

Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes



Section 1: Geography of Australia

➤ Essential Question:

- What are some unique physical features of the continent?

3

Section 1: Geography of Australia

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- outback
- natural resource
- monolith
- Aborigines

4

Location and Size of Australia

- Australia is unique in that it is both a continent and a country.
- Its land area is close to the same as the United States and is the sixth-largest country.
- It is located in the southern and eastern hemispheres, is about 2,000 miles southeast of Asia, and is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean.
- Australia's geography is unique in that the country is on the world's smallest, flattest, and second-driest continent.
- The highest point on the mainland is Mount Kosciuszko in New South Wales, while the lowest point is the dry bed of Lake Eyre, South Australia.

5

Climate of Australia

- The climate varies across the continent, with seasons opposite of those in the United States since it is south of the Equator.
- The northern part of Australia has a tropical climate and is warm and hot all year long.
 - This area also gets more rain than other parts of the country.
- The largest part of Australia is the desert, where little rain falls.
- Only the southeast and southwest corners have a temperate climate, making them prime spots for Australians to call home.

8

Distribution of People in Australia

- The costal areas are highly populated, with most people living among the east coast
- The most populated city is Sydney, the capital of the state of New South Wales.
- More than 80% of Australians live in urban areas, making it one of the world's most urbanized countries.
 - The cities of Sydney and Melbourne each have over 4 million residents.

9

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes

Natural Resources of Australia

- The term **outback** refers specifically to the country's dry interior.
 - It is mainly open countryside, with scattered settlements around mining operations and vast areas of grazing land.
- Australians use mining to take advantage of the **natural resources** in the ground, like coal, iron ore, copper, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, diamonds, lead, oil, and natural gas.
- Australia exports more coal and iron ore than any other nation, and is a leader in mining of other resources.
- Arable land is also another important resources, letting farmers produce more food than Australians need, which allows them to export the extra.
- Natural resources account for a third of Australia's economy.

10

Physical Features of Australia

- Huge desert plains stretch across the middle of the country, with milder climates on the southeastern and southwestern coasts.
- Northern Australia has a tropical climate, with a rainforest, mangrove swamps, grassland, and even more desert.
- Australia also includes Tasmania, a large island south of the mainland, and several other islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- Five important physical features of Australia are the Great Barrier Reef, the Coral Sea, the Great Dividing Range, Uluru/Ayers Rock, and the Great Victorian Desert.

11

Physical Features of Australia (cont.)

- ❖ The *Great Barrier Reef* is the world's largest coral reef, extending more than 1,200 miles in the Coral Sea, and contains the world's largest collection of coral and thousands of animal species that rely on the Reef to live.
- ❖ The *Coral Sea*, part of the Pacific Ocean, was created when the world's crust moved millions of years ago. Today, the only inhabitants of the islands located there are weather specialists on the Willis Islets, with the other islands housing automated weather stations and light beacons.

12

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes

Physical Features of Australia (cont.)

- ❖ The *Great Dividing Range* stretches over 2,100 miles across eastern Australia in a series of plateaus and low mountain ranges. Mount Kosciuszko, the highest peak in Australia, is located here, as well as the source to many of Australia's major rivers.
- ❖ *Uluru/Ayers Rock* is a reddish **monolith** (visible part of a single, large rock sticking out of the earth) located almost in the exact center of the continent. It is almost 6 miles wide at the base and is 1,142 feet tall. The **Aborigines** (native peoples of Australia) named the monolith Uluru, but a European explorer renamed it after himself.

13

Physical Features of Australia (cont.)

- ❖ The Great Victorian Desert is located in the states of South Australia and Western Australia, receives only 8-10 inches of rain each year, and never receives snow. There are some grasslands as well as sandhills and salt lakes. Very few Australians live in this 160,000 square mile area because it is too hot and dry.

14

The Endangered Great Barrier Reef

- The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef, is experiencing coral bleaching, which causes coral to die and turn white.
- This is because the tiny algae in the coral that provide it food are dying due to a number of factors.
- The main cause is warmer ocean temperatures due to the El Niño weather pattern as well as climate change, which are both causing water temperatures to increase.
- Water pollution is also hurting the Reef, which is coming as fertilizers and chemicals in the runoff from farms as well as pollution from increased ship traffic near ports and overfishing.
- The Australian government is working to protect the Reef, which is both an important habitat and economic source.

[Return to Main Menu](#)

15

Section 2: A Brief History of Australia

- Essential Question:
 - How was Australia’s status as a colony unique?

16

Section 2: A Brief History of Australia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - nomadic
 - indigenous
 - Stole Generations

17

The Aborigines

- The word *aborigines* means “the people who were here from the beginning,” and it refers to the natives of Australia, who have occupied the continent for at least 40,000 years.
- The Aborigines developed ways to adapt to the harsh environment, including water-storage containers and building wells to underground water sources, lived as hunters and gatherers, and were **nomadic**, meaning they moved from place to place while following food.
- Aborigines tended to settle where modern day Australians currently live, where the climates were more moderate, and their low numbers allowed for plenty of room to live.

18

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes

Colonization of Australia

- The first Europeans sailed in Australian waters arrived in 1606, but it took nearly 200 years for someone to lay claim to it.
 - In 1770, Captain James Cook of Great Britain received a charter from King George III to claim the eastern Australian coast, naming it “New South Wales.”
 - Great Britain began pushing for more colonies in Australia after the loss of the American colonies, starting with a penal colony in 1788 for British prisoners.
- There were some reasons for the British wanting to colonize Australia: overcrowding in prisons, having the navy stationed in the southern hemisphere, the view that Australia could be a great trade center, and the British did not want its rivals, like France, to colonize it.

19

Prisoners as Colonists

- In the 18th century, Great Britain began looking for a location for prisoners, and Australia, with no existing colonies and few **indigenous** people, seemed like a good choice.
- From 1788 to 1823, New South Wales was a penal colony consisting of convicts, marines, and marine’s wives.
- By the time they stopped transporting prisoners to Australia in 1868, many free immigrants had settled in the region and built trading posts, farms, and businesses.
- Australia served as a great naval port as well as trade station for the Americas and Asia.
- In 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was established, and Melbourne served as the capital until Canberra finished its construction in 1927.

20

European Impact on the Aborigines

- European settlers took over good sources of water, fisheries, and productive land, and settlers turned the land into colonial towns, farms, and mining operations.
- Some Aborigines welcomed the Europeans, while others felt threatened by them.
- Europeans brought diseases from home with them, like smallpox, which ravaged the population, who had not build up an immunity to it, and Aborigines were driven off their lands by colonials, who had guns at their disposal.
- As settlers converted more land to farms and towns, many Aborigines turned to violence to protect their homelands.
- The Australian Gold Rush of the 1850’s attracted even more colonists and brought even more conflicts with the Aborigines.
- Because of the violence targeting Aborigines, ranchers in the outback asked surviving Aborigines to work for them with their cattle.

21

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia Quick Notes

The Aborigines Today

- When Europeans arrived, there were about 600 different clans scattered around the continent, all with different cultures.
- Today, remaining indigenous people try to keep their cultural heritage alive by passing their culture and history on.
- Language is important for them because much of their history is an oral history, and their language development heavily relied on geographic location.

22

The Aborigines Today (cont.)

- Historically, Australia's government has a poor record when dealing with Aborigines, including robbing them of their land, not appreciating their culture, abuse and murder, and something called the "Stolen Generations".
 - This took place until the 1970s and was the cultural reprogramming of children who were taken from their Aboriginal homes, attempting to 'civilize' them.
- In recent years, the country's stance on their actions towards the Aborigines has changed, issuing a formal apology in 2008 and now agreeing with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Aborigines still deal with inequality, with lower standards of living than non-indigenous peoples.
 - They also deal with higher rates of imprisonment, domestic violence, and alcoholism.
- Recently, Aborigines have become more organized and successful and have even gained some land claims.

23

Language in Australia

- Australia's official language is a result of British colonialization and expansion.
- After it was claimed by Captain Cook, it would be 20 years before it began its use as a penal colony, in which all that were there spoke English.
- To keep the interested French out, the English built settlements as fast as possible, spreading English from east to west.
- Immigrants from England, Ireland, and China came during the gold rush, but the number of English speakers was too high for the Chinese to make an impact.
- When Great Britain granted Australia independence, they put blocks in place that allowed people from the United Kingdom and the United States to move to the country, but not people from Africa or Asia, encouraging even more English-speakers to come to the country.
- Because of Australia's history, English is the official language.

24

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes

Religion in Australia

- Europeans brought Christianity to the continent in 1788.
- Irish prisoners were largely Roman Catholic, and other prisoners and workers in the prisons were Anglicans and Methodists.
- Settlers in the 1800s brought their own faiths, including Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and Baptist.
- Today, most Australians identify as Christian, with less than 5% identifying as Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, and Hindus combined.

25

Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples

- On February 13, 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd issued an official apology to the Aboriginal people for their mistreatment.
- Thousands of Aboriginal Australians gathered in Canberra to witness the apology live, while others watched it on television.
- What is the purpose of an apology like this?

[Return to Main Menu](#)

26

Section 3: Government of Australia

- Essential Question:
 - What type of government does Australia have?

27

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes

Section 3: Government of Australia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Commonwealth Parliament
 - constituency
 - territory
 - electorate

28

Type of Government

- Australia has an elected legislative body called the **Commonwealth Parliament** that represents citizens and holds the power if the parliamentary democracy.
- The executive officials and legislature share the same **constituency**, or people who voted for them.
- The people elect parliament's members, who choose a prime minister, and the monarch, as head of state, chooses a governor-general at the recommendation of the prime minister.

29

Form of Leadership

- Australia has 6 states that, combined, make up the Commonwealth of Australia and approved a constitution, which helps govern the states and **territories**.
- The British monarch acts as head of state for Australia, signing laws, commanding the military, and approves elections.
 - Because of the distance, however, the governor-general acts as the monarch's representative.
- The prime minister, the head of government, has the most political power in the country.

30

Type of Legislature

- Every four years, Australian voters choose who will serve in parliament, where they make laws for how Australian's live.
 - The Commonwealth Parliament is made up of two houses: the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- **Electorates** are areas that have roughly the same number of people living in them who vote for someone to represent them in the House of Representatives.
- People select twelve representatives from each state to be senators in the Senate.
- The political party with the most seats in the House of Representatives becomes the government, with their leader becoming prime minister.
 - The second-highest party becomes known as the Opposition.
- When a bill is introduced, it is explained, discussed, changed, and passed between houses before it is finally approved and becomes law.

31

Citizen Participation

- Because Australians have a democratic form of government, voters choose their lawmakers.
- In Australia, voting is compulsory, which means if you are able to vote, you have to vote.
 - Australians can be fined or go to court if they do not.
- Australians have freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to choose their own jobs, freedom to travel, and the ability to vote for their leaders.

[Return to Main Menu](#)

32

Section 4: Economy of Australia

- **Essential Question:**
 - What is entrepreneurship like in Australia?

33

Section 4: Economy of Australia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - tariff
 - quota
 - embargo
 - currency
 - Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
 - literacy
 - entrepreneur

34

Economic System in Australia Today

- Australia has one of the freest economies in the world, with a heavy lean towards the market system, with relatively little involvement from the government in the economy.
- Prices are set by buyers and sellers rather than by government rules, and people are free to own their own businesses and property, with business owners and farmers deciding what they wanted to produce.
- Business owners and consumers in Australia can depend on good laws to protect them, with fair and honest courts and rare incidents of bribery.
- It is easy to start a business in Australia, with less than a week for paperwork to go through.

35

Trade and Tourism

- Australia is a major supplier of natural resources to China, specifically metals and minerals mainly used in industry.
 - Chinese investors buy into Australian mining companies because of this.
- Australia is developing a cotton industry and has a large cattle industry.
- Australia specializes in mined ores and minerals, spending time and resources to learn the most efficient processes.
- The country's remote location makes it difficult for tourism to and from Australia, with main tourists coming from England, the United States, and China.
- Tourists usually wait till spring or fall to visit because the weather is milder then.

36

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes

Barriers to Trade

- **Tariffs** and **quotas** are both ways a country may manage their exports or imports, but Australia has participated in very few of them, encouraging trade with other countries.
 - When there are tariffs, they are typically very low to give domestic farmers a little special treatment from the government.
- Australia has participated in **embargoes** in the past.
 - In 1998, they put an embargo on weapons sold to Yugoslavia, hoping to end the fighting going on in the country at the time.

37

Currency Exchange

- **Currency** is the money people use to make trade easier.
- In order for world trade to occur, currency exchanges must happen.
 - If someone is selling something in Australia in the worldwide market, they will typically want to be paid in Australian dollars.
 - This means the money must be exchanged at a bank, where they typically charge a fee, before the money is sent.

38

Standard of Living

- The **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** of a country is the total value of all the final goods and services produced in that country in a year, and raising it can raise the standard of living.
- Australia has heavily invested in human capital, which can increase a country's GDP.
 - Human capital includes education, training, skills, and health care of workers.
- This has caused Australia to have one of the highest standard of livings in the world, with its GDP around the same as the richest countries of Western Europe.

39

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes

Literacy Rates and the Standard of Living

- **Literacy** is the ability to use language to read, write, listen, and follow directions.
- Australia has a very high literacy rate, with roughly 99% of adults considered literate.
- Despite this, there is still poverty in the country, with the worst being among the Aboriginal population.

40

Investment in Capital Goods

- Increasing GDP also comes from investing in capital goods, meaning factories, machines, technologies, buildings, and property needed by businesses to operate.
 - Maintenance and upgrades are essential to business success.
- Many of Australia's businesses use advanced technologies to make their companies more efficient.

41

Role of Natural Resources

- Human resources and capital goods are both needed for products and services, but natural resources are the raw materials used to make them.
- Arable land is major resource in Australia, allowing farmers to grow surplus crops and sell them on the international market.
- Land is also used for grazing cattle and mining resources from the ground.

42

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes

Role of Entrepreneurship

- **Entrepreneurs** are people with creative, innovative ideas about goods or services that people might want or better ways to produce exiting goods or services.
 - They risk their resources to produce these things.
- Australia is a world leader in entrepreneurs, with one in every twelve adults owning their own business.
- There is an abundance of raw materials, an educated workforce, and obtainable wealth to start a business.
- Laws in Australia protect entrepreneurs and their businesses, which is good since these people provide jobs for other workers.

43

Growth of Australia's Economy

- Australia's strong economy has been growing over the past 20 years, with continued growth, low unemployment, low inflation, low public debt, and a strong and stable financial system.
- The services sector, like banking, accounts for 70% of the GDP and 75% of jobs.
- There has been a surge in trade in recent years, with people investing in the extensive natural resources mined from the continent.
- Australia is also part of many free-trade agreements, like World Trade Organization (WTO), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Group of Twenty (G20), and some others.
- In 2014, Australia entered free trade agreements with Korea, Japan, and China, adding to the existing agreements with Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States.
 - It is also working on many other trade deals with countries in the south-eastern hemisphere.

[Return to Main Menu](#)

44

Section 5: U.S.-Australia Relations

- Essential question:
 - What is the importance of the ANZUS security treaty?

45

Section 5: U.S.-Australia Relations

- What terms do I need to know?
 - autonomy
 - ANZUS security treaty

46

An Important Alliance

- The United States and Australia established diplomatic relations in 1940 when the United Kingdom granted Australia's **autonomy** (right to self-govern) in the British Empire.
 - The two countries have a strong partnership based in shared democratic values and common interests, as well as similar histories.
- The Australian military has fought together with the United States in every major significant conflict since World War II.
- The 1951 ANZUS security treaty serves as a foundation of defense and security cooperation between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.
 - This serves as an anchor for peace and stability worldwide
- More recently, both countries have worked together to fight terrorism in the Middle East.

47

Economic Relations

- United States exports to Australia include machinery, vehicles, medical instruments, aircraft, and agricultural products, while imports consist of precious minerals and metals, agricultural products, and medical instruments.
- Trade agreements between the two have boosted each other's trade and economies greatly.
- Both countries are involved in a number of other trade agreements, focusing on partnership in the Pacific.
- Australia and the United States are also invested in expanding economic opportunities for women and increase their leading positions in politics, civic society, and economic life.

48

Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 11: Commonwealth of Australia

Quick Notes

The Dreaming

- The Dreaming is a major cultural component of Aboriginal life.
- It includes stories and myths about their culture and history, and it also includes creation stories and belief systems.
- It is similar to the way Native American cultures in North America explained the world around them and expressed their beliefs.

[Return to Main Menu](#)

49