



GEOGRAPHY



CLIMATE



Australia is situated in the Southern hemisphere under the Equator. That's why Australia is nicknamed "the Land Down Under". It is a country, an island and a continent at the same time.

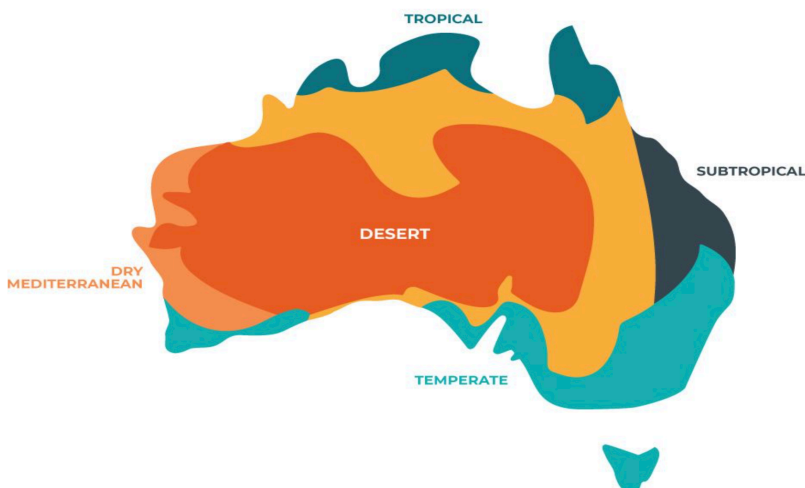
Australia is divided into six states: **Queensland** (North east of Australia), **New South Wales** (South east), **South Australia**, **Victoria** (the smallest state), **Western Australia** and **Tasmania** (a small island). There are also two territories: the **Northern Territory** and the **Australian Capital Territory** (a small land in New South Wales).

There are 24 million inhabitants in Australia and 85% of the population live in big cities.

Hobart is the capital city of Tasmania and **Lauceston** is on the north coast of this small island.

Melbourne is the main city of Victoria and **Alice Spring** is right in the middle of the country in the Northern Territory. **Perth**, which is famous for its beautiful beaches, is in Western Australia. **Brisbane** is in Queensland as well as **Cairns**, which is on the north coast. **Adelaide** is in South Australia and **Darwin** is in the north of the Northern Territory. **Canberra** is the capital city of Australia, and **Sydney** is between Canberra and Brisbane.

85% of the country is covered by a vast arid desert called **The Outback**. Seasons are reversed in the Southern hemisphere. So, when it is winter in France, it is summer in Australia.





NUMBERS




Australians are called "AUSSIES".

Amazing facts about the land

Australia is the only continent:

- that is also an island
- that has over 10,000 beaches

It is the world's smallest and flattest continent

It is the 6th largest country

It is 14 times bigger than France

Amazing facts about the people

- ◆ The Aborigines have lived in Australia for 40,000 years.
- ◆ In the 19th century, many British convicts¹ were sent to Australia, a British colony at the time. Now, about 22% of Australians probably have a convict ancestor.
- ◆ 80% of the population lives within 50 km of the coast.
- ◆ About 25% of the population comes from another country.

from E For English 4e



NUMBERS




from E For English 4e

Why so many lethal animals?

Amazing facts about the animals

◆ About **88%** of the animals are endemic to the country – they only live in Australia.

◆ **40 million**: the estimated number of kangaroos living on the continent.

◆ **55**: the number of kangaroo species.

◆ **2**: the number of mammalian predators currently living in Australia.

◆ **755**: the number of reptile species (= the highest number in the world).

◆ **800**: the number of bird species.

◆ The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest living structure: it is **2,600 km** long.

from E For English 4e



HISTORY



The first inhabitants of Australia were **The Aborigines**, who lived there for at least 40,000 years before Europeans arrived.

In the 1600's, several **Dutch explorers** reached the continent.

In 1644, the Dutch named the continent New Holland, but they didn't settle there.

In 1770, **Captain James Cook**, who was a British explorer and cartographer, became the first Englishman to discover Australia. He landed in the southeastern part of the continent and named the region New South Wales. He thought Australia was a good place to start a **colony**. At the time, there were too many criminals in England's prisons, so the English government decided to send **prisoners** to Australia in order to live there. They cleared land and established farms.

In 1851, the **discovery of gold** attracted thousands of new immigrants to Australia.

Today, Australia is no longer a British colony. It became **independent in 1901** and is part of the **British Commonwealth**.

from *Britannica Kids*



THE ABORIGINES



The Aborigines, or Aboriginals, are the native people of Australia. They have lived on the continent for more than 50,000 years. They are one of the oldest living civilizations in the world. Before British settlers arrived, there were about 600 different groups of Aboriginals and they spoke their own language (there were more than 200 Aboriginal languages!). Scientists think that the Aborigines originally came from Asia.

The Aborigines were **nomadic and hunters**. In general men hunted large animal such as kangaroos, emus and reptiles whereas women hunted smaller animals (lizards) and collected honey, insects and plant foods. They used **boomerangs** to hunt and fish. Aboriginal art, music and dance are linked with spiritual life and nature. Aborigines of northern Australia invented the **didjeridu** (or **didgeridoo**), a long wooden flute which is from 1 to 3m long.

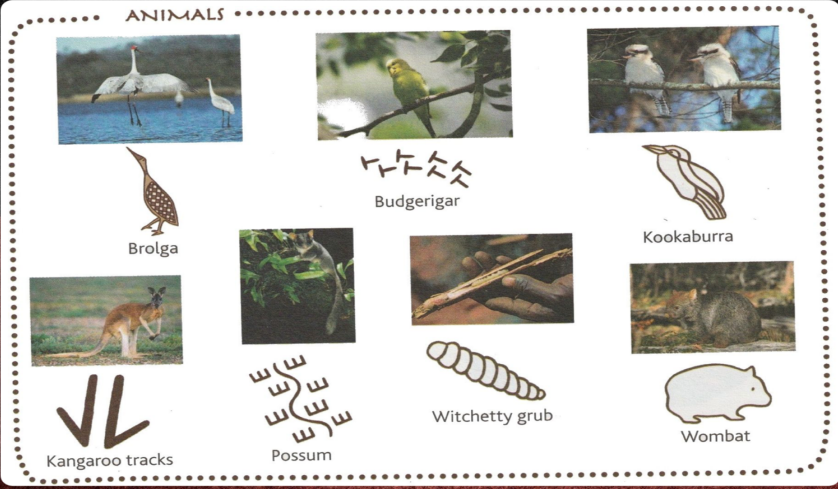
They also used **Dot painting** to tell stories and teach.

The Aborigines' lives changed when Europeans arrived in Australia more than 200 years ago. The Europeans forced the Aborigines to move off their land and to change their way of life. Many Aborigines died defending their land. Many others died from diseases brought by the Europeans. Today, the Aborigines represent only 2,7% of the population in Australia!

from *Britannica Kids*

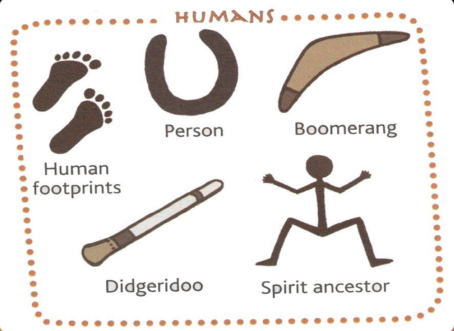
THE ABORIGINES

ANIMALS



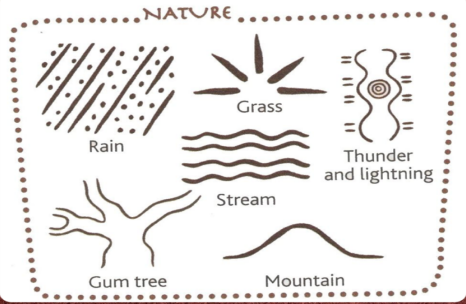
Brolga
Budgerigar
Kookaburra
Kangaroo tracks
Possum
Witchetty grub
Wombat

HUMANS



Human footprints
Person
Boomerang
Didgeridoo
Spirit ancestor

NATURE



Rain
Grass
Thunder and lightning
Stream
Gum tree
Mountain

From New Enjoy English 4e

THE ABORIGINES

DREAMTIME

The Aborigines believe that everything on earth was created by Ancestor Spirits a long time ago, during the Dreamtime. The Spirits made the rivers, rocks, plants, animals, and gave the Aborigines their hunting tools.

In traditional ceremonies, people tell these creation stories with songs, dances, body paintings and pictures called "Dreamings". The traditional colours used are yellow (the sun), brown (the earth), red (the desert sand), and white (clouds and the sky).

