming majority from Japan, producing revenues used for roads, public parks and beaches, and boosting the local economy. Aboriginal and Maori sites throughout Australia and New Zealand are also of major ***sociological*** interest.



Tahiti Resort

Throughout Oceania, tourism is a major boon to local economies, although it is more pronounced in some places than in others. Australia is naturally the largest beneficiary of the industry, as it is the largest country and the most populous, and thus has the most attractions. Sites like Ayers Rock, the Sydney Opera House, Gold Coast, and Perth's Kings Park draw thousands—in some cases, millions—every year, some domestically, but many more from overseas. At times during the past several decades, the world's eye has been fixed on Oceania, boosting tourist revenues. In 2000, the Summer Olympics were held in Australia for the first time since 1956, when Melbourne hosted them. The Sydney Games brought an estimated $4.5 billion into Australia and vaulted the continent into the world's attention. On the opposite end, the unrest in Fiji has increased awareness of the country itself—certainly for worse in the present, but perhaps for the better as Fiji stabilizes.

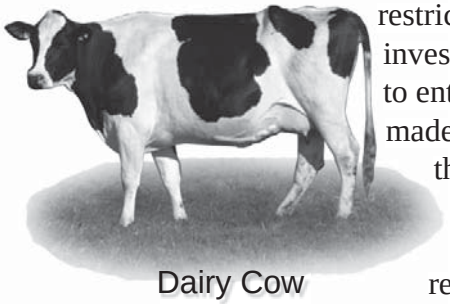


Sydney Opera House

Many industries in Australia capitalize on the wealth of natural resources the continent has to offer. In many places, such as the Great Barrier Reef, this means the wildlife and vegetation. In others, minerals are of paramount importance, and mining settlements and mines almost single-handedly prop up regions' livelihoods. But Australia is foremost a developed economy, so services dominate the economy. Nearly 70% of GDP comes from services and service-related industries, primarily those that operate in large cities. The services sector is varied and ever-changing—industries such as restaurants, retail stores, tourism, banking, and insurance all fall under the service umbrella. A large portion of Australia's 11-million-strong labor force is employed in services, which encompasses large

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corporations like Target and K-Mart, as well as Australian companies Myer and David Jones. In shopping malls from Melbourne to Perth, American names like Payless Shoes and KFC are prevalent. But some Australian companies have met with considerable success. Coles, a Victoria-based grocery chain with nearly 100,000 employees, has nearly 750 stores throughout the country as of early 2010. The National Australia Bank, the country's largest financial services provider, earned $4.7 billion in profits in 2008.


Dairy Cow

Yet all this should not belie the importance of the mining sector, which claims BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto as its premiere corporations. Mining constitutes only 5.6% of Australia's GDP, but accounts for a third of its exports, mainly in gold and diamond trade. Other large companies include Newcrest, Peabody Pacific, and Gloucester Coal, the latter two of which concentrate on Australia's burgeoning coal mining industry. Despite its relatively small contribution to GDP, mining in Australia is more significant than in most other countries. Regionally, it plays invaluable economic roles in places like Victoria, Western Australia, and the Kimberley. Much of Australia's coal exports are shipped to developed Asian countries, with Japan and South Korea topping the list.


Tuna Fish

In New Zealand, several sectors compete for importance. Out of the doldrums of a restrictive ***nationalistic*** economy in the 1960s and 1970s rose a capitalistic marketplace characterized by healthy economic sectors. Battling the tourism industry is the financial realm, which claims a major portion of New Zealand's GDP. Commonwealth Bank is a major fixture throughout Oceania, with a stronger presence in Australia and New Zealand. The bank pulled in $4.7 billion in profit in 2009 and offers banking, insurance, and investment products and services. One of its major competitors is Westpac, widely considered one of the healthiest banks in the world. Institutions such as these, coupled with minimal restrictions on foreign investment and few barriers to entrepreneurship, have made New Zealand among the world's most stable places to invest. During 2008 and 2009, a global recession battered ***interest rates*** throughout New Zealand banks, but not as heavily as in other Western countries.

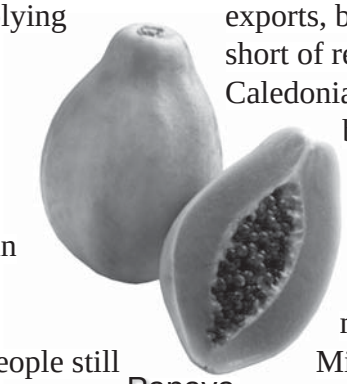
Agriculturally, New Zealand enjoys a vibrant export economy across many platforms and offerings. Products from fish to dairy and grains to vegetables have benefitted the economy for many years. New Zealand's favored trade partners include Australia, the United States, Japan, and, to a lesser extent, China. Food processing is also important, meaning New Zealand is quite self-sufficient in this regard: domestic farmers can grow their crops, domestic processors can turn them into usable and edible foods, and domestic distributors can ship products to various markets around the world. Independent Fishers, Goodman Fielder, and Taylor Preston are among the largest food processing companies in the country.

Other New Zealand industries are important as well. Air New Zealand brought in $3.7 billion in revenues in 2009,

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though it made very little profit, which puts it in line with many air carriers around the world. Contact Energy is New Zealand's largest energy provider, supplying millions of New Zealanders with power for their homes and offices. Infratil is an investment firm; Australian-based Telstra is a media corporation with operations in New Zealand.

On the smaller islands throughout Oceania, many people still practice subsistence agriculture. Agriculture comprises about 40% of the Solomon Islands' GDP and 30% of Kiribati's. In Tokelau, products such as bananas, coconuts, and papayas are among the most important agricultural exports, but income from these still falls short of revenue the country needs. New Caledonia's economy is almost exclusively based on mining, mostly nickel. The Internet ***domain names*** .tv and .tk are significant sources of revenue in Tuvalu and Tokelau, respectively. In Guam, the U.S. military is a major revenue source. Military income and tourist spending, help to keep the economy here afloat.



Papaya

Life Principle

He that departs with his honesty for vulgar praise doth it too dearly buy.

Ben Johnson (1573? – 1637),
17th century English poet and playwright

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