

Unit 12j: Country Area Studies--Australia and New Zealand

Objectives

At the end of this unit, you will

Be aware of the following

- Indochinese refugee population of Australia
- New Zealand sensitivities to nuclear energy/weapons
 - Aborigine Australians

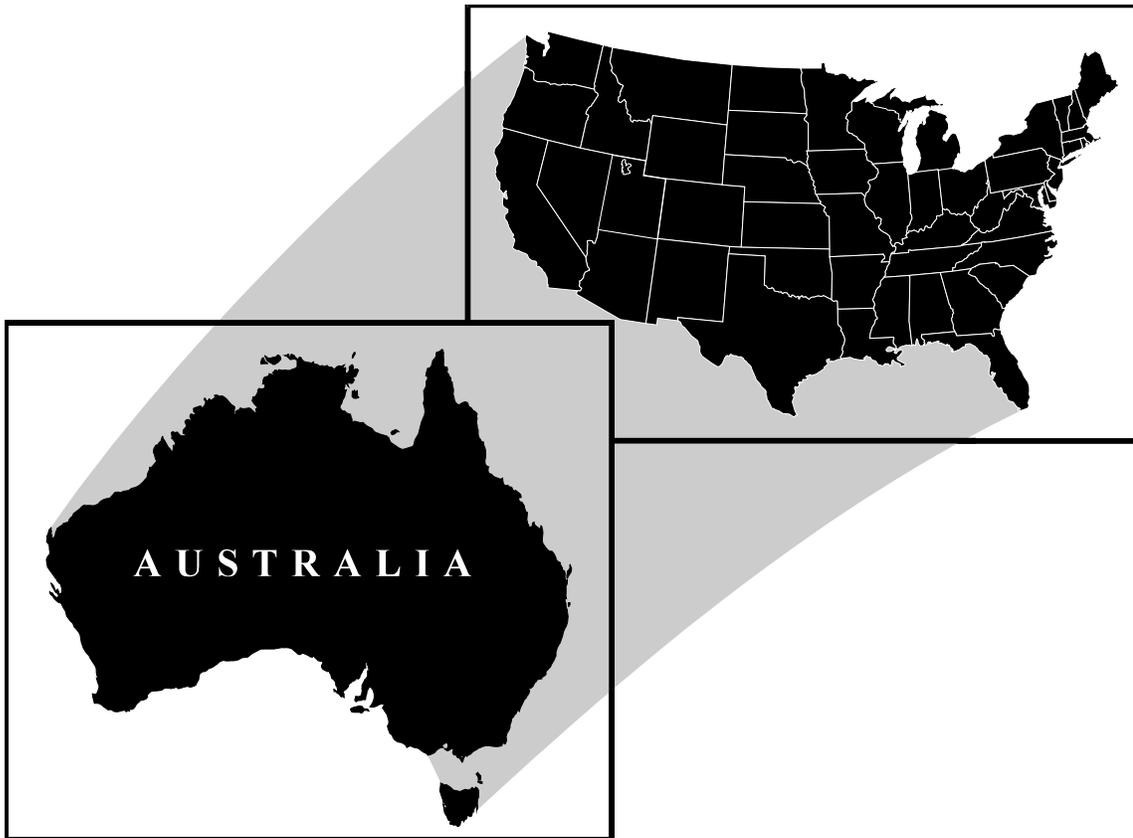
Identify

- Anglican Church
- ANZAC Day
- Boxing Day
- ANZUS security treaty
- Maori peoples
 - Gallipoli

Realize

- High percentage of urbanized Australians
- Impact of United Kingdom (Britain) on Australia and New Zealand
 - Importance of ANZAC Day to Australian and New Zealand military personnel

Australia



<u>Population</u>	18,322,231
% under 15 years	21%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:2
Radio	1:1
Phone	1:2
Newspaper	249:1,000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	Male 75/Female 81
Hospitals	1:199
Doctors	1:438
IMR	7:1,000
<u>Income</u>	\$19,100.00 per cap
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	99%

1. Religious Groups

a. Christian 75% (Anglican [Church of England or those holding communion with the Church of England] 24%, Catholic 26%, Other Christian 25%)

b. Other 25%

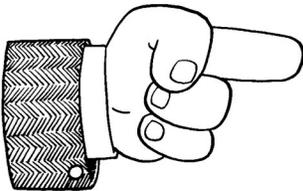
2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

a. European 94%

b. Asian 5%

c. Aboriginal 1% *"Australia's aboriginal inhabitants, a hunting-gathering people generally referred to as Australoids or Aborigines, arrived about 40,000 years ago. Although their technical culture remained static--depending on wood, bone, and stone tools and weapons--their spiritual and social life sometimes linked widely scattered tribal groups. Aboriginal population density ranged from 1 person per square mile along the coasts to 1 person per 35 square miles in the arid interior. Food procurement was usually a matter for the nuclear family and was very demanding, since there was little large game and they had no agriculture.*

Australia may have been sighted by Portuguese sailors in 1601, and Captain Cook claimed it for the United Kingdom in 1770. At that time, the native population may have numbered 300,000 in as many as 500 tribes speaking many different languages.



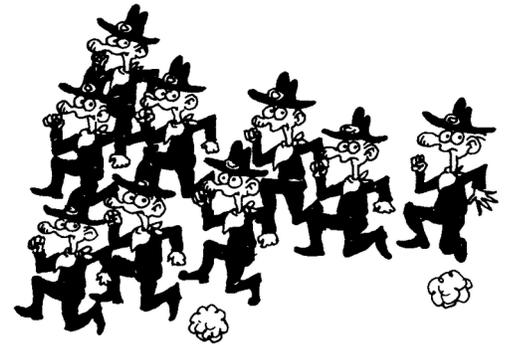
The aboriginal population currently numbers about 230,000, representing about 1.2% of the population. Since the end of World War II, efforts have been made both by the government and by the public to be more responsive to aboriginal rights and needs.

Today, tribal aborigines lead a settled traditional life in remote areas of northern, central, and western Australia.

In the south, where most aborigines are of mixed descent, movement to the cities is increasing." (Unless otherwise stated, all quotes are from the Library of Congress Country Studies/Area Handbook--Australia.)

d. Immigration "Immigration has been essential to Australia's development since the beginning of European settlement in 1788. For generations most settlers came from the British Isles, and the people of Australia are still predominantly of British or Irish origin, with a culture and outlook similar to those of Americans.

However, since the end of World War II, the population has more than doubled; non-European immigration, mostly from the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America, has increased significantly since 1960 through an extensive, planned immigration program. From 1945 through 1990, nearly 5 million immigrants settled in Australia, and about 80% have remained; one of every five Australians is foreign-born.



Britain and Ireland have been the largest sources of post-war immigrants, followed by Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia.

The 1970s saw progressive reductions in the size of the annual immigration program due to economic and employment conditions; in 1969-70, 185,000 persons were permitted to settle, but by 1985-86 the number had dropped to 84,000. In 1995 Australia accepted about 76,500 regular immigrants. In addition, during the last decade about 20,000 New Zealanders have settled in Australia each year.

Australia's refugee admissions of about 13,000 per year are in addition to the normal immigration program. Forty percent are from Indochina and make up the largest single element in Australia's refugee program in recent years.

Since 1975, the country has accepted more than 125,000 refugees from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia; it now has, on a per capita basis, more Indochinese refugees as permanent residents than any other country.

Although Australia has scarcely more than two persons per square kilometer, it is one of the world's most urbanized countries. Fewer than 15% of the population live in rural areas."



3. Gender Issues

a. Domestic violence "Social analysts and commentators estimate that domestic violence may affect as many as one family in three or four. The Government recognizes that domestic violence and economic discrimination are serious problems, and the statutorily independent Sex Discrimination Commissioner actively addresses these problems and other areas of discrimination. Government statisticians state that, because of underreporting and the lack of an agreed method for collecting statistics, it is impossible to provide an accurate national profile of the number of women who are victims of domestic violence." (Human Rights Practices for 1996--Australia.)

b. Equality "Women have equal status under the law, and the law provides for pay equity. There are highly organized and effective private and public women's rights organizations at the federal, state, and local levels. There is a federal-level Office of the Status of Women which monitors women's rights. The Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner receives complaints and attempts to resolve those that are deemed valid. A 1994 U.N. report estimated that women receive approximately 90 percent of wages paid to men for substantially similar work."

4. Conflicts Territorial claims in Antarctica



5. Holidays and Observances

a. ANZAC Day (25 April)

- National holiday in Australia and New Zealand, taking its name from the initial letters, "Australia and New Zealand Army Corps."
- Commemorates the landing of the ANZAC troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula in European Turkey on April 25, 1915 during World War I.
- Honors those who have died in both World Wars, Korea and Vietnam.

b. Australia Day (26 January)

- Anniversary of arrival of the first British settlers in Australia on January 26, 1788
- Captain Arthur Phillip and his company of British convicts arrived first at Botany Bay, then moved to Port Jackson where the city of Sydney was eventually established.
- Built a penal colony to help relieve overcrowding in British prisons.

c. Boxing Day (26 December)



- Term comes from the little earthenware boxes that servants, tradespeople, and others used to carry around on the day after Christmas to collect tips and year-end bonuses.
- Custom of distributing gifts (usually money) to public servants and employees continues, though often before Christmas rather than after.
- Boxes currently have nothing to do with the custom.

d. Eight Hour Day (various)

- Each of Australia's states celebrates the improvements that have been made in working conditions with its own Labor Day.

e. Melbourne Cup Day (first Tuesday in November)

- The only public holiday in the world dedicated to a horse race
- Cup Day is not only a holiday in Australia, but is observed throughout the world in offices where Australians work.

f. Other Australian holidays

- (1) Christmas Day (25 December)
- (2) Easter
- (3) New Year's Day (1 January)
- (4) Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday (26 December)

6. Customs

a. Gestures



- **Direct** Expect Australians to be direct and straightforward.
- **Work** Manual labor enjoys a higher prestige than in the U.S.
- **Elite** People who "put on airs" are rather quickly deflated.
- **Thumbs up** Traditional "thumbs up" sign, signifying "O.K." or hitchhiking, may be rude.
- **Winks** Winking at women is inappropriate.
- **Effusive talk** Highly expressive, "gushy" behavior is looked down upon.
 - **Sportsmanship** Good sportsmanship in games and contests is valued.

b. ANZUS and Defense *"The Australia, New Zealand, United States (ANZUS) security treaty was concluded at San Francisco on September 1, 1951, and entered into force on April 29, 1952. The treaty bound the signatories to recognize that an armed attack in the Pacific area on any of them would endanger the peace and safety of the others. It committed them to consult in the event of threat and, in the event of attack, to meet the common danger in accordance with their respective constitutional processes. The three nations also pledged to maintain and develop individual and collective capabilities to resist attack."*



In 1985, the nature of the ANZUS alliance changed after the government of New Zealand refused access to its ports by nuclear-weapons-capable and nuclear-powered ships of the US Navy. The United States suspended defense obligations to New Zealand, and annual bilateral meetings between the US Secretary of State and the Australian Foreign Minister replaced annual meetings of the ANZUS Council of Foreign Ministers.

The first bilateral meeting was held in Canberra in 1985. At the second, in San Francisco in 1986, the United States and Australia announced that the United States was suspending its treaty security obligations to New Zealand pending the restoration of port access. Subsequent bilateral ministerial meetings have alternated between Australia and the United States."

c. Defense *"The Australian Defense Force numbers about 58,000 persons on active duty. Personnel strength is 26,000 in the Army, 14,000 in the Navy, and 18,000 in the Air Force. Another 21,000 are involved in support, development, and command activities. The Royal Australian Navy's front-line fleet currently comprises three guided-missile destroyers, six guided-missile frigates, three destroyer escorts, and five Oberon-class submarines. The F/A-18 fighter, built in Australia under license from the manufacturer, is the principal combat aircraft of the Royal Australian Air Force."*

7. Cultural Literacy Concepts/Terms

a. Ayers Rock



- World's largest rock, located in the southwest portion of Australia's Northern Territory
- Named in 1872 for Sir Henry Ayers, premier of South Australia, the oval shaped rock rises 1100 feet above the ground.
- Held sacred by the aborigines, the rock is now a part of Uluru National Park.

b. Lawson, Henry (1867-1922)

- Published first collection of short stories in 1894, *Short Stories in Prose and Verse*.
- Deaf from the age of nine, he also suffered from melancholy and alcoholism. Died alone and penniless in his cottage from a stroke.
- Best known works are *Joe Wilson and His Mates* (1903) and *The Yanco Book* (1917).



8. Resources for Further Study

a. Cross-cultural resources

Sharp, Lisa. Culture Shock! Australia. Portland, Oregon: Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 1988.

Beg, borrow or purchase books in this series. Highly recommended by the Overseas Briefing Center, U.S. Department of State.