



Daily Skill Building

WORLD GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY



Volume Three

Oceania, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean,
Central America, South America,
Antarctica & More

Open & Go Curriculum for Grades 5 and Up

Daily Skill Building: World Geography & History, Volume 3

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Introduction

Daily Skill Building: World Geography & History, Vol. 3 is appropriate for middle school students and best suited to grades 5-8; additional activities are included that are appropriate for high school. Over the course of the school year, your students will learn about the geography and history of all 14 independent countries of Oceania, the 13 provinces and territories of Canada, Mexico and the 13 independent countries of the Caribbean, all 7 independent countries of Central America, all 12 independent countries of South America, Antarctica, and 23 dependent areas of the United Kingdom and France.

The core lessons include text to read about each country or location, comprehension questions to answer, and map work to complete. Numerous additional activities are included that you can choose from to customize the curriculum to fit your student best.

Each unit begins with an overview of the geography of a country or location (or group of countries or locations). Comprehension questions, map work, and optional assignments follow. The next part of each unit focuses on the history and includes comprehension questions as well as numerous options for extending the history. The unit ends with an opportunity for the student to complete a research paper about what was studied. There are two volumes in this unit, the main text and the Student Book. The books include:

Daily Skill Building: World Geography & History:

- Table of Contents lets you quickly find any lesson.
- Lessons at a Glance gives you a bird's-eye view of each set of lessons and what pages in both books you need to complete.
- Student text that can be viewed and read on a computer to save printing if you choose.

Student Book and Answer Key:

- Student Printables that are required for each lesson. They include comprehension questions and map work assignments for each lesson as well as additional optional notebooking and research assignments that can be completed if desired.
- Additional Student Templates can be used with the optional assignments. Several versions of some templates are provided so you can choose the style your student prefers.
- Flags of the World allows the student to color the flag of each nation and state studied if desired.
- Additional Maps that focus on specific areas of the world are provided to help students locate places mentioned throughout the text.
- Answer Key provides answers for all comprehension questions. Answers for optional assignments are not provided as they will vary based on what your student chooses to explore in more depth.



Introduction

High School Option:

If you want to use this curriculum with a high school student, there are various ways you can extend the material. For high school, completing all optional assignments is suggested. Students may also wish to create more in-depth reports or presentations to accompany their work.

They may also wish to complete the Events That Changed the World activity found in the Additional Student Templates section of the Student Book. This activity challenges them to research events that had far-reaching effects or involved many nations, such as the travel of a famous explorer, a war such as World War II, the reign of a major empire, etc. They can then record key information about the event and how it changed history. They can complete as many of these assignments as desired. A list of suggested topics to get them started is provided, but the options for topics to study are endless.

SAMPLE



Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 1

OCEANIA: INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Oceania! People use various terms to refer to Australia, New Zealand, and the islands of the Pacific, and they categorize or group them differently. We're going to look at five parts of Oceania: Australia, New Zealand, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

The first two nations we'll explore are Australia and New Zealand. Some people refer to them together as Australasia, but it's important to remember that they are two entirely separate places. Australia is the smallest continent. It is New Zealand's closest neighbor, but even though they look close together on a map, don't be fooled. That's because of the way our curved Earth looks on a flat map. New Zealand is more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) away!

Melanesia is the region north and east of Australia. Most of it is south of the equator. It forms an arc from Papua New Guinea to Fiji. Micronesia is north of Melanesia and forms another arc that includes Guam, the Mariana Islands, Kiribati, and many others. It is mostly north of the equator. Polynesia is a very large region that stretches from south of Kiribati, far south past Australia, and includes Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and many islands to the east.

As we explore Oceania, most of what we learn about will focus on the times of European colonization forward because most of the early history of these nations is, unfortunately, lost to us today.

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-7.





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 1

OCEANIA

Map Work:

Now you're going to start your master map for Oceania in the Student Book. You will use this throughout the unit, adding to it as you learn about more countries and territories. Some you will learn about now in this first section of the book. Others you will learn about in the final section of the book. As you learn about each country or territory, label them on the map in your Student Book.





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 2

OCEANIA

Australia

Australia is our first stop in Oceania. As we read before, Australia is the smallest continent. Because it's also an island, it's sometimes called an "island continent." It covers about five percent of the Earth's surface.

If we work our way from east to west in Australia, we'll find three major regions. The first is the Eastern Highlands, or the Great Dividing Range as it is sometimes called. This section gets more rain than anywhere else in Australia, and it is where the majority of the country's population lives. There is a low plain with sandy beaches and rocky cliffs along the Pacific coast. The mountains are not terribly high and run mostly parallel to the coast. They are home to the highest point in Australia, Mount Kosciuszko. The range includes the Blue Mountains, Australian Alps, and Grampians. Several of Australia's major rivers start in the range including the Snowy River, which flows down the eastern side of the range. The Darling River, Lachlan River, Murrumbidgee River, and Goulburn River cross the western slopes and join the Murray River, the longest river in Australia that runs year-round. The capital city of Canberra lies in the southeastern part of Australia about 150 miles (240 km) southwest of Sydney.

Just west of the mountains are the Central Lowlands. This area is mostly flat and is the lowest area of Australia. The southern part of the lowlands is good for farmers who grow wheat, but the northern part is too dry for farming. The northern part is an excellent place for livestock to graze. The Simpson Desert sits along the edge of the region, and the area is also home to Lake Eyre, the lowest point in Australia. There are no major cities in the lowlands.

The remaining two-thirds of Australia is the Western Plateau. It is mostly flat except for a few higher regions like the Hamersley Range in west-central Australia. There are several great deserts here including the





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 2

OCEANIA

Australia

Gibson, Great Sandy, and Great Victoria deserts. The Nullarbor Plain in the southern part of the Western Plateau gets its name from the Latin words that mean “no tree,” and it matches this description. It’s a large, treeless plain. In central Australia, between the deserts of the Western Plateau and the Simpson Desert, is Uluru, one of Australia’s most famous landmarks. It is a giant rock formation that juts up suddenly from the sand dunes. It rises 1,100 feet (335 m) high, and it is more than 11/2 miles (2.4 km) long and 1 mile (1.6 km) wide. It has special importance to the Aboriginal Australians who live in the land.

There is an almost endless number of places you can visit to learn amazing things about Australia, from natural wonders to man-made landmarks. One of the most famous locations to visit in Australia is the Great Barrier Reef off the northeastern coast. It is a group of more than 3,000 separate coral reefs that cover a total of about 1,400 miles (2,300 km). It is home to hundreds of types of corals, six of the seven kinds of sea turtles, more than a dozen kinds of sea snakes, almost two dozen species of birds, and more than 1,500 kinds of fish and other vertebrates.

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-14





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 3

OCEANIA

Australia

It is very hard to trace the history of the original inhabitants of Australia because they did not leave written records for us to learn from. We know that there were Aboriginal peoples who lived there long before the Europeans and other visitors showed up. We know they knew more about the land and how to survive than most of us today can imagine. Australia is the driest continent on Earth that is inhabited, and the Aboriginal Australians not only survived, but they also created art and a unique way of living. Another group of indigenous people (meaning people originally from a place) who lived in Australia before the Europeans are the Torres Strait Islander peoples. They reached Australia by traveling from New Guinea.

We don't know who the first non-indigenous person was to find Australia. Chinese ships called junks explored north of New Guinea in the 1400s, so it's possible some could have been blown off course and reached Australia. Other traders like Arab seamen who traveled to Indonesia regularly may have known about Australia, and people from other islands in Oceania may have also stopped.

From the 1700s to 1900s, the Aboriginal people had regular visits with Makassans. These were people from the port of Makassar (Macassar) in Indonesia who sailed fishing boats called *praus* to search for trepangs. Trepangs, or sea cucumbers, were a prized delicacy in China.

Long before Europeans saw Australia, some believed there had to be a land south of Asia. They called it *Terra Australis Incognita* (Unknown Southland). Some historians think the Portuguese saw Australia's coast in the 1500s, but others disagree. The first time we know for sure that a European spotted Australia was in 1606. Willem Jansz, a Dutch explorer, traveled into the Gulf of Carpentaria in northern Australia and sailed





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 3

OCEANIA

Australia

east along the Cape York Peninsula, the tall peninsula in northern Australia that points north toward New Guinea. He landed along the coast near what is now the town of Weipa. A Spanish explorer named Luis Vaez de Torres also sailed through this area in 1606. He entered from the east and discovered the narrow straight of water between Australia and New Guinea, which was later named the Torres Strait in his honor. Torres and his men may have landed on Banks Island in the strait, though it is not known for sure. After he recorded his journey, most people forgot about it, so navigators and mapmakers were not sure if there was a way through the area or not. His report was finally rediscovered in 1762.

The Dutch continued to explore Australia as part of their mission to find a route from the tip of South Africa to the tip of South America. In 1642, the Dutch governor Anthony van Diemen sent a Dutch sea captain named Abel Tasman to see what he could find. He left Batavia, Java (which is now Jakarta, Indonesia), and sailed west toward Africa. He sailed as far as Mauritius, which is an island east of Madagascar. Then he headed south and east until he finally reached an island he called Van Diemen's Land in honor of the governor. Today, the island is Tasmania. He continued east and spotted the South Island of New Zealand. He reached the strait between the two islands and entered it but did not pass all the way through it, assuming it was a bay of water in a larger land mass. He saw the North Island and continued exploring, reaching the islands of Tonga and the Solomon Islands in 1643 before returning to Java. The next year, he explored the northern coast of Australia on a separate mission. The problem was, since so far no one had explored enough of the same areas to get the "big picture," people still weren't sure if Australia and New Zealand were part of a large southern continent or what exactly they had found.

The Dutch did not find the trading opportunities they wanted, however, and





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 3

OCEANIA

Australia

didn't stay or build settlements. In 1688 and 1699, William Dampier explored the land near the northwestern coast of Australia. He was a mapmaker and gave Europe the first written description of the plants, animals, and people of Australia. At the time, Australia was called New Holland because of the Dutch claims to the land.

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-9





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 4

OCEANIA

Australia

Several decades later, England realized that there could be a lot of trading opportunities in the South Pacific, and in 1768, they sent Lieutenant James Cook on a mission. The mission had two goals. The first, official goal was to sail his ship the HMS *Endeavour* to Tahiti. He was to take a British botanist named Joseph Banks and other scientists to observe the transit, or path, of Venus across the sun. Cook had done astronomy work, along with mathematics and surveying, in Canada during the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War). Scientists hoped to record this event from several different places on Earth to be able to calculate the distance from the Earth to the sun. Cook and his team recorded their observations on June 3, 1769. He spent three months exploring Tahiti and other nearby islands, recording what he learned about the people and their culture. Then it was time to leave on their secret mission.

The mission that was not to be widely known was to locate and claim the southern continent. He sailed south and southwest but did not find Australia. He spent six months exploring and mapping the entire coast of New Zealand and learning about Māori people who lived there. He sailed west from New Zealand, crossed the Tasman Sea, and found the southeastern coast of Australia. On April 29, 1770, he landed at Botany Bay, which is today part of the city of Sydney. He sailed north along the eastern coast of Australia, a journey men would later discover was one of the most dangerous journeys he could have made because it included navigating the Great Barrier Reef. The *Endeavour* was damaged by coral once, but Cook and his crew landed in Queensland, repaired it, and continued their journey. He called the land he'd explored New Wales, which was later changed to New South Wales.

Cook made two additional journeys to the South Pacific, which we'll learn more about as we continue exploring Oceania. In addition





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 4

OCEANIA

Australia

to his exploration, Cook left a legacy in other important ways. He enforced cleanliness and a healthy diet on his ship, which saved many sailors from dying from scurvy, which is caused by a lack of Vitamin C. He also generally treated the native peoples he encountered with more respect than other Europeans did. That's not to say he did everything right, or that some of what he did wouldn't shock us today. But in the time he lived in, he tried to do better than most.

He made one error that greatly impacted the history of Australia, however. He did not understand the relationship the Aboriginal people had with the land. He thought they used the land but did not own it. Looking at it that way, he thought it was free for the English to settle. Even though that might sound odd to us today, use your imagination for a minute. Depending on where you've grown up, you might not have ever driven by a forest or an area of land that seems to go on forever with no buildings or houses in it. If you haven't seen something like that, try to picture it in your imagination. Now if you see a place like this, and there are no people and no homes, would you automatically know who owns it? Maybe if there was a sign that said, "You have now entered a national park." you would know the government owned it. Or maybe if you saw signs that said, "Private Property. No Trespassing." then you would know that someone owned it (though you still wouldn't know who). But even if there were such signs back in Captain Cook's day, they would have been written in the local language, not English. It would not have been easy for him to know that the land belonged to the people he met along the way. Captain Cook's reports to England about Australia were favorable, and it would not be long before the English returned.

The work of many explorers had given the Europeans a good outline of Australia. They thought it was connected to Tasmania, but





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 4

OCEANIA

Australia

they knew there was water they could navigate between Australia and New Guinea on the north and between Australia and New Zealand. On May 13, 1787, England sent eleven ships of the First Fleet to Australia. They included the HMS *Sirius*, HMS *Supply*, three supply ships, and six transport vessels carrying about 730 prisoners (570 men and 160 women). More than 250 free people including guards accompanied them. They were all under the command of Arthur Phillip, who was supposed to take control of the land from Tasmania in the south to Cape York in the north.

The fleet sailed from Portsmouth, England, to Rio de Janeiro (now in Brazil), past the Cape of Good Hope at the tip of Africa, and on to Australia, sailing past Tasmania and on to Botany Bay. They landed in Botany Bay on January 19-20, 1788, but the harbor wasn't suitable for the ships. They sailed north to Port Jackson, landed the fleet, and raised the British flag on January 26. Phillip began his government on February 7. The settlement at Port Jackson would later become the heart of the city of Sydney.

Historians don't all agree on why England sent its prisoners and the First Fleet to Australia. Some say it was because they needed places to imprison people, and they could no longer use the American colonies for that as they once had. If they moved the prisoners someplace where the people could grow their own food, the colony could support itself. Some today think that England hoped this would help the prisoners reform and change their ways, but considering you could be sent to Australia for something as simple as not paying a debt, that was probably not the only reason. Some think England wanted to create a headquarters for developing their sea power in the region, and others think they simply wanted to make money off the resources in Australia. The real reason could have been any one of





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 4

OCEANIA

Australia

or a combination of those motives.

Phillip created a base at Norfolk Island that would be used at various times in history, including to house prisoners who got into trouble while in Australia. The colony's first few years were a terrible time. There was not enough food, the crops they planted didn't grow because it was the wrong season, and most of the livestock died or disappeared into the bush. More ships came with more prisoners and other settlers in 1789 and 1791. Some of these prisoners, though, were terribly sick. When the First Fleet made the journey, thirty-one passengers had died along the way. While that was definitely not a good thing, for a trip of 252 people in that time period, it was less than some would have expected. But the prisoners on the Second Fleet and Third Fleet were not so fortunate. The ship masters had treated them terribly, and they were too crowded with not enough food. When the Second Fleet arrived in 1789, it had lost 267 of its approximately 1,000 prisoners who'd started the journey. When they arrived, the prisoners were so weak they could only crawl onto shore. When the Third Fleet arrived in 1791, it had lost 200 of its approximately 1,800 prisoners, and nearly 600 more were very sick.

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-10





Daily Skill Building: World Geography

Lesson 5

OCEANIA

Australia

By 1791 and 1792, having been replenished by supplies by the Second and Third Fleets and having had time to plant and harvest food, the colony was slowly becoming more stable. The military and nonmilitary officials built homes on the east side of what came to be called Tank Stream. The prisoners made their homes on the west in an area called the Rocks. Other officers and military personnel lived to the south.

Though it was a prison colony, the people did not live in jails. They lived in homes, did work for the colony, and operated businesses. Men and women had families, and sometimes, free people moved to the colony to be with a loved one who had been sent there as a prisoner. Overall, things stayed peaceful, though there was unrest at times. The biggest revolt happened in 1804 among Irish prisoners outside of Sydney. Many Irish had been sent to the colony as punishment for taking part in unrest at home. The revolt was called the Castle Hill Rising, and several people died as a result.

Early exchanges between the English and the Aboriginal people varied. Some went well; others went badly. Some on both sides stole and attacked each other. Arthur Phillip, who served as the colony's governor, wanted to learn more about the Aboriginal people and build good relationships with them, but they started avoiding the Europeans completely. In 1788 and 1789, Phillip did what we know looking back was not the right thing to do—he kidnapped several Aboriginal people and kept them at the Government House in Sydney so they could get to know each other. One of the men's names was Bennelong, and he quickly learned English and made friends with the Englishmen. He later traveled to England, met with King George III, and toured London. But when he returned in 1795, he found things had changed very much. His people did not accept him because he'd spent so much time with the English. The





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relationship between the English and the Aboriginal people had gotten worse by this time, and the English didn't accept him either.

For a while, though, relationships between the English and the Aboriginal people were good. They worked together and learned about each other. But then the English started taking more and more land. The Aboriginal people were hungry and not allowed on their own land. Some of the settlers did terrible things to the Aboriginal people, and they did it to the Europeans in return. Then smallpox struck, brought unintentionally by Makassan fishing crews. It devastated the Aboriginal population, killing many.

As time passed, the English built more and more settlements. Arthur Phillip left the colony in 1792, having done what he was sent to do—build a colony and establish good relationships with the Aboriginal people. Unfortunately, the governors who came after him were not as good at relationships and focused mostly on control. Also in 1792, the marines Phillip had brought with him were replaced by the New South Wales Corps, a military unit from Britain. These men were too often power-hungry and greedy, taking over the trade. They bought anything that came into Sydney and then sold it at a huge profit. They formed estates of land for themselves and used prisoners as servants.

The corps got far too much power, and the second and third governors, John Hunter and Philip Gidley King, did not do what was necessary to bring them under control. In 1806, a fourth governor arrived. His name was William Bligh, and he already had quite a reputation as a tough leader with a powerful temper. He was also strong and unafraid. In 1789, when he was the captain of a ship called the HMS *Bounty*, his men had mutinied, taking over the ship. They set him and eighteen others adrift in a small boat





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with very little food and water. Bligh survived and traveled 3,900 miles (6,300 km) to a Dutch colony where he could get help. In Australia, he tried to stop some of the ways the corps was making money, which made them very angry. He also claimed that the government owned almost all the land, despite the fact that people had built homes and communities on it (and despite the fact that it wasn't England's land to begin with). The corps rebelled, backed by many of the settlers, and they imprisoned Bligh. Bligh was eventually able to return to the United Kingdom in 1810.

In 1810, a new governor, along with his wife and his own troops, arrived in Australia, and the New South Wales Corps was recalled. Lachlan Macquarie worked hard to improve things in New South Wales. He had the people fill out petitions for ownership of the land they had and granted them leases to help settle the problem of Bligh's claim that most of the land belonged to the government. He stopped the practices of the New South Wales Corps, and he worked hard to improve the infrastructure by having a hospital, church, roads, and bridges built. He created a kind of coinage for the colony and started the first bank in Australia, even though the government was not in favor of a bank.

Macquarie also changed how the prisoners who behaved themselves and worked hard were treated. He gave them a type of parole or a pardon. After they were pardoned, they were called emancipists, and he treated them fairly, giving them jobs like working as his own doctor or architect, and he gave two of them jobs as judges in lower courts. He also worked to organize a school for Aboriginal children and other things he thought would help. However, not everyone was happy with the way he treated the prisoners, especially how he treated the pardoned ones. They preferred things the way they had been and worked against his plans. They wanted the wealthy settlers to do well and to use





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the prisoners as cheap labor. Macquarie finally resigned in 1820, and when he left, large crowds of people came to tell him farewell. The way the government had treated him was very hard on Macquarie, and he died a few years later, but on his tomb is the inscription, "The Father of Australia."

After Macquarie left, things got worse. The emancipists lost many of their rights. William Charles Wentworth, who was a pioneer, politician, and lawyer, disagreed with what the government did. He had been in the first group who had crossed the Blue Mountains years before. He led a push for self-government in New South Wales with an elected parliament. He also supported the rights of the emancipists and fought against the wealthy free settlers (called exclusives) who were trying to take advantage of them. He also fought for the right of trial by jury in the colony. It took many years, but between 1838 and 1854, he won many victories and greatly increased the freedom and rights of people in New South Wales.

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-10





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We've read how by this time there were several groups of English living in the colony of New South Wales—prisoners, emancipists, free settlers, and military personnel. In 1831, a new group started to come. England started giving money to help free people move to and settle in Australia. This was called assisted migration. By 1850, there were more than 110,000 assisted immigrants in Australia.

England stopped most of its transportation of prisoners to New South Wales by 1840, though it still sent a small number to the area of Victoria and continued to send prisoners to Tasmania. The last prison ship came to Tasmania in 1853. However, transporting prisoners, or exiles as they were called, to Western Australia started in 1850 and did not end until 1868.

If you look at a map of Australia, you'll discover something. It's a BIG place, with a really large section in the middle where you don't find too many towns or cities. There are a lot of places in Australia where the climate makes it very dangerous to live, so as you can imagine, exploring the continent took a lot of work by many people. Some of the Europeans only survived their expeditions because of the help of Aboriginal guides who went with them and helped them find the food and water they needed to stay alive. Just a few of the explorers who helped discover Australia's wonders were Allan Cunningham, Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, Robert Dale, Thomas Bannister, John Septimus Roe, John Oxley, Hamilton Hume, William Hovell, Charles Sturt, Thomas L. Mitchell, George Grey, Edward John Eyre, James Stirling, Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig Leichhardt, Augustus Charles Gregory, John McDouall Stuart, Robert O'Hara Burke, William John Wills, John Forrest, Ernest Giles, and Peter Egerton Warburton. Some made incredible discoveries. Some, like Leichhardt,





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disappeared without a trace.

In 1851, just three years after gold had been discovered in California in the United States, John Lister and three fellow prospectors made the first big discovery of gold in Australia. Some gold had been discovered before this, but it had not drawn a lot of attention. This was not the case with the gold Lister and the others found near Bathurst, New South Wales. A gold rush followed, and more discoveries were made. By early 1852, prospectors were arriving from other countries. More gold was discovered in other colonies during the 1850s-1890s, with discoveries in 1892-1893 in Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia starting a new gold rush.

By 1856, there were five colonies in Australia: New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania. As the colonies grew, so did the confrontations with the Aboriginal people of Australia. Some colonists treated them with respect, like missionary Lancelot Threlkeld who learned Aboriginal languages and fought for their rights. But sadly, many did not treat them as people at all. The Aboriginal people put up a resistance many times but ultimately could not defeat mounted soldiers with guns that could fire multiple times in a row.

Also by the 1850s, the settlers in Australia were pushing for more freedoms and the right to govern themselves. Between 1856 and 1857, the first parliaments were established in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria. In 1870, the Overland Telegraph linked South Australia to the Northern Territory. An economic depression devastated most of Australia in the 1890s except for Western Australia where the gold rush was happening. Many people lost their jobs, and the banking system nearly collapsed.





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In the 1890s, some Australians started to work toward creating the nation of Australia, though most still wanted to remain a part of the British Empire. Before this time, the colonies had each tried to stay fiercely independent of each other. But in the 1880s, the telegraph and railroad started connecting the people in new ways. In the late 1890s, the colonies began working to figure out the best way to bring all Australia together as a nation. A constitution was written between 1897-1898, and by 1901, all the colonies had approved it. On January 1, 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was declared. Even though Australia was now a nation, her people were still British citizens and remained part of the British Empire.

When the United Kingdom entered World War I on August 4, 1914, Australia also entered the war. Tens of thousands of Australians, including over 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, joined the military to fight. They joined troops from New Zealand and trained together in Egypt. This gave us the term ANZAC (meaning the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). In 1914, Australia fought and retook New Guinea. ANZAC troops took part in a very large campaign on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. It began April 25, 1915, but the Allies eventually had to withdraw in January 1916. However, the bravery of the men who fought there became a legend and a great source of pride for Australia and New Zealand. It is remembered every year in both countries on April 25 as ANZAC Day.

After the war, in 1918, a terrible flu pandemic struck Australia and killed many. After this, Australia did well for a time but was then struck by the Great Depression that impacted nations all over the world. Many political issues in Australia caused problems at the beginning of World War II, and the nation sent troops to some areas. But when Japan started invading Pacific islands in 1941, the war was suddenly in their backyard.





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Singapore, which had been a critical part of Australia's defense, fell in February 1942. Japan began bombing land targets in Australia and attacking Australian ships with submarines. They even entered Sydney Harbour. Australia and the Allies fought back. As they had in World War I, Aboriginal soldiers and nurses bravely served.

Many changes in government happened in Australia in the decades following World War II. In 1999, a vote was held on whether Australia should remain a commonwealth or become an independent republic. The people voted to remain a commonwealth. The official head of state is the king or queen of the United Kingdom, though for practical purposes, Australia's elected prime minister appoints a governor general to represent the king or queen.

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-14

