

## Australia

1. Which one of the following statements is true?
  - a) Australia has a population of more than 25 million
  - b) More than 50 countries have a bigger population than Australia
  - c) About 10% of Australians were born in another country
  
2. Which one of the following statements is false?
  - a) Australia lies between the Atlantic and Indian oceans
  - b) Australia lies to the west of New Zealand
  - c) Australia lies to the south of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea
  
3. Which of the following statements is true?
  - a) Australia is bigger than India.
  - b) Australia is smaller than France
  - c) Australia is bigger than Brazil
  
4. What does the Australian slang word 'daks' refer to?
  - a) glasses
  - b) trousers
  - c) foreigners
  
5. What percentage of Australian mammals do not live in any other part of the world?
  - a) 20%
  - b) 50%
  - c) 80%
  
6. How long had the Aborigines (native Australians) been living in Australia before the British arrived in April 1770?
  - a) About 400 years
  - b) About 4,000 years
  - c) More than 40,000 years
  
7. Which one of the following statements is false?
  - a) The middle of Australia is very dry
  - b) Almost half of Australia's birds do not live in any other part of the world
  - c) There were probably about 5 million Aborigines when the British arrived in Australia

8. Which one of the following statements is true?

- a) Australia does not have any mountains
- b) In Australian slang, 'chook' means 'chicken'
- c) Only about 50% of the people living in Australia were born there

9. What happened to the Aborigine population in the 150 years after the British arrived?

- a) It went up slowly
- b) It went down
- c) It stayed the same

10. Which one of the following statements is false?

- a) Australia is the sixth largest country in the world
- b) A lot people living in Australia were born in the United Kingdom
- c) The seasons in Australia are the same as in Europe and North America

# Australia

Australia lies between the Indian and the South Pacific oceans, south of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. The nearest country to the east of Australia is New Zealand. Because it is south of the equator, the seasons in Australia are the opposite of those in Europe and North America: it's winter in Australia when it's summer in Europe, and vice versa.

Australia is the sixth largest country in the world after Russia, Canada, China, the USA and Brazil, but only has a population of about 20.5 million – this means there are 51 countries in the world that have more people than Australia.

As well as being the smallest of the world's continents, it is also the flattest (there aren't many big mountains, and the highest of them is not much more than 2000m) and the driest (the middle of Australia has less rain than almost any other part of the world).

Australia is well known for having a lot of unusual animals, like the kangaroo and koala bear. In fact, 80% of Australia's mammals and 45% of its birds do not live in any other part of the world.

The native Australian people, often called 'Aborigines', had probably been living on the continent for more than 40,000 years before the British arrived in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (they first landed on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1770). There were probably about 350,000 Aborigines when the British arrived, but their population fell over the following 150 years. Now, however, it is rising again, and is now about 400,000.

There has been a lot of immigration into Australia in the last 80 years – so much, in fact, that the total population is now four times bigger than it was in 1918 – and more than 25 per cent of the people now living there were born in another country. Among the Australians who were born in other countries, the five largest groups are those from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Italy, Vietnam and China.

Australian English sounds quite different from British and American English, and has a lot of unusual slang words – in fact, you can even buy dictionaries of Australian slang! A few examples are 'chook' (chicken), 'daks' (trousers), 'sunnies' (sunglasses) and 'tinnie' (can of beer).