

Geography of Australia and New Zealand For Kids



By Rachel Bubb

When putting this book together, I used The Eyewitness Atlas of the World and The Scholastic Atlas of The World for the map questions and as a reference. You'll need a good map of Australia and New Zealand as you go through this book for the map questions. There are several pages in this book ("Growing up in ___" or "Living in ___" or things like that) which are interviews with people who have lived in those places or had similar jobs. I didn't write down who I interviewed in order to keep their names anonymous. I enjoyed doing the research and writing for this book (and learned a lot in the process). At the very end are some Australian artists who have done beautiful scenery pictures and paintings, which can give a good idea of some of the wonderful places in Australia. It's great to read picture books about these places or the animals that live there while you go through this book.



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My Country

An excerpt from the poem "My Country" by Mackellar. She started writing this poem when she was in London, England, when she was getting homesick for her home in Australia.

The love of field and coppice,
Of green and shaded lanes.
Of ordered woods and gardens
Is running in your veins,
Strong love of grey-blue distance
Brown streams and soft dim skies
I know but cannot share it,
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror-
The wide brown land for me!

As you go through this book about Australia's Geography, label this map with the states and add their capitals. You can color in each state a different color; don't forget to label the oceans around Australia too.



As you go through this book about Australia's Geography, add and label some of the mountains, deserts, cities, rivers, lakes, and anything else that has to do with Australia's geography.



When you get to New Zealand, make a copy of this map and label it with both cities and geographical places when you get to the part about New Zealand in this book.



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Introduction

Australia is unique in that it's the only country that's also a continent. It's huge! Most of the people in Australia live on the east coast, which is also where most of the big cities are. The middle of Australia is mostly desert. Australia's not one of the world's oldest countries. It was first discovered by Captain Cook in 1770, but no one moved there until 1788. However, the Aboriginal peoples have been in Australia for many years before this. Today the Aboriginal people have their own flag. The people who originally came to Australia weren't always good to the Aboriginals but hopefully they are getting treated better now than before. When the people first came to Australia, many Aboriginals died because of diseases that were brought over from Europe and other places.



The Aboriginal flag

Something to remember about Australia is that it's in the Southern Hemisphere. Summer in the Northern Hemisphere is June, July, and August (generally) but summer in Australia is November, December, and January (generally). It also means that Christmas in Australia is in the summer. Many people go on picnics, go to the beach, or go to parks to celebrate (and often have a "barbie" or a barbecue).

There are several foods that are special for Australia. One of my favorites is Tim Tams. They are rectangular cookies with cream inside and chocolate on the outside. Many people enjoy them with tea, hot chocolate, or coffee for a "Tim Tam Slam." Tim Tam Slams are where you bite the opposite corners of the cookie, and use the cookie as a "straw" to drink the hot drink. The hot drink comes up through the cookie and melts the middle (which starts to melt the rest of the cookie). One of Australia's most famous cookies are Anzac cookies, which were first made during World War I in honor of Anzac (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). Anzac Day is April 25 of each year, but you can probably find Anzac cookies throughout the year in stores. They are a coconut oat cookie. Anzac Day is normally celebrated with parades in cities all over Australia.

Anzac Cookies

Ingredients:

85 g porridge oats
85 g desiccated coconut
100 g plain flour
100 g caster sugar
100 g butter (and some more for greasing)
1 T golden syrup
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

Heat oven to 180C fan (160 C gas 4). Put the oats, coconut, flour, and sugar in a bowl. Melt the butter in a small pan and stir in the golden syrup. Add the bicarbonate of soda to 2 T boiling water and stir it into the golden syrup and butter mixture.

Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients and pour in the butter and golden syrup mixture. Stir gently to incorporate the dry ingredients. Put dessert spoonfuls of the mixture on a buttered baking sheets, about 2.5 cm/ 1 inch apart to allow room for spreading. Bake in batches for 8-10 minutes until golden. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

