

# Australia Day

Australia Day is the national day of Australia and takes place on the 26th of January every year across the country of Australia. For many people in Australia, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, this day is referred to as 'Invasion Day' as they remember the anniversary of the invasion of their lands. On this day in 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip raised the British flag in Sydney Cove to mark the new colony of Britain. Captain Phillip was the commander of the First Fleet, which was made up of 11 convict ships from Great Britain. The aim of the First Fleet



was to colonise new land for Great Britain. It was also a way of moving convicts out of overcrowded prisons in Britain and use their labour to create a new colony.

On Australia Day, people come together to celebrate their Australian identity

and celebrate what's great about the country. Many Australians celebrate this national day in different ways. Some people enjoy going to a special concert or watching a fireworks show.



Other Australians spend the day at the beach or having a picnic with friends or family. The day is an opportunity for people to reflect on the history of the nation and think of how they can make Australia better in the future.

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples view this day as an invasion of British settlers on the land they already owned. For these people, Australia Day is not a day of celebration. It is an opportunity to commemorate the invasion and recognise the survival of the people and the culture. For this reason, Australia Day is sometimes called 'Invasion Day' or 'Survival Day'.

It is also the time of the year when important national awards are given to people who show great Australian values. The Australia Day Awards recognise those Australians who have shown leadership and vision in their field. Each state and territory selects one person for each of the four awards: Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year and Australia's Local Heroes. The National Australia Day Council Board selects the Australians of the Year from the state and territory recipients. On Australia Day eve, the winners of these awards are announced by the Australian Prime Minister during a special event at Parliament House in Canberra.

# Questions

1. What date is Australia Day?

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2. Where did Captain Arthur Phillip raise the British flag in 1788?

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3. How many ships sailed in the First Fleet?

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4. In which Australian city are the Australian of the Year awards announced?

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5. Aboriginal people sometimes call Australia Day what other name?

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6. Why do many Australians enjoy spending time at the beach on Australia Day?

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7. Why are the Australian of the Year Awards given to the winners at this time of the year?

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8. How do you think the National Australia Day Council Board select the winner of the Australian of the Year award?

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9. What do you think is meant by Australian values?

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