



Commonwealth of Australia

Саєнко Арина АРХ-41/9



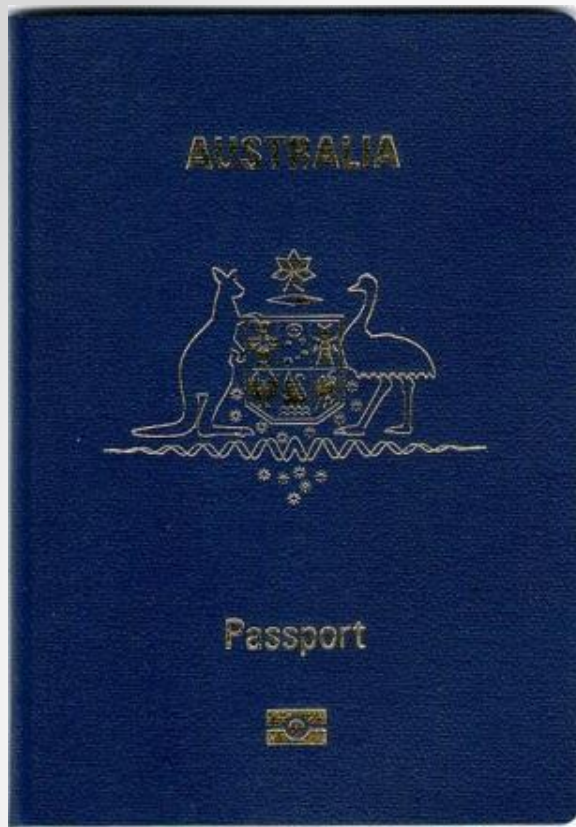
Main information

Australia, officially the *Commonwealth of Australia*, is a country comprising the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania and numerous smaller islands. It is the world's sixth-largest country by total area.



The neighbouring countries are **Papua New Guinea**, **Indonesia** and **East Timor** to the *north*; the **Solomon Islands** and **Vanuatu** to the *north-east*; and **New Zealand** to the *south-east*. Australia's capital is **Canberra**, and its largest urban area is **Sydney**.





Anthem:
"Advance Australia Fair"

Official languages:
none

National languages:
English

Currency:
Australian dollar (AUD)



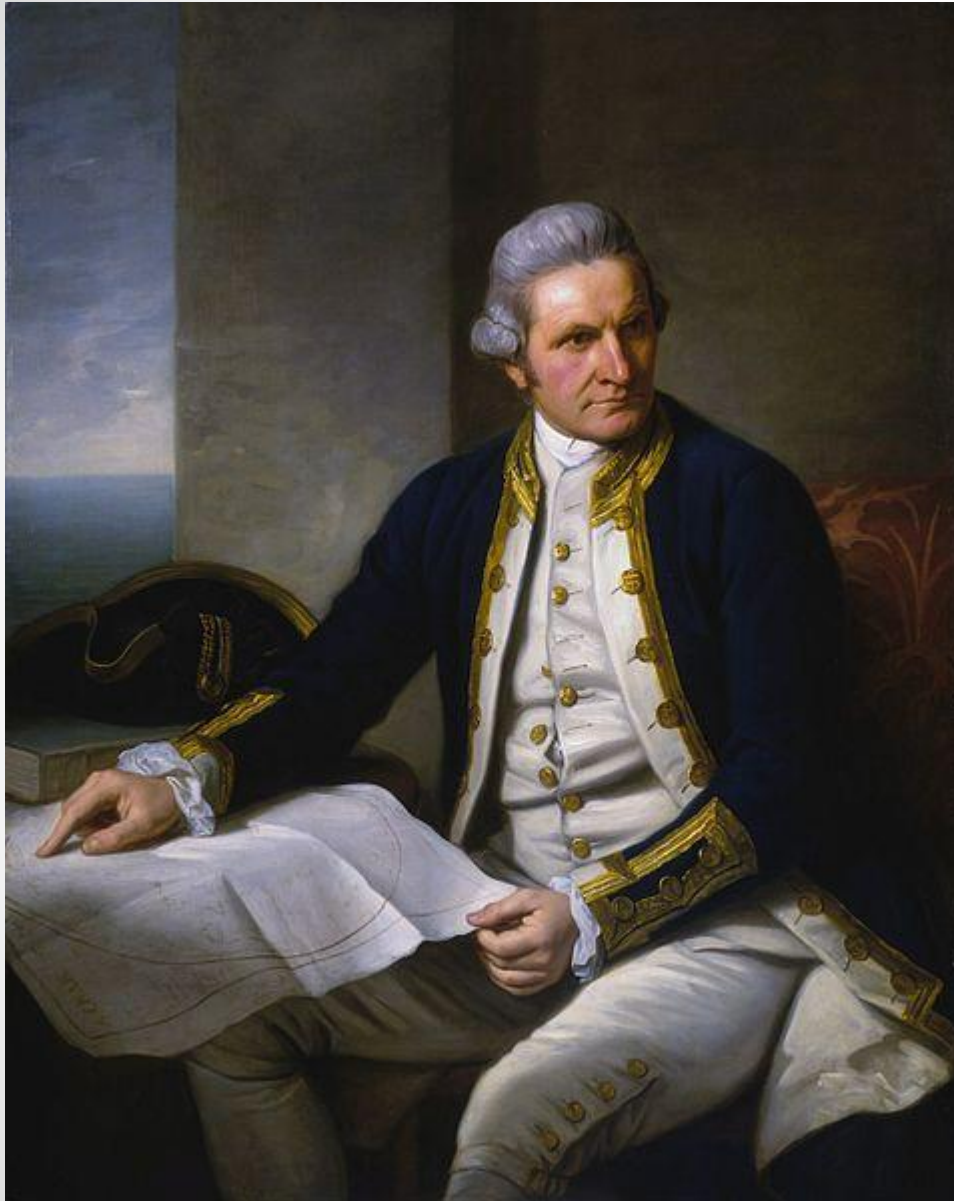
Capital: Canberra





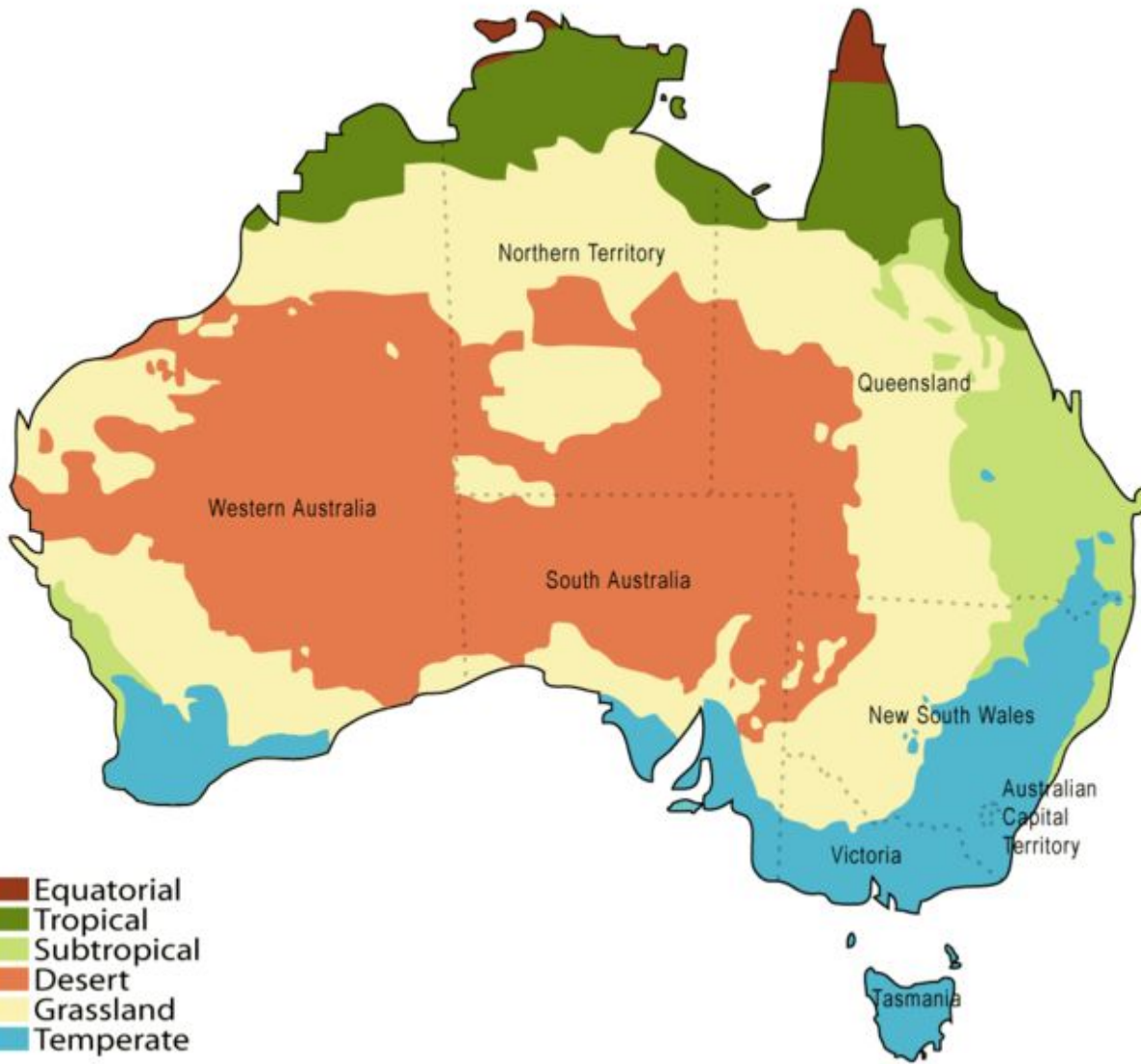
Human habitation of the Australian continent is estimated to have begun between 42,000 and 48,000 years ago, possibly with the migration of people by land bridges and short sea-crossings from what is now Southeast Asia. These first inhabitants may have been ancestors of modern Indigenous Australians. At the time of European settlement in the late 18th century, most Indigenous Australians were hunter-gatherers, with a complex oral culture and spiritual values based on reverence for the land and a belief in the Dreamtime.





The first recorded European sighting of the Australian mainland, and the first recorded European landfall on the Australian continent, are attributed to the Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon. He sighted the coast of Cape York Peninsula in early 1606. The Dutch charted the whole of the western and northern coastlines and named the island continent "New Holland" during the 17th century, but made no attempt at settlement.

In 1770, James Cook sailed along and mapped the east coast, which he named New South Wales and claimed for Great Britain.

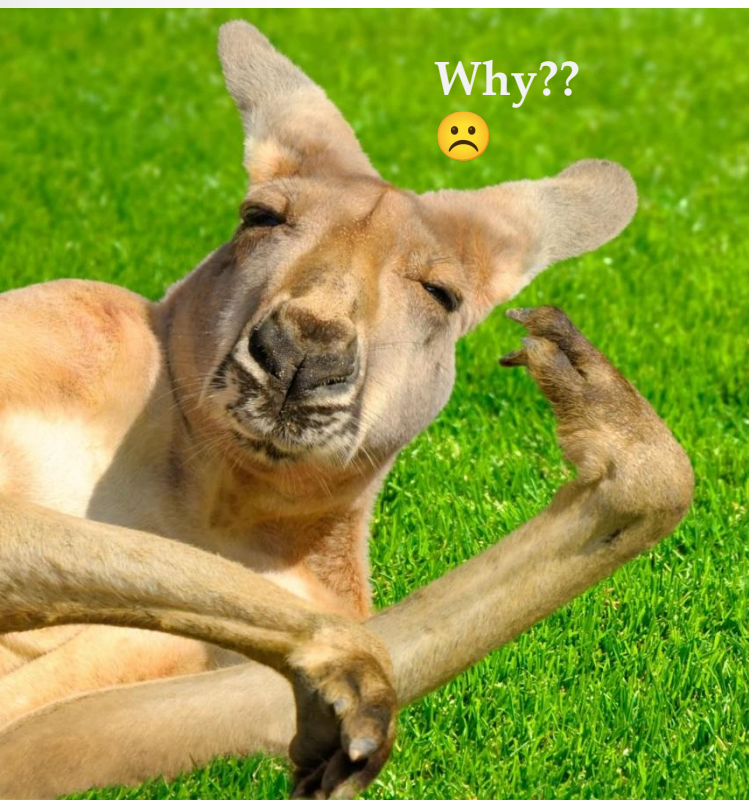


Australia's size gives it a wide variety of landscapes, with tropical rainforests in the north-east, mountain ranges in the south-east, south-west and east, and dry desert in the centre. It is the flattest continent, with the oldest and least fertile soils; desert or semi-arid land commonly known as the outback makes up by far the largest portion of land. The climate of Australia is significantly influenced by ocean currents.

Since 1788, the primary influence behind Australian culture has been Anglo-Celtic Western culture, with some Indigenous influences. Since the mid-20th century, American popular culture has strongly influenced Australia, particularly through television and cinema. Other cultural influences come from neighbouring Asian countries, and through large-scale immigration from non-English-speaking nations.



- Most of Australia's exotic flora and fauna cannot be found anywhere else in the world.
- Kangaroo meat can be purchased from the supermarket, butcher and available on restaurant menus as a leaner and healthier alternative to beef or lamb with a 1-2 percent fat content.
- Canberra was selected as the capital because Sydney and Melbourne could not stop arguing which city should be the capital of Australia.



- Ugg boots or as local call them 'very ugly boots' are an Australian design where a sheepskin has been turned inside out and made into a boot.

- The only place in the world where you can still find the lung fish which is a living fossil from the Triassic period 350 million years ago.



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

