

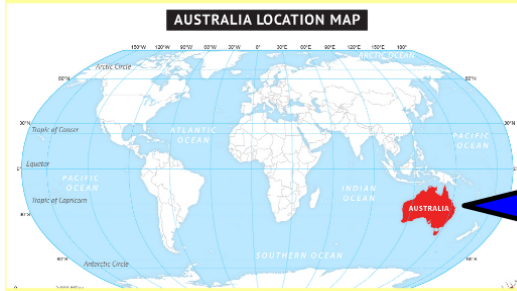
Year 5 – Geography – Australia – Lesson 1

KO: Australia is a large, diverse country in the Southern Hemisphere

Australia is a very large country, due to its size it is very diverse.

Key Vocabulary:

- Australia
- Terra Australis
- River Murray
- River Darling
- Indian Ocean
- Southern Ocean



Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere and is surrounded by the Indian Ocean to the west, the Southern Sea to the south, the Tasman Sea, Coral Sea and Pacific Ocean to the East.

Australia

Australia is the world's sixth largest country. Around 24 million people live in Australia, which is not that many considering how large it is! By comparison, 65 million people live in the United Kingdom. However, you could fit the United Kingdom into Australia 22 times!

Look at this relief map of Australia. Can you remember what the different colours represent?

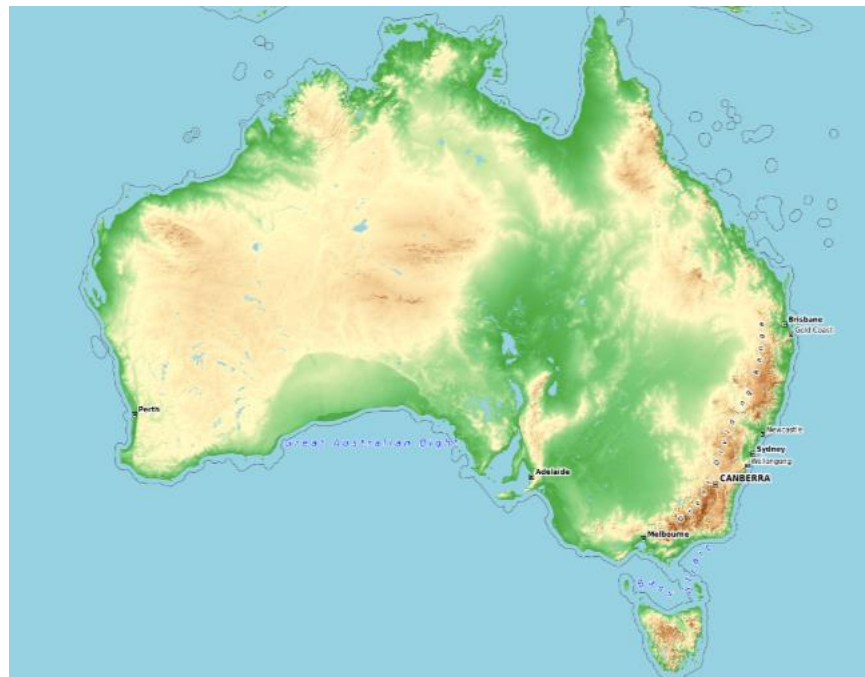
It is a very large country, one of the oldest, flattest, driest countries in the world.

Australia's landscape is dominated by the Outback, a region of deserts and semi-arid land.

The word 'Australia' comes from the Latin, 'Terra Australis' meaning southern land. This name was used since ancient times as people assumed there must be a southern continent to balance out the northern continents.

Due to its size, Australia has diverse physical geography.

A large part of the land is desert, but there are also tropical rainforests, grasslands and mountains.



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The Australian Outback stretches for thousands of miles across Australia and is very hot and dry. Some people live in the outback, but most of Australia's population is concentrated around its rivers and the coastlines.

Temperatures in the Outback range from as high as 50°C on summer days, to -10°C during winter nights.



The Simpson Desert.



Australian Outback



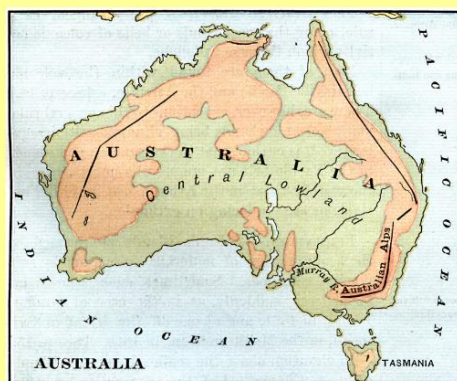
The Murray River and its tributary the Darling River form a huge river basin in South Eastern Australia. The river basin contains thousands of wetlands, home to many species of plants and animals. The unreliable rainfall in Australia means the Murray Darling River basin has variable levels of water, this causes problems for agriculture dependent on the river for irrigation e.g. cotton and rice farming and has caused severe drought in parts of the country.

The Murray River is the longest river in Australia. It is 1558 miles long!

The Darling River is the third longest river in Australia, measuring almost 915 miles from its source to its confluence.



Australia is an island. It has coastline all around it and beautiful beaches.



The Australian Alps are Australia's largest mountain range.

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The highest mountain is Mount Kosciuszko (2,228m).

The Great Dividing Range that contains mountains, plateaus and upland areas.

It starts at the north eastern tip of Queensland, running the entire length of the eastern coastline through New South Wales, then into Victoria and turning west, before finally fading into the central plain at the Grampians in western Victoria.

Great Barrier Reef- important coral reef system believed to be around 18 million years.



Australia also has rainforests. The Daintree Rainforest is the oldest rainforest in the world. You can find more than 1200 types of insects here!



What would a geographer who wanted to find out about the physical geography of Australia look for?



Task

Write about the physical geography of Australia.

Things to include:

- The location of Australia.
- The relief of Australia (height of the land).
- The Outback.
- The Murray River and the Darling River.
- The Great Dividing Range.
- The Great Barrier Reef.
- Rainforests.