



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Australia - Lesson 1

populous	species	compromised	attracts	covering
country	hemisphere	capital	balloon	invented
discovery	considered	continents	iconic	attractions

Australia is one of Earth's seven \_\_\_\_\_ entirely located below the equator in the southern \_\_\_\_\_ of Earth. This is why it is nicknamed "the Land Down Under." Australia is also a \_\_\_\_\_, making it the only land mass that is both a continent and a country. It is surrounded by the Indian and Pacific oceans and is included in the geographical region called Oceania. Oceania is a continental group consisting of 14 countries, including the Pacific islands.

The first people who lived on the continent were the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples. They \_\_\_\_\_ the spear and the boomerang and lived in the Outback, a desert \_\_\_\_\_ about two-thirds of the land. They arrived on the continent from the Indonesian islands almost 60,000 years before the British settlers in 1776. Other colonists came to the country because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of gold. Today, only 2% of the population are Aboriginal people.

Apart from kangaroos, Australia's land is home to Tasmanian devils, wallabies, thorny dragons, koala bears, 828 \_\_\_\_\_ of birds, and more. And in the ocean, many people come from all over the world to visit the Great Barrier Reef, which is the largest reef system in the world. Uluru is another incredible landform that \_\_\_\_\_ many visitors every year. Uluru is a sacred natural formation that rises 1,100 feet tall. It is the largest rock in the world!

Sydney is not the capital of Australia, but it is the most famous and \_\_\_\_\_ city in Australia. Sydney

has many attractions, such as the famous Sydney Opera House. It is an incredibly \_\_\_\_\_ building. Another remarkable structure is the Sydney Harbour Bridge, nicknamed The Coat Hanger, which is over 122 m (400 ft) tall and 500 m (1,640 ft) long. People can even climb up to the very top! Sydney also has incredible landscapes, beautiful beaches, nightlife, and museums.

Melbourne is the second most populous city in Australia and is \_\_\_\_\_ the country's cultural capital. It is located near the southeastern tip of the country in the natural bay of Port Phillip. Melbourne has many \_\_\_\_\_, such as the Funder Street train station, Eureka Tower, Melbourne Museum, beautiful parks, and wonderful beaches. Its multicultural community shows in its cuisine and neighborhoods making it a great city to explore.

Canberra is the \_\_\_\_\_ city of Australia and its eighth largest city. Canberra is home to many Federal buildings, including the Parliament House, the High Court, and the War Memorial. Many people choose to see the city in a hot air \_\_\_\_\_, giving them a fantastic view of the historical buildings. Canberra became the capital because Melbourne and Sydney kept fighting over which one of those cities should be the capital. They \_\_\_\_\_ and agreed to have the capital city between the two cities.