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Get to Know: Australia

The history of Australia has been shaped by two distinct groups of people. From one of the oldest continuing cultures in human history to the comparatively newly settled, each community plays a vital part in shaping the complex history of Australia. Let's get look at the unique history of the land "down under!"

First, go to **www.worldbookonline.com**
Then, click on "Kids." If prompted, log on with your ID and Password.

Find It!

Use the World Book "Search" tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about *Australia*, it is recommended you start by searching the key word "Australia." Write the answers on the lines provided or in the space below the question.

1. Australia is the only country that is also a _____.
2. Why is Australia often referred to as being "down under"?
3. What is Australia's capital?
4. Australia is surrounded by water, like an island. Why do geographers consider it a continent?
5. What are Australia's three land regions?
6. _____ are one of Australia's most important resources. They provide the towns and cities with drinking water, and they supply farmers with water for their crops.

7. Australia has _____ states. They are _____

Australia also has _____ territories.

They are _____

8. Australia is the world's biggest producer of _____ and _____.

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The following questions are about Australia's history. To answer these questions, you may find it helpful to navigate to the article "Australia, History of."

- 9. Australia's first settlers arrived from Asia at least _____ years ago.
- 10. Who was the first European known to see Australia?
- 11. Who claimed Australia for Britain?
- 12. What name is given to the group of British ships that brought the first British settlers to Australia?
- 13. The first British settlers in Australia established what kind of colony?
- 14. The first British colony in Australia later became the site of what major Australian city?
- 15. When was gold discovered in Australia?
- 16. The gold rushes were followed by a period of growth from 1860 to 1890 that historians call the _____.
- 17. As the colonies grew, the Aboriginal peoples of Australia suffered greatly. What were some of the causes of this suffering?

18. When did the Commonwealth of Australia come into being?
19. After World War II, the government began a program to bring _____ to Australia to strengthen the economy and populate the country.
20. The _____ program, together with the _____ and _____ movements, had a profound impact in shaping modern Australia.
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Hear It!

The following questions let you experience more of Australia. To answer these questions, you may find it helpful to navigate back to the “Australia” article.

Under the tab “Pictures, Videos, and More” you will find Videos and Sounds.

21. Use two adjectives to describe the sound clip from “Australia’s national anthem.”
22. Use two adjectives to describe the sound clip from “Australian Aboriginal folk music.”
23. Use two adjectives to describe the sound clip from “Waltzing Matilda.”
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Watch It!

The Australia article provides several videos of animals native to Australia. Choose one animal video and describe what the animal is doing in the video.

24. Animal I Chose: _____
25. What is the animal doing in the video?

