

# Australia

**Australia is the sixth largest country in the world. It's thirty-one times bigger than Great Britain but only seventeen million people live there (fifty-seven million people live in Great Britain).**

## THE OUTBACK

Seventy percent of Australia is hot dry land called 'the outback'. It's easy to get lost in the outback because there aren't many people, cars or buildings. It's hot and you must always have water if you travel. Kids in the outback can't go to school. They have lessons on the radio. There are thirteen 'flying doctor centres' in Australia. The flying doctors fly in small planes or helicopters to visit sick people.

## ABORIGINES

They are the original people of Australia. Some tribes are sixty thousand years old. They play the didgeridoo (a big wooden pipe) and hunt with a boomerang. Their 'holy place' is Ayers Rock. It's in the middle of Australia and it's three kilometres long and three hundred and forty-eight metres high. The Aborigine word for it is 'Uluru'. There are caves in the Rock with Aboriginal paintings.

## SURFING

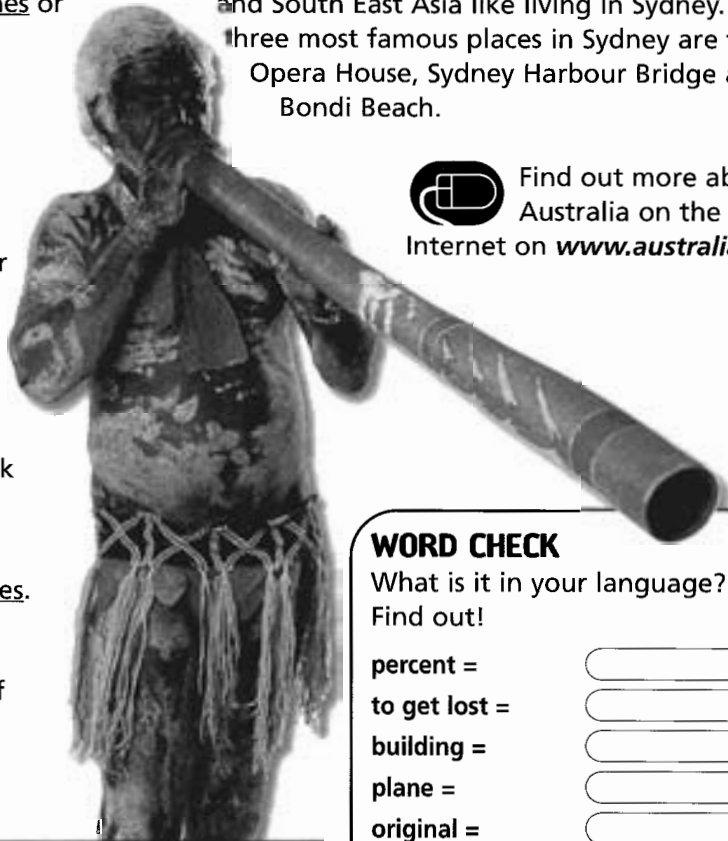
Australia is famous for its big waves. The waves are big but they are dangerous and there are sharks in the water too. People mustn't surf when they see a red flag on the beach.

## SYDNEY

Eighty-seven percent of Australian people think that Sydney is the best city in the world. It's twice as big as New York but only three million people live there. Sydney is the sunniest city in Australia. There are usually only twenty-three days a year without sun. It's an international city and people from Europe, the Middle East and South East Asia like living in Sydney. The three most famous places in Sydney are the Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge and Bondi Beach.



Find out more about Australia on the Internet on [www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com)



## WORD CHECK

What is it in your language?  
Find out!

percent =	<input type="text"/>
to get lost =	<input type="text"/>
building =	<input type="text"/>
plane =	<input type="text"/>
original =	<input type="text"/>
tribe =	<input type="text"/>
wooden =	<input type="text"/>
pipe =	<input type="text"/>
cave =	<input type="text"/>
painting =	<input type="text"/>
wave =	<input type="text"/>
dangerous =	<input type="text"/>
shark =	<input type="text"/>
sunniest/sunny =	<input type="text"/>



## Australia by Numbers

The text about Australia has got lots of numbers in it. Can you remember them all? There is one extra number and that is the post code for Sydney. When you work out which number it is, write it at the bottom of the exercise.

- |   |            |    |   |
|---|------------|----|---|
| a | 23         | 1  | the percent of desert land in Australia                                   |
| b | 3          | 2  | the height in metres of Ayers Rock  |
| c | 13         | 3  | the position of Australia in a list of large countries of the world       |
| d | 348        | 4  | the population of Sydney  |
| e | 6th        | 5  | the number of times Australia is bigger than Great Britain                |
| f | 31         | 6  | the number of centres where flying doctors have their bases               |
| g | 2          | 7  | the population of Great Britain   |
| h | 60,000     | 8  | the number of times Sydney is bigger than New York                        |
| i | 70         | 9  | the percent of Australians who think Sydney is the best city in the world |
| j | 2000       | 10 | the length in kilometres of Ayers Rock                                    |
| k | 57,000,000 | 11 | the age of some of the Aborigine tribes                                   |
| l | 3,000,000  | 12 | the population of Australia   |
| m | 17,000,000 | 12 | the number of days a year without rain in Sydney                          |
| n | 87         |    |   |

The post code for Sydney is \_\_\_\_\_

## The Outback

The advantages (good things) about life in the Outback are:

- You don't have to go to school.
- You have lots of space to play games.
- There is no pollution (dirty fumes) from cars and factories.
- It's quiet.
- You can see lots of wonderful animals, birds and insects.

What are the bad things? Complete these with the words from the box below.

- 1 There are \_\_\_\_\_ dangerous spiders.
- 2 There aren't \_\_\_\_\_ shops.
- 3 There's \_\_\_\_\_ to do.
- 4 You don't have \_\_\_\_\_ friends.
- 5 There's \_\_\_\_\_ to go.
- 6 It's \_\_\_\_\_ hot.
- 7 There's not \_\_\_\_\_ rain to make things grow.

Complete one of these sentences:

I want to live in the Outback because

\_\_\_\_\_

I don't want to live in the Outback because

\_\_\_\_\_

nothing   nowhere   lots of  
enough   any   many   too