

Australia is sometimes called “the land down under” because it is in the southern part of the world. It is the largest island in the world. There are many deserts in Australia. The weather is hot and dry. When it is summer in Europe it is winter in Australia. Winter is from May to September. In winter there are many storms on the coasts. On the northwest coast these hurricanes are called “willy-willys”.



Ayers Rock

(photo: Thomas Schoch)

**A few examples of Australian English:**

- G'day:** Hello
- a tinnie:** a can of beer
- a Pom:** someone from Britain
- a barbie:** a barbecue
- this arvo:** this afternoon
- a station:** a farm

What does **Ow-ya-goin'-orright?** mean?

Aborigines are the people who first lived in Australia.

British people started to settle there about 250 years ago. They were prisoners transported in chains from Britain. But after gold was discovered in the 1850s, thousands of free settlers left the cold, dark industrial towns of Britain to find their place in the sun.

Today more than 25 million people live in Australia. Over eighty percent of the today's population is of British origin. Other immigrants have come from countries such as Italy, Greece and Poland, or from Asian countries.

- part:** section, side
- large:** broad, huge
- desert:** dry area
- coast:** beach

- settle:** come to rest
- about:** around, near an amount
- prisoner:** person in jail
- chain:** string

- discover:** locate, come upon
- origin:** beginning, family

**You need a blue and a red pencil. Colour the flag:**

**The four seasons are:** ...*spring*..., ....., ....., ....., .....

When it is **autumn** in Europe, then it is ..... in Australia.



**The months of the year are:** January, ....., March, ....., May, ....., July, ....., September, ....., November, .....

**The seven continents are (ordered from largest in area to smallest):** ... *Asia* ....., ....., ....., ....., ....., ....., .....

**Facts about Australia. Select and underline the better alternative:**

The name Australia comes from the Latin “Terra Australis”, which means **Far West / Southern Land**. The population of Australia is concentrated on the **northern / eastern** seaboard. **The island of Tasmania / New Zealand** belongs to Australia. Australia's capital is **Brisbane / Canberra**, and its largest city is **Sydney / Perth**. Australia is **an underdeveloped / a highly developed** country. It has a **high / low**-income economy. Australia's national language is **English / Dutch**.