

Australia Day

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Where is Australia?
2. What does Australia Day celebrate?
3. Do you know any famous Australians?
4. What does the Australia flag look like?
5. What Australian symbols do you know?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
Check this exercise again after seeing the words
in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. fleet | a) an isolated place for prisoners |
| _____ 2. penal colony | b) someone who receives something |
| _____ 3. ball | c) an explorer of the seas or skies |
| _____ 4. salute | d) agreement by all |
| _____ 5. consensus | e) noticeable |
| _____ 6. navigator | f) a formal party with dancing |
| _____ 7. circumnavigate | g) a group of stars |
| _____ 8. recipient | h) an act of respect in the military |
| _____ 9. exceptional | i) to travel in a full circle |
| _____ 10. prevalent | j) the first person living in an area, native |
| _____ 11. constellation | k) a group of ships (or planes) |
| _____ 12. regatta | l) beyond one's expectations |
| _____ 13. indigenous | m) a person in your family who comes before you |
| _____ 14. mourn | n) a boat or sailing race |
| _____ 15. ancestor | o) to feel or express sadness |



Reading

1. Australia Day is an annual public holiday that takes place in Australia on January 26. The date marks the arrival of Captain Arthur Phillip and the First Fleet. The **fleet** of 11 British ships arrived at Port Jackson (now Sydney) in 1788 to claim the land for Britain and establish a **penal colony**.
2. The anniversary of the fleet's arrival was celebrated early on by some of the colonists. The first large celebration took place on the 30th anniversary in 1818. At this time, Australia Day was known as Foundation Day or First Landing Day. A formal dinner and **ball** were held at Governor Macquarie's home. The governor also ordered a 30-gun **salute**.
3. The name "Australia" was officially adopted in 1824. Previously, the west was known as New Holland or *Terra Australis* (southern land), and the east was called New South Wales. There is little **consensus** about how the country got its new name. One theory credits a European **navigator** who wrote the word "Australia" on a map after **circumnavigating** the continent.
4. Foundation Day was celebrated under various names, including Anniversary Day, for over 100 years before Australia Day became a public holiday in 1946. From 1946 to 1995, the holiday was observed on the Monday closest to January 26, allowing Australians to enjoy a long weekend. Today, the public holiday is on January 26 regardless of the day it falls on. Schools and government offices are closed.
5. The Australian of the Year Awards has been an ongoing Australia Day tradition since 1960. **Recipients** are citizens who a) demonstrate excellence in their field, b) make a significant contribution to their community and nation, and c) act as a role model for Australians. People across Australia look forward to Canberra's annual ceremony celebrating **exceptional** Australians on Australia Day.
6. The Australian flag is **prevalent** throughout the world on Australia Day. It consists of a blue field with a red-and-white Union Jack in the top left corner. Beneath the Union Jack is the seven-point Commonwealth Star. It has six points that represent the states and one for the territories. On the right-hand side are the five stars of the Southern Cross **constellation**. This is a group of stars that is highly visible from the Southern Hemisphere. Australia's flag colours (red, white, and blue) or natural colours (green and gold) are often worn on Australia Day. You will also see people sporting the official flower, the Golden Wattle, or other unofficial symbols, such as the koala or kangaroo.
7. To celebrate Australia Day, people often have barbecues with family members and friends. Many Aussies go to the beach or park for a picnic and game of cricket. Some people attend official events, such as parades and concerts. In Sydney, Aussies enjoy the world's oldest sailing **regatta** (since 1837), followed by the Sydney Harbour fireworks.
8. Not everyone in Australia celebrates Australia Day. For some Australians, January 26 is a day of mourning. In fact, **Indigenous** Australians call it Invasion Day. They get together on this day to **mourn ancestors** who lost their land and rights. Some Indigenous Australians have changed the name to Survival Day. They use the day to promote their culture and celebrate the fact that their spirit is still alive. Many Australians agree that the date of the white man's arrival may not be the best date to celebrate the nation.



Comprehension

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write your answers in your notebook.

1. When is Australia Day celebrated?
2. What was Foundation Day?
3. What was Captain Arthur Phillip's main purpose for bringing the fleets to Australia?
4. According to some accounts, how did the name Australia become official?
5. Why does the reading mention the Southern Cross constellation?
6. How do Australians typically dress on Australia Day?
7. Name at least three things that people do on Australia Day.
8. What is the Golden Wattle, and what other Australian symbols are mentioned?
9. What are the Australia Day Awards?
10. Why do some Australians consider Australia Day a day of mourning?

Vocabulary Review

A. Choose the Closest Meaning

Choose the answer with the closest meaning to the underlined word in the following sentences.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. The Australia Day fireworks were <u>exceptional</u>.</p> <p>a) later than usual
b) cancelled
c) better than ever</p> | <p>3. Miranda was the <u>recipient</u> of the Young Australian of the Year Award.</p> <p>a) winner
b) nomination
c) speaker</p> | <p>5. When you're visiting Tasmania, look for the Southern Cross <u>constellation</u>.</p> <p>a) state
b) territory
c) group of stars</p> |
| <p>2. We need to come to a <u>consensus</u> about whether to have a picnic or a barbecue.</p> <p>a) collection
b) an agreement
c) a location</p> | <p>4. The indigenous group performed a special dance to <u>mourn</u> their lost ancestors.</p> <p>a) remember
b) grieve
c) respect</p> | |



Vocabulary Review cont.

B. Vocabulary Game

FORGET TABOO! LET'S PLAY KANGAROO!

Divide yourselves into two equal groups (choose an Australian city to represent your group). Which group wants to have a kangaroo? Which group wants to have a koala?

Choose one student from each city to start. The Kangaroo and Koala will sit at the front of the classroom facing away from the board. Your teacher will explain the rest of the game to you! Close your classroom door. It may get loud!



kangaroo



koala

Discussion

Some people feel that it is insulting to celebrate Australia Day on January 26. They argue that other countries don't celebrate their nation in this way. Indigenous Australians argue that this would be like the US having its big celebration on the day of Christopher Columbus's arrival rather than on July 1 (Independence Day). Should the date of Australia Day be changed? Should the arrival of colonists be celebrated in any country?



Pair Work (Student A)

A. Let's Learn Some Geography

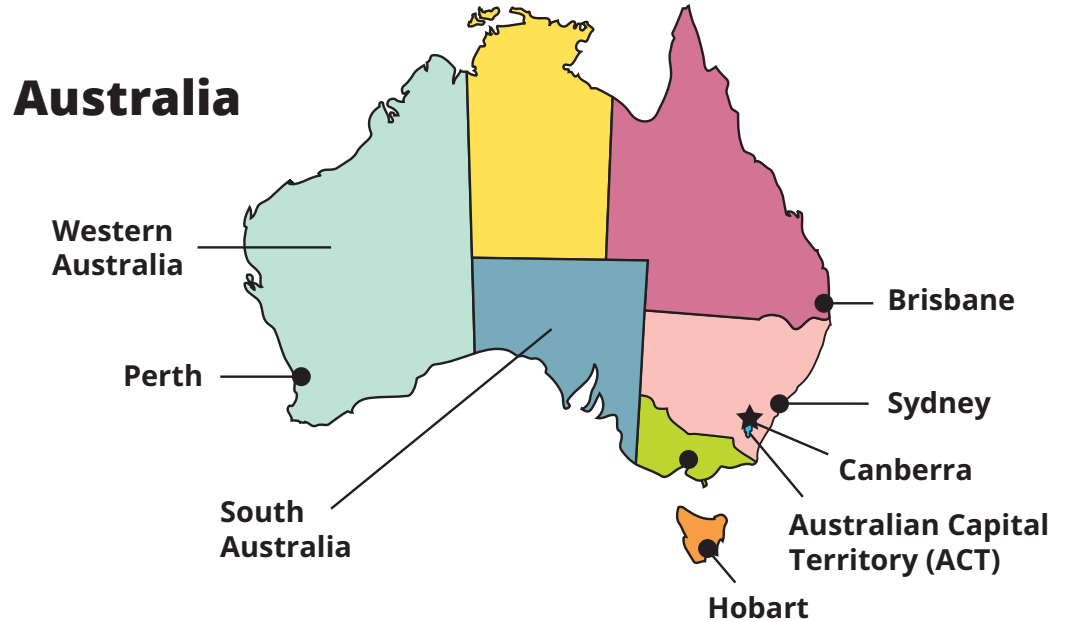
According to many Aussies, Australia is a country, a continent, and an island. People around the world are taught different geography. Do you think Sydney is the capital of Australia? It's not! Even though Sydney is the largest Australian city, Canberra is the capital. It was chosen as a compromise between Sydney and Melbourne, two rival cities. Australia has six states and two mainland territories. It also has external territories, such as Norfolk Island and Christmas Island. These don't appear on the map.

Directions:

You and your partner each have a map of Australia containing different information. You have *some* of the same information. Describe your map to your partner. Use words like **east, west, north, south, to the right, to the left, body of water, state, capital city**. Spell out words that your partner doesn't know how to write. Try to find seven places (cities, states, or territories) to add to your map.

Example Questions:

- Which state is not on the mainland?
- What is the name of the smallest state?
- I know the name of the tiny territory on the right-hand side. Do you?
- How do you spell "Wales"?



B. Discussion Question A

Do you agree that Australia is a country, a continent, *and* an island? Other continents in the world are surrounded by water. Are they islands? What were you taught in geography class?



Pair Work (Student B)

A. Let's Learn Some Geography

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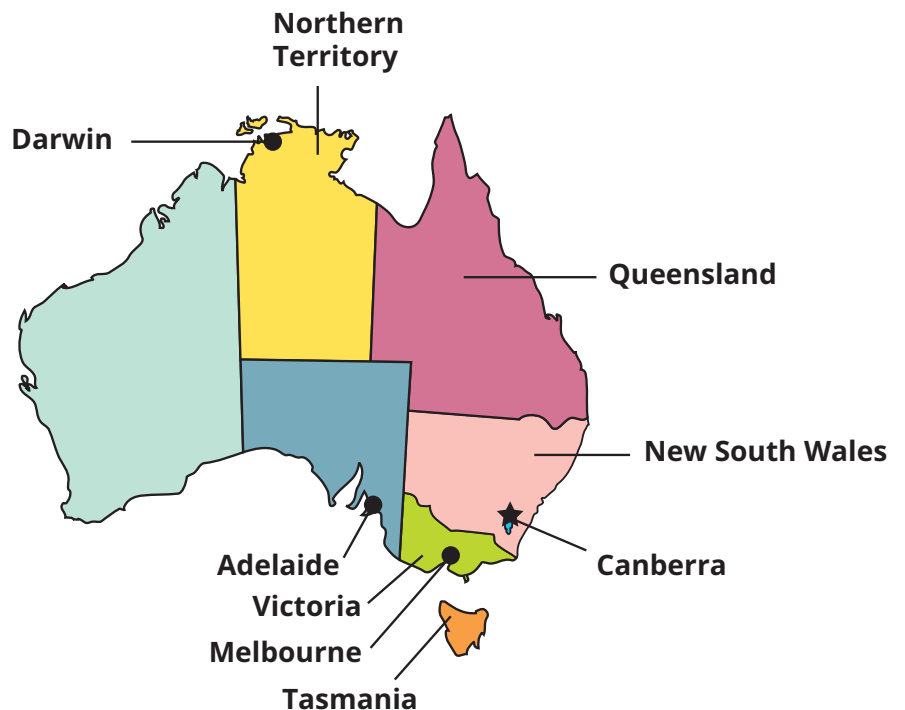
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Example Questions:

- Which state is not on the mainland?
- What is the name of the smallest state?
- Can you help me identify the cities?
- How do you spell "Brisbane"?

Australia



B. Discussion Question B

Why do you think Perth is considered the most isolated city in the world?



Australian English

Did you know that Australian English (AusE) usually follows British spelling and usage? Read the chart a few times. Then test a partner on some of the words.

For example:

- How do Australians spell “colour”?
- Who else spells it that way?
- What do Australians call green peppers?

*Note:

AusE usually prefers “ou” spellings (*colour, labour*). This party name is one exception. In other contexts, the word is spelled “labour” in AusE.

Australia	UK	US
colour	colour	color
program	programme	program
red or green capsicum	red or green pepper	red or green pepper
Australian Labor Party*	British Labour Party	Labor Party
aluminium	aluminium	aluminum
petrol	petrol	gas
colonise	colonise	colonize

Australian Slang

Australians, also known as “Aussies” (pronounced *Ozzies*), have their own slang. Some slang, especially slang related to technology, is more common with young people. Aussies are considered friendly, laid-back people, and their language reflects this.

Take a Guess

Can you guess what “mozzie,” “missus,” and “webby” mean?

Word	Meaning	Example Sentence
cuppa	a cup of coffee or tea	Why don't you drop by for a cuppa?
mobes	mobile phone	I left my mobes at school.
arvo	afternoon	Stop by on a Sunday arvo.
sunnies	sunglasses	Have you seen my sunnies?
barbie	barbecue	We're having a barbie for Australia Day.
bloke	man	I was just talking to a bloke down the road.
mate	friend	How ya goin', mate?



Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

1. Australia Day is an annual public holiday that takes place in Australia on January 26. The date marks the arrival of Captain Arthur Phillip and the First Fleet. The _____ of 11 British ships arrived at Port Jackson (now Sydney) in 1788 to claim the land for Britain and establish a _____ .
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Listening cont.

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