

Country and Map: Australia-nickname “land down Under” is its own country

Geography: in the Southern Hemisphere. South of Asia. The western half of Australia is surrounded by the Indian. The eastern half by the Pacific Ocean. It is earth’s largest island. Flattest and smallest continent.

Climate/weather: Because they are in the southern hem., seasons are opposite of those in the northern hem. The Great Dividing Mountain Range divides the eastern coastline from the other parts of Australia. This causes harsh dry, hot climates in the central part known as the Outback. Tropical climates exist on the eastern portion.

Land Types: Forests, deserts, grasslands, rainforests, marshes, swamps, rivers, and ponds exist on Australia. The largest structure ever built by living creatures is the Great Barrier Reef off the northeastern coast.

Animals: famous for their marsupials (animals that carry their young in a pouch): kangaroo, koala, duck billed platypus. The kiwi is also a famous bird found in Australia.

Government: British colony until 1901 when they became an independent country with a representative form of govt.

Economics: natural resources: coal, iron ore. They are the world leader in wool production and are also famous for their cattle

History: 1770’s British claimed Australia but 50,000 years before that the Aborigines came from Asia and settled in Australia