

Australia

A landscape photograph of a dry, brown canyon with sparse green vegetation under a blue sky with light clouds. The canyon walls are layered and eroded, with some green shrubs and small trees growing in the lower areas. The sky is a mix of blue and white clouds.

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Australia's History



- **Australia-comes from “Terra Australis”**
- **Australia was a part of Godwana**
- **1st inhabitants: Aborigines**
 - **Migrated there at least 40,000 yrs. ago from Southeast Asia**
- **1606-Dutch, Portuguese, and Spanish ships sighted Australia**
- **1616-became known as New Holland**
- **1688-British arrived**
- **1770-Great Britain claimed possession, calling it New South Wales**



Geography

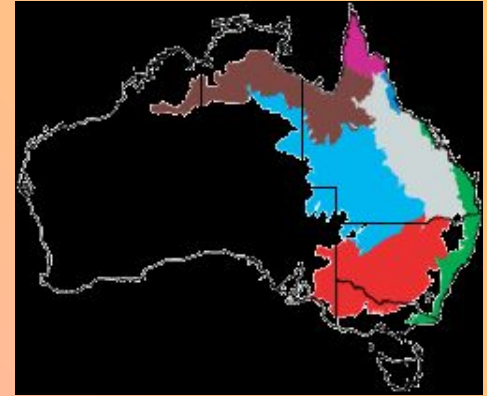


- 3 island territories in the Pacific:
 - Norfolk Island
 - Christmas Island
 - Cocos Islands
- Only nation to occupy an entire continent
- Flattest and (after Antarctica) driest of continents
 - **North:** rainforests and vast plains
 - **South East:** snowfields
 - **Centre:** desert
 - **East, South, and South West:** fertile cropland



Geography (cont'd)

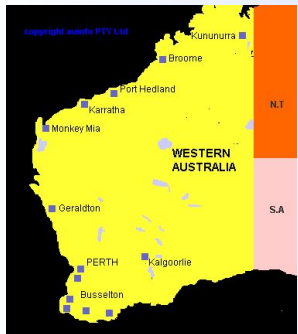
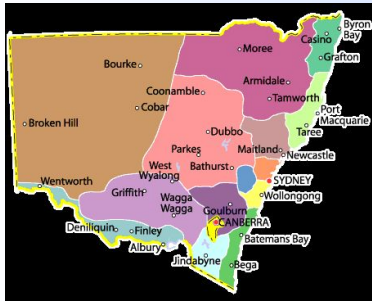
- **6th largest nation**
- **The Capital is Canberra**
- **Relatively small population**
- **Only nation to govern an entire continent and its outlying islands**
- **Federation: 6 states, 2 territories**
- **Largest state: Western Australia**
- **1/3 of the country lies in the tropics**



Six Colonies

Free settlers and former prisoners established six colonies:

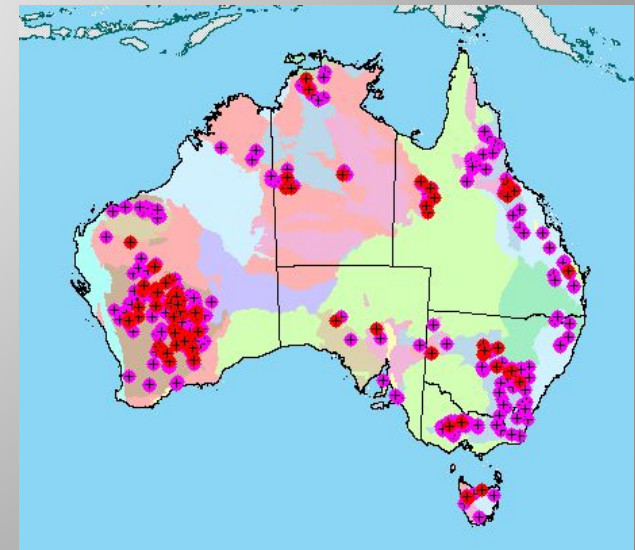
1. New South Wales-1786
2. Tasmania-1825
3. Western Australia-1829
4. South Australia-1834
5. Victoria-1851
6. Queensland-1859



Attractions/Important Economic Enterprises



- Famous weapon:
Aborigine's
boomerang
- Gold rushes/mining
- Sheep farming
- Grain

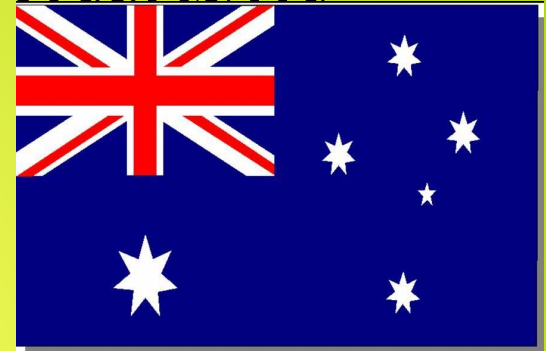


Liberal Legislation

- Free compulsory education
- Protected trade unionism w/industrial conciliation and arbitration
- Secret ballot
- Women's suffrage
- Maternity allowances
- Sick and old-age pensions



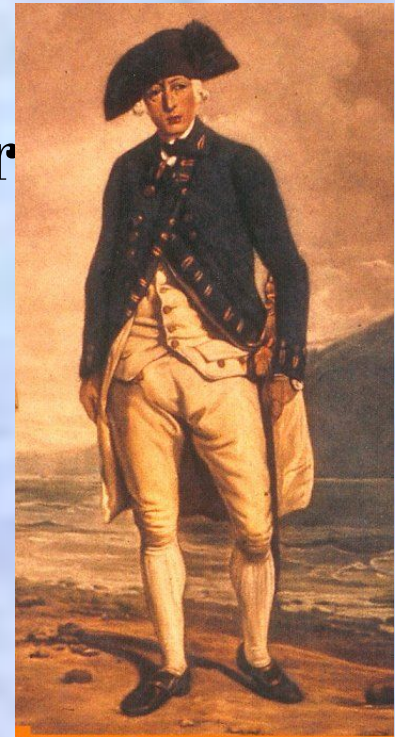
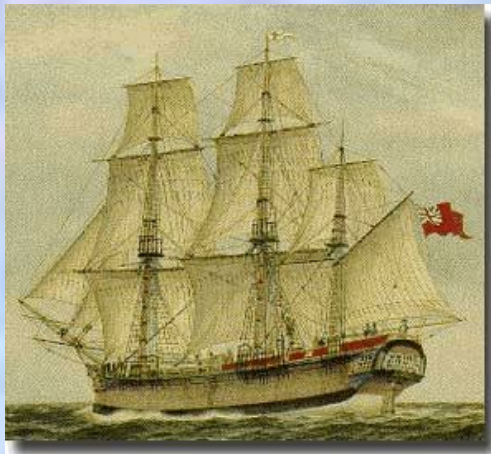
Australia's National Anthem



- “Advance Australia Fair”
- April 1984-declared national anthem
- Replaced “God Save the Queen”
- Same yr.-officially adopted green and gold as its national colors

National Day

- **“Australia Day” - January 26**
- **1788 - Captain Arthur Phillip takes possession of the eastern part of the continent for England**
- **He established a settlement, now Australia's largest city, Sydney**



Government/Immigration

- **Democracy**
- **British monarch-symbolic executive power**
- **Culturally diverse society**
 - Indigenous peoples
 - Since 1945, over 6 million people from 200 countries have come to Australia as new settlers.
 - Vietnam, Greece, China, and UK
- **Immigration policies**
 - Non-discriminatory



Government

- Practices reflect British and North American models but still unique
- Parliamentary system - Queen Elizabeth II
- Governments of states and territories responsible for matters not assigned to commonwealth.



•Government divided into 3 branches:

1. Legislature

2. Executive

3. Judiciary

•National General Election must be held within 3 years of first meeting of new federal parliament.

•1 vote per person voting system

•Prime minister nominates members to serve on Cabinet – John Howard

•Federal Parliament has Senate and House of Representatives.

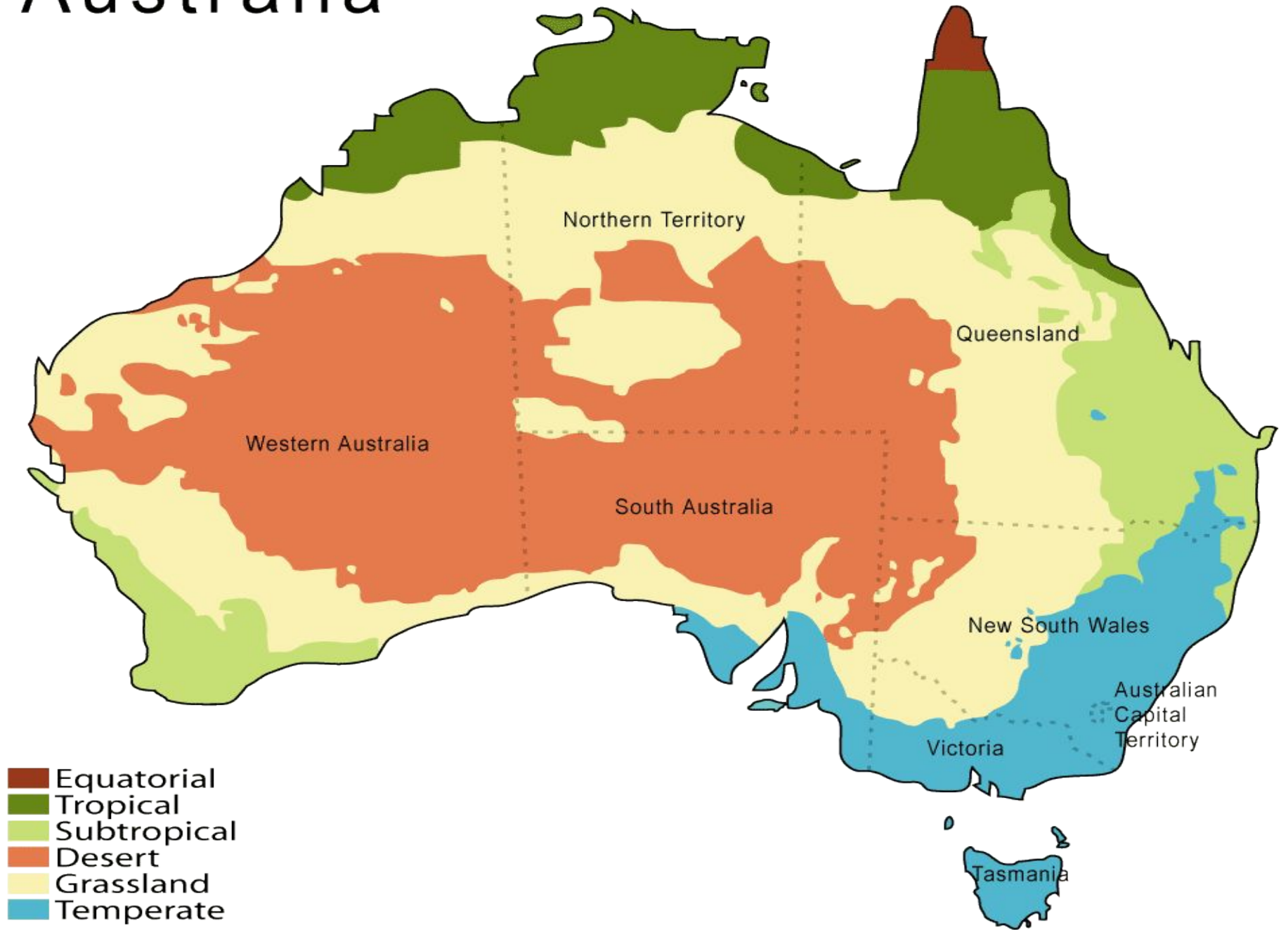
•Three major political parties: Labor Party, Liberal Party, National Party



The Landscape

- **Mostly low plateaus with deserts**
- **Several Small Mountain Ranges**
 - **Australian Alps(highest- In SouthEast)**
 - **West Coast Range(Tasmania)**
 - **Central Highlands(Victoria)**

Australia



The People

- **Population: Around 20 million**
- **English speaking country – more than 4.1 million speak a second language**

- **Most Australians live on the coast in major cities**

- **75% of population lives in urban areas**



The economy

- **Stable**
- **Skilled Workforce**
- **Strong & Competitive**
- **High Growth**
- **Low Inflation & Interest Rate**

- **Efficient Government**
- **Flexible Labor Market**
- **Very Competitive Business Sector**
- **Workforce of 10 million highly trained**
- **Almost half of workforce has university, trade, or diploma qualifications.**
- **Monetary System based on Australian dollar**
- **Weights and measures based on the metric system**

The Wildlife

- Many native plants, animals, birds:

*kangaroos

*wallabies

*King Parrot

*wombat

*koala

*grasses

*mosses

*lichens

*mushrooms

*toadstools

*emu

*platypus

- No native animals domesticated

The macadamia nut only domesticated plant specie



The Industries



- Mining
- Food Processing
- Chemicals
- Steel



- Industrial & Transportation Equipment
- Wine

Natural Resources

- Natural gas & petroleum
- Diamonds
- Nickel
- Uranium
- Bauxite
- Coal
- Zinc
- Tin
- Iron ore
- Mineral sands
- Silver
- Lead
- Tungsten

Exports

- **Aluminum**
- **Coal**
- **Gold**
- **Meats**
- **Wool**
- **Iron ore**
- **Wheat**
- **Machinery**
- **Transport equipment**

Imports

- **Crude Oil & Petroleum Products**
- **Computers and office equipment**
- **Telecommunications equipment and parts**
- **Machinery and transport equipment**

Trading Partners

- China
 - Germany
 - Japan
 - New Zealand
 - U.S.
 - U.K.
- Member of Commonwealth of Nations – Allied with Great Britain and the US, among other countries

Tourism

- **Seasons are opposite of Northern Hemisphere**
 - **Spectacular natural environment**
 - **Multicultural communities**
 - **Food and wine**
 - **Friendly people**
 - **Favorable weather**
 - **Different lifestyles**
- **Tourism is one of the largest and fastest growing industries in Australia.**

Agriculture



- **Most Important: Sheep, cattle, poultry, wheat, barley, sugarcane, and fruits**



- **Tobacco industry small but important**

- **Cotton grown on limited scale**



Recent Ag Statistics

- **Agriculture has declined from 20% of GDP in the 1950s to 3% in recent years**
- **Ag exports accounted for 60% of total exports in 1960s and only 25% today**

The Environment

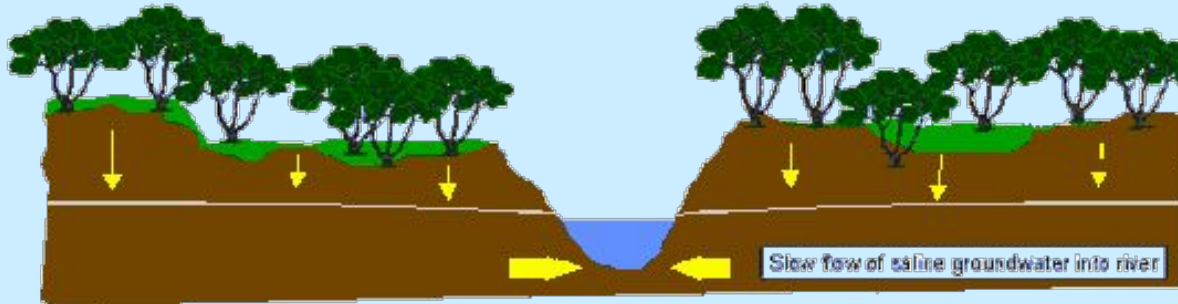
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of land is arid or semi-arid
- Challenges in Agriculture, Economy, and Conservation.

- **Only 6.9% of the land is arable – 90% of which is used largely for rough grazing**
- **Drought, fires, and floods are common hazards**
- **Lack of water**
- **Unsuitable Soil and topography – salinity**

Soil Salinity

A. Before clearing

Perennial native vegetation



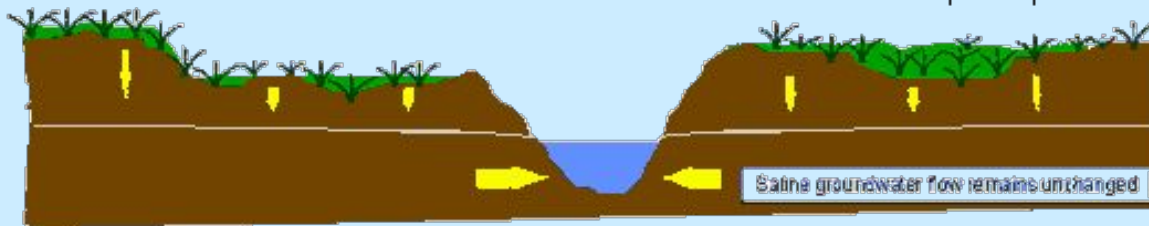
Rate of groundwater recharge is very slow

- Replacing natural vegetation with shallow rooted crops – rising groundwater levels including dissolved salts

- Salt transferred into crops root zones and wetlands, streams and rivers

B. Shortly after clearing

Annual crops or pastures



Extra drainage moves slowly toward watertable. Groundwater recharge remains unchanged.

C. Later

Land salinisation develops in low lying areas



Groundwater recharge increases



- **Western Australia is hit the hardest**
- **One of Australia's biggest environmental problems – damages total \$270 million each year**
- **The condition is expected to get much worse if action is not taken**
- **Effects: Soil erosion, poor vegetation, poor water conditions, road and building problems**
- **Need to take action to prevent further outbreaks of salinity by retaining vegetation cover and protecting areas of biodiversity significance**



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