

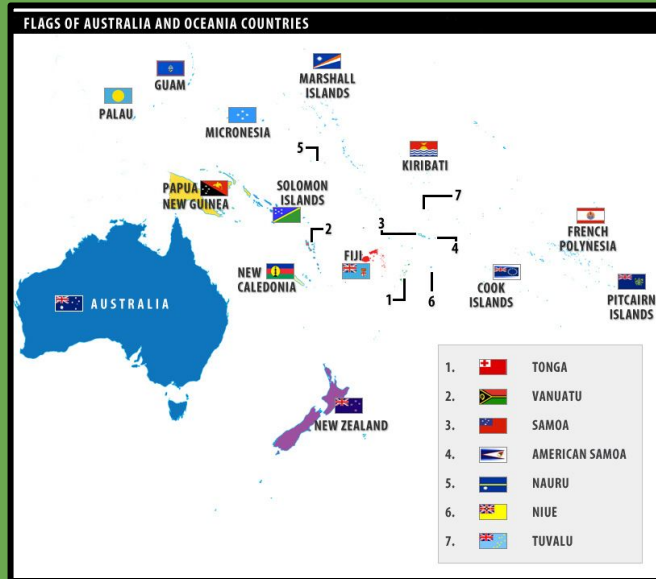
SOL GGC.10 Study Packet

“Australia and Oceania”



Physical Geography

The Australian and Pacific Islands are all very different. Each boasts its own unique physical geography as well as culture, people, and economy.



Major Countries

In Australia and Oceania, there are two major countries:

- Australia is the largest land mass of the region
- New Zealand



Major Cities

- Australia
 - Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
 - Sydney
- New Zealand
 - Auckland



Physical and Environmental Features

Since the islands of Oceania and Australia are all so very different, there are also many various kinds of environmental features that exist there as well. Major ones include volcanoes, peninsulas, coral reefs, and deserts.



Great Dividing Range



The Great Barrier Reef



Diverse Wildlife and Vegetation

Australia and Oceania are home to many diverse types of wildlife and vegetation because of the isolation of many of the islands and sections of land.



Types of Islands

- Volcanic – island that is primarily formed through volcanic activity
 - Example – Lord Howe Island off the coast of Australia
- Coral – island that is primarily formed by groupings of coral
 - Example – Coral Island in the Great Barrier Reef
- Continental – island that is near and geologically related to a continent
 - Example – New Zealand



Economic Characteristics

- Air and water travel help to overcome the problem of isolation in both the exporting and importing of goods
- Arid areas support sheep and cattle herding (ranching)
- Mining
- Communication and financial services
- Tourism
- Still existing traditional economies



Economic Influences on the Environment

- Pollution from air and water travel
- Erosion from sheep and cattle herding
- Consequences from non-native plants
- Destruction of ecosystems from mining
- Destruction of traditional lifestyles and cultures through tourism



Cultural Influences

Since much of the region is isolated by ocean, population is often sparse and distributed. Even in modern times, isolation greatly affects popular culture.

- Much of the population lives near the coast
- Traditional culture is preserved and continues to shape the way of life in the region
- There are many ranges of lifestyle, from farming/ranching to urban city living
- Modern culture reflects the relations and interactions between the cultures of Europe as well as the indigenous people

Cultural Influences



--Like parts of Canada and America, Australia and New Zealand used to colonies of Great Britain (England). The native people are called “aborigines”

--Australia and New Zealand speak English

--Australia was a penal colony where the English sent criminals



Cultural Landscape



Sydney Opera House



Cattle and Sheep Stations



Thatched-Roof Dwellings



The Australian Outback (Central Desert)

Dingo



Kangaroo



Australia's Eastern and Southern Coasts

Koala Bear

