Australia

Location, Climate, & Natural Resources

Where People Live & How They Trade
Standards

SS6G13 The student will explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Australia.

a. Describe how Australia’s location, climate, and natural resources have affected where people live.

b. Describe how Australia’s location, climate, and natural resources impact trade.
Teachers

Print off the following slide for each student. They should complete the concept web BEFORE the discussion so that you can see what the students already know about Australia.
Directions: Fill in the concept web below with information that you already know about Australia.
Teachers

Print off the following slide for each student. They should complete the chart while discussing the presentation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where People Live</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How They Trade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Location

• Australia is both a continent & a country.
• It lies about 2,000 miles southeast of Asia.
• Surrounded but the Pacific Ocean on the east and the Indian Ocean on the west.
• It’s in the southern hemisphere.
  • Literally the “land down under”!
Climate

- Climate varies across the continent.

- Australia is south of the equator, so it’s climate is opposite that of North America:
  - Summer: December through March
  - Winter: June through September
The northern part of Australia is closest to the equator. It has a tropical climate and is warm-to-hot all year round. It gets more rain than any other part of the country.

Winter: wet and cool
Summer: hot and dry
Central Australia is mostly desert.

This is the largest part of Australia.

Very little rain falls here.

Most of this area gets less than 10 inches of rain per year!
Only the southeast and southwest corners along the coasts have a temperate climate.
- Summers aren’t too hot & winters aren’t too cold.

The climate in these regions is the one that most Australians prefer.
- Most Australians live along southeastern coast.
Tourism

- Tourists from the northern hemisphere visit Australia’s warm beaches when it is winter in their country.

- Tourists usually wait until spring or fall to visit the rural areas & the outback.
  - It’s not too hot then.
• Outback refers to the dry interior of Australia.
  • It’s mainly open countryside, including vast expanses of grazing land.

• There are only a few widely scattered settlements in the Outback.
  • Many of them grew up around mining operations.
Across much of Australia, the ground is barren & not ideal for farming (outback).

Many minerals are found here: gold, silver, uranium, coal, copper, & iron ore.

Australia has exported nearly $400 billion worth of metals, minerals, & fuels in the past 20 years.

Natural resources account for 1/3 of the country’s economy!
Broken Hill Township – Mining Town in New South Wales
Australia exports more coal & iron ore than any other country.

It leads the world in mining bauxite, titanium, & diamonds.

No other country has more reserves of lead, cadmium, or nickel.
Natural resources have always been important to Australian trade.

In the mid-1800s, Australia had a gold rush in the southern region.
- Thousands of immigrants moved to Australia to find gold.
- Many came from England, Ireland, Germany, & China.
Super Pit – World’s Largest Gold Mine
In the non-desert regions, Australians grow many grains.

- Grains are grown in inland regions of the coastal states (not too hot/dry here).

- Grains include a wide range of different crops:
  - Wheat, barley, sorghum, rye, rice, chickpeas, lentils, & oilseeds
Farmland in Queensland
The coastal areas are the most populated.
- Most people live along the east coast.
- The most populated city is Sydney, in New South Wales.
- Another populated city is Brisbane, Queensland.
Sydney, New South Wales
• Nearly 80% of Australians live in urban areas.
• Australia is one of the world’s most urbanized countries.

• 70% of all Australians live in cities of more than 100,000 people.
• Sydney has 3.5 million people.
• Melbourne has about 3 million people.
Sydney, New South Wales
Gold Coast, Queensland
Australia’s top trading partners for exports are: China (29.5%), Japan (19.3%), South Korea (8%), & India (4.9%).

Australia’s top trading partners for imports are: China (18.2%), US (11.6%), Japan (7.8%), Singapore (5.9%), Germany (4.6%), Thailand (4.2%), & South Korea (4%).

Australia exports tons of natural resources to China. 
• 50% of iron ore exports go to China. 
• In return, China provides Australia with affordable finished goods (cars, kitchen appliances, etc.).
Tourism

• Foreign tourists create only 1/4 of Australia’s $81 billion tourist industry.
  • Australia’s location makes it expensive for people to visit from other countries.

• Australians do the majority of tourism within their own country.
  • Its remote location in the Southern Hemisphere makes it expensive for Australians to leave & visit other countries.
Teachers

The following two slides can be used as a review or as a quiz.
1. Fill in the chart with two facts about Australia for each category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Natural Resources</th>
<th>How They Trade</th>
<th>Where They Live</th>
<th>Climate</th>
<th>Physical Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Why is Australia called the "Land Down Under"?

3. Where do most Australians live?

4. Why do you think Australia has animals that are not found on other continents? (Think: think about location...)

Name:  "Australia - The Land Down Under"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia's Natural Resources</th>
<th>Australia's Climate</th>
<th>Australia's Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

12. Draw a quick sketch illustration that summarizes each of the 3 sections in this lesson.

11. How do natural resources affect where people live in Australia?

10. How does climate affect where people live in Australia?

9. It is easy or difficult for Australia to trade with other countries in the world? Why?

8. Why does Australia trade so much with China?

7. Why does Australia export (sell) most of their resources to?

6. Why is the climate of central Australia so hot?

5. What does Australia lead the world in producing and exporting?
The next activity is a cute little project that I like to do with my students if we have time. First, I read aloud *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Voirist. You can get this children’s book at most libraries, but I just bought mine on Amazon because I love this book! (Even though I teach “big kids”, they still love being read to. In my 8 years of teaching, I haven’t had a teenager complain once about listening to me read aloud a children’s book!) Next, the students create a brochure about different Australia topics (see brainstorm). If computers are available, the students could create a PowerPoint instead of a paper brochure.
Alexander's mother overspent. She had to save to include a catchy title (hook) and illustrations. Then use the information you've gathered to create a brochure that will win. Directions: Brainstorm your thoughts about Australia on the graphic organizer below.

Title

Climate

People

Resources

Location

Land

I think I'll move to Australia.
Your Task: Use the blank map of Australia. Draw 8-10 visuals on the map that show information about Australia. On the back of your map, write complete sentences that explain what each visual represents. Please color your map!

Example: Draw a sun in central Australia. The sun represents the hot climate in the outback.
Teachers

Thank you for downloading this file. I hope you enjoy using it with your students, and I can’t wait to read your feedback in my TPT store! ☺

- For more Australia materials, please visit my store:
  http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Brain-Wrinkles

- I teach 6th grade Language Arts and Social Studies in Georgia, so my products are aligned with Common Core (LA) and Georgia Performance Standards (SS).

© Copyright 2013. Brain Wrinkles. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to copy pages specifically designed for student or teacher use by the original purchaser or licensee. The reproduction of any other part of this product is strictly prohibited. Copying any part of this product and placing it on the Internet in any form (even a personal/classroom website) is strictly forbidden. Doing so makes it possible for an Internet search to make the document available on the Internet, free of charge, and is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).
Credits:

All photos were found via Creative Commons and labeled for reuse.

• Fonts:

• Backgrounds & Graphics: