

1

Answer the following questions.

1. How many people live in Australia? _____
2. Australia's largest city is _____ and its capital is _____ .
3. Why is Australia often called "Down Under" ? _____

4. When and by whom was Australia discovered? _____
5. Where is the Great Dividing Range? _____
6. What happens to the rivers that flow to the west of the mountains? _____

7. What is the Western Plateau made up of? _____
8. Which part of Australia offers the most pleasant climate? _____
9. Which climate does the northern part of Australia have ? _____
10. What does a eucalyptus tree look like? _____

11. Why can't many Australian animals be found elsewhere in the world? _____

12. What are marsupials? _____
13. What are emus? _____
14. Why do most people live near the coastal regions ? _____

15. Up to the beginning of the 20th century most immigrants came from _____

16. Why is emigrating to Australia very difficult? _____

17. Who are the Aborigines and how many live in Australia today? _____

18. What happened to them when the British arrived? _____

19. Which city was capital before Canberra was completed? _____
20. Name a few raw materials that Australia mines. _____
21. What are the main crops that farmers grow? _____
22. What does the term "outback" mean? Why can living there be very difficult? _____

DISCOVER AUSTRALIA – EXERCISES

2

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	equator			raw material from which aluminum is made
B	temperate			hard white or pink material formed from the bones of very small sea animals
C	settle			long period of dry weather with little or no rainfall
D	bauxite			city or town where the government gets together
E	hemisphere			piece of land with water on three sides
F	wheat			to start living in a place where not many people have lived before
G	drought			a line around the middle of the Earth
H	blossom			place where you dig out minerals
I	marsupial			many nationalities live together
J	capital			animal that carries its babies in a skin pocket
K	emigrate			meat from sheep
L	multicultural			not too hot and not too cold
M	mine			pray to
N	suburb			plant from which you make white bread
O	mutton			a half of the world
R	coral			part of a city that is far away from the centre
S	peninsula			to go and live in another country
T	worship			when a plant produces flowers

DISCOVER AUSTRALIA – EXERCISES

3 TRUE or FALSE

Mark the statements TRUE or FALSE. If the statement is false write a correct statement into the box. The first two have been done for you.

		T	F	Correct Statement
1	The whole continent of Australia lies south of the equator.	✓		
2	from Europe it takes you about 10 hours to get to Australia.		✓	It takes you about 20 hours by plane.
3	The continent's temperate climates can be found in the northern part of the country.			
4	The highest parts of the continent are in the east.			
5	Rivers in the Central Lowlands carry lots of water the whole year round.			
6	Marsupials can be found on all continents.			
7	Australia is one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world.			
8	After World War II most of the immigrants came from Great Britain and Ireland.			
9	British settlers treated native Aborigines very badly when they arrived.			
10	Up to today the government has not apologized to the Aborigines for what they have done to them.			
11	Melbourne was Australia's capital before Canberra was built.			
12	Canberra became Australia's capital in 1927.			
13	Adelaide became an important city during the gold rush of the 19 th century.			
14	Only a third of Australia's territory is farmland.			
15	The Great Barrier Reef is located on Australia's southern coast.			

4

Facts about Australia. Choose the correct word or phrase for each blank to make the sentences true.

1. Australia lies 3,000 km from the mainland of _____.
2. Australia was once _____ prison colony.
3. The Great Dividing Range is made up of _____.
4. The Western Plateau consists of large _____.
5. The southern and southeastern parts of Australia have _____.
6. More than 80% of the population live in the _____.
7. Most of Australia's famous animals are _____.
8. The main crop in Australia is _____.
9. The 2000 Olympic Games were held in _____.
10. _____ was the first capital of Australia until 1927.
11. The largest city in Western Australia is _____.

1	South America	Asia	North America	Africa
2	a British	a French	a Japanese	an American
3	plains	wetlands	desert	mountain peaks
4	rivers and valleys	deserts	wetlands	mountains
5	only a winter season	a wet and a dry season	two seasons	four seasons
6	southeast	northeast	west	northwest
7	mammals	reptiles	amphibians	marsupials
8	corn	rice	wheat	sugar cane
9	Melbourne	Sydney	Brisbane	Canberra
10	Melbourne	Sydney	Perth	Brisbane
11	Melbourne	Adelaide	Darwin	Perth

5

Complete the text with the missing words from the list. There are TWO words you will not need.

Australia is the sixth biggest country in the world and the (1) _____ continent that lies completely south of the (2) _____. Australia was (3) _____ towards the end of the 18th century when James Cook (4) _____ the southern Pacific Ocean.

Australia started out as a (5) _____ colony. While the first (6) _____ were from Great Britain and European countries, the past few (7) _____ have seen waves of immigrants coming from Asia. Today Australia is a truly (8) _____ society.

The country produces many of the (9) _____ materials that the world needs. Foreign companies come to Australia to invest in the country's (10) _____. Agriculture has always played a major role as over half of the country is (11) _____. In the drier areas of central Australia (12) _____ is the dominant crop because it needs little rainfall. Many farmers focus on raising (13) _____ and sheep.

Apart from the economy, tourism is also important for Australia. Millions of travellers from all over the world come to the country to visit its famous (14) _____, such as the Great Barrier Reef or Ayers Rock, and to spend time in Sydney, Melbourne and other Australian cities.

cattle
decades
discovered
economy
equator
explored
farmland
immigrants
mines
multicultural
nation
only
prison
raw
sights
wheat

Uluru at sunset

Image: [Thomas Schoch, CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



DISCOVER AUSTRALIA – EXERCISES

6

Match the beginnings of the sentences with the sentence endings.
There are TWO endings you will not need.

A	People who want to immigrate to Australia		Melbourne was Australia's capital city
B	Before the government moved to Canberra		get their medical treatment by plane
C	The western part of Australia is made up of		must show they have relatives in the country
D	More than 80% of all Australians		has tried to improve the lives of the Aborigines
E	Many Australians spend their free time		a series of mountain ranges
F	In the past few decades, the government		goldminers who came from Europe
G	The first settlers were		must pass a special skills test
H	People in the outback		with outdoor activities
I	The Great Dividing Range consists of		gold was discovered in Australia
J	In the middle of the 19th century		live near the southeastern coastline
			prisoners who came from England
			dry plains

7

Complete the text by filling in the missing sentence parts.

Australia's Stolen Generation

Between 1910 and 1970 the Australian government took 100,000 Aboriginal children **(1)** _____. These children, known as the Stolen Generation, were often under five years of age. They were taken away from their families because the government did not believe **(2)** _____. They thought it would be better to bring them **(3)** _____.

Many methods were used **(4)** _____ Aboriginal babies and children from their families. Children were simply taken away by government officials and later told **(5)** _____. Mothers were often given documents to sign. They could not read or write, and they were told it was some kind of vaccination program. Others were taken to hospitals and **(6)** _____ again. In most cases, rich white families were given money **(7)** _____. Some went to orphanages or church missions.

In 1995 an investigation was started **(8)** _____ to the topic. The government, however, did not apologize to the victims. The new Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, was the first Australian politician to make a formal apology to the Aborigines in 2008. However, he also said that the government **(9)** _____ to the victims. He claimed that it was in the interests of the government to raise the children in the best way.

Up to now, only one member of Australia's Stolen Generation has received money **(10)** _____. Bruce Trevorow was taken to hospital on Christmas Day in 1957. His father never saw him again and the government sent him **(11)** _____. He came back to his mother when he was ten years old. In his further life he suffered from depression **(12)** _____. In 1998, he went to court and succeeded in getting about 500,000 dollars from the Australian government as a form of compensation.

There are many others in Australia **(13)** _____. Organizations are being set up to work for the rights of the Aborigines and **(14)** _____ that nothing like this ever happens again.

A	never seen by their families	H	to bring more truth
B	to a white foster family	I	to make sure
C	in the future of the Aborigines	J	away from their homes
D	from the government	K	would not give any money
E	who suffered the same fate	L	to separate
F	to white families	M	and turned to alcohol
G	to bring them up	N	that they were orphans

8

In most lines there is a word that shouldn't be there. Write that word into the box at the end of the line. If the line is correct tick it off (✓). There are TWO examples at the beginning.

Australia's Population Growth

1	Australia's population has crossed the 25 million	✓
2	mark, then almost a decade earlier than expected.	then
3	Last year, the population rose up by almost	
4	400,000 - in the past 50 years it has been doubled.	
5	Since the end of World War II Australia has recorded	
6	a steady growth rate of about 1.6% a year ago.	
7	About 60% of it comes down from immigration.	
8	Australia attracts hundreds of thousands of immigrants	
9	every year. In the last 20 years, newcomers have not	
10	been arriving from even South and East Asia.	
11	As such in many other western countries, some	
12	politicians have urged the old government to slow	
13	down immigration. One of the big problems is to	
14	getting immigrants to move to rural areas, where	
15	there is already a shortage of skilled workers yet.	

9 Fill in the names of the cities .

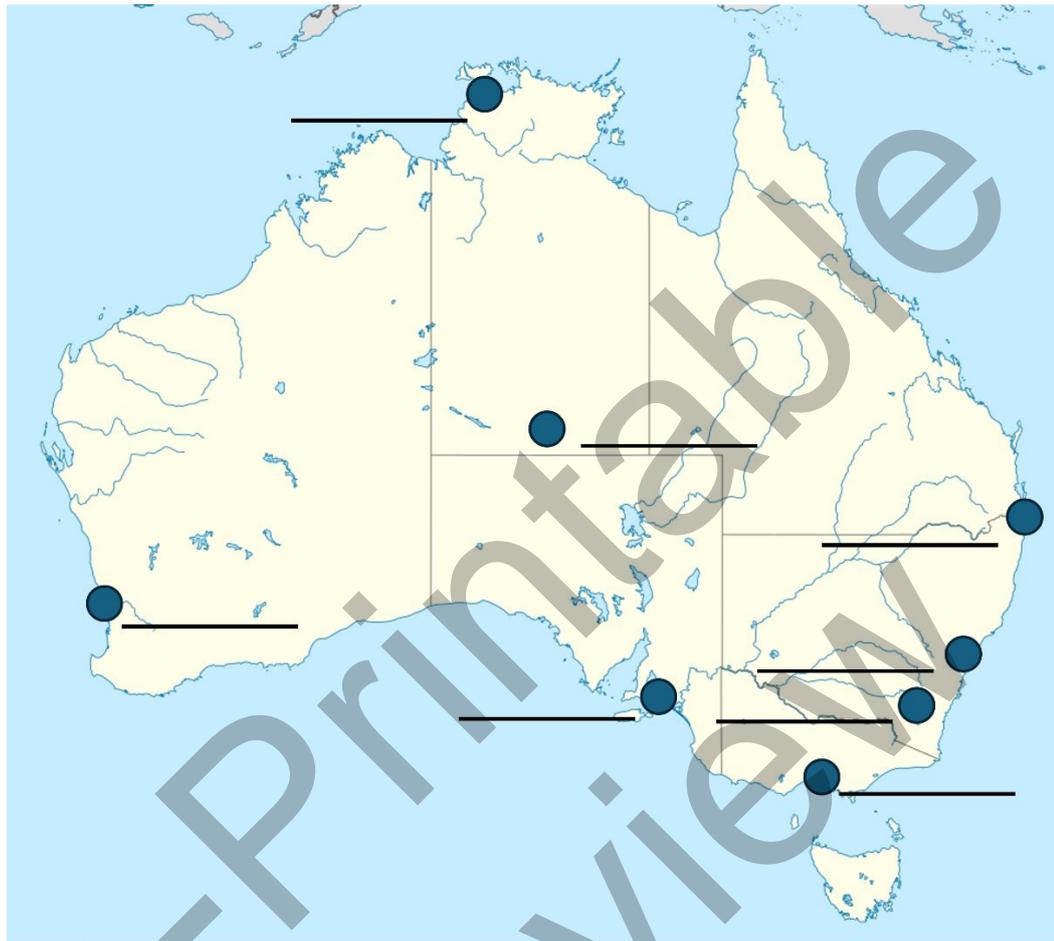
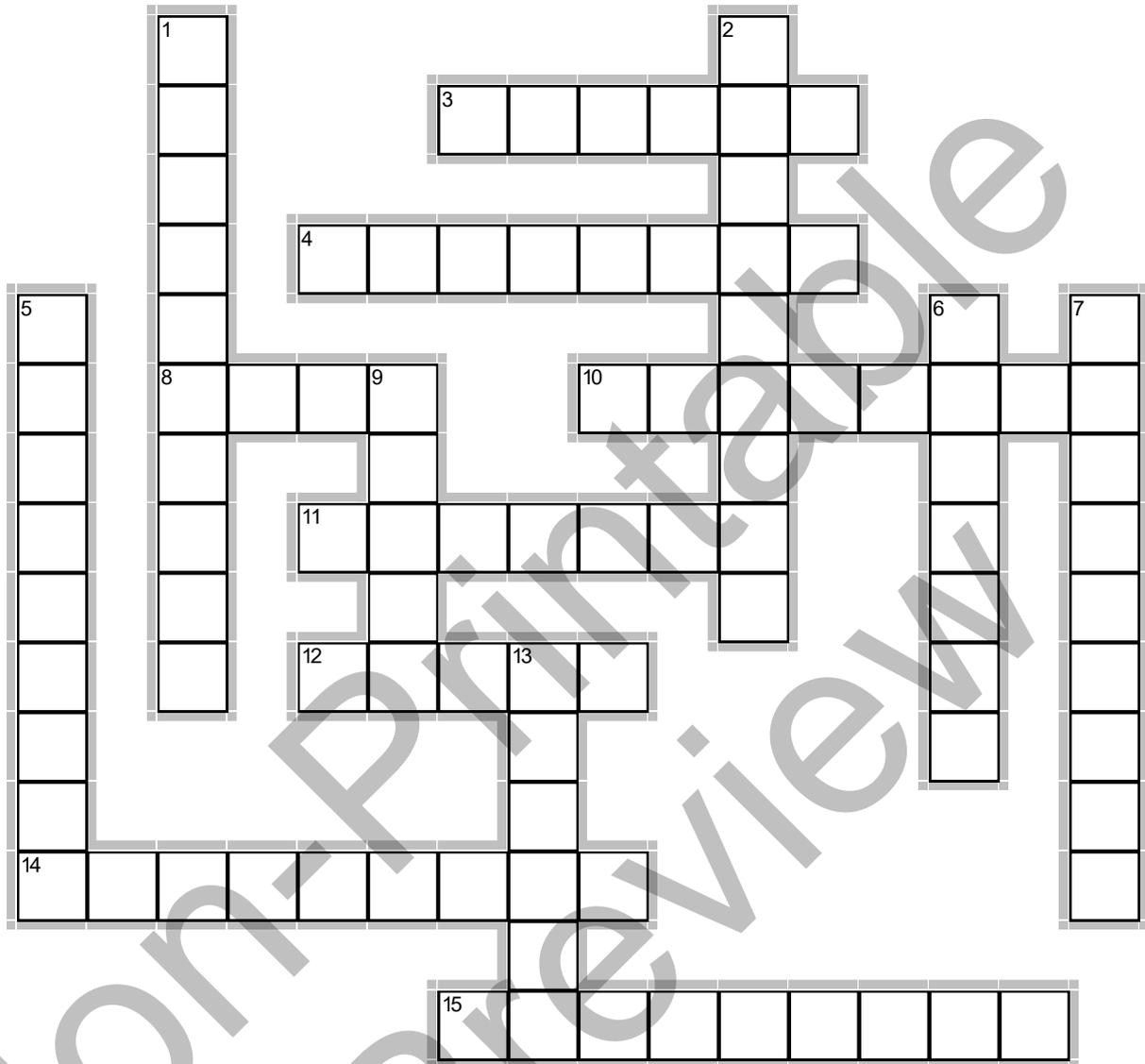


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Non-Printable

Crossword 1

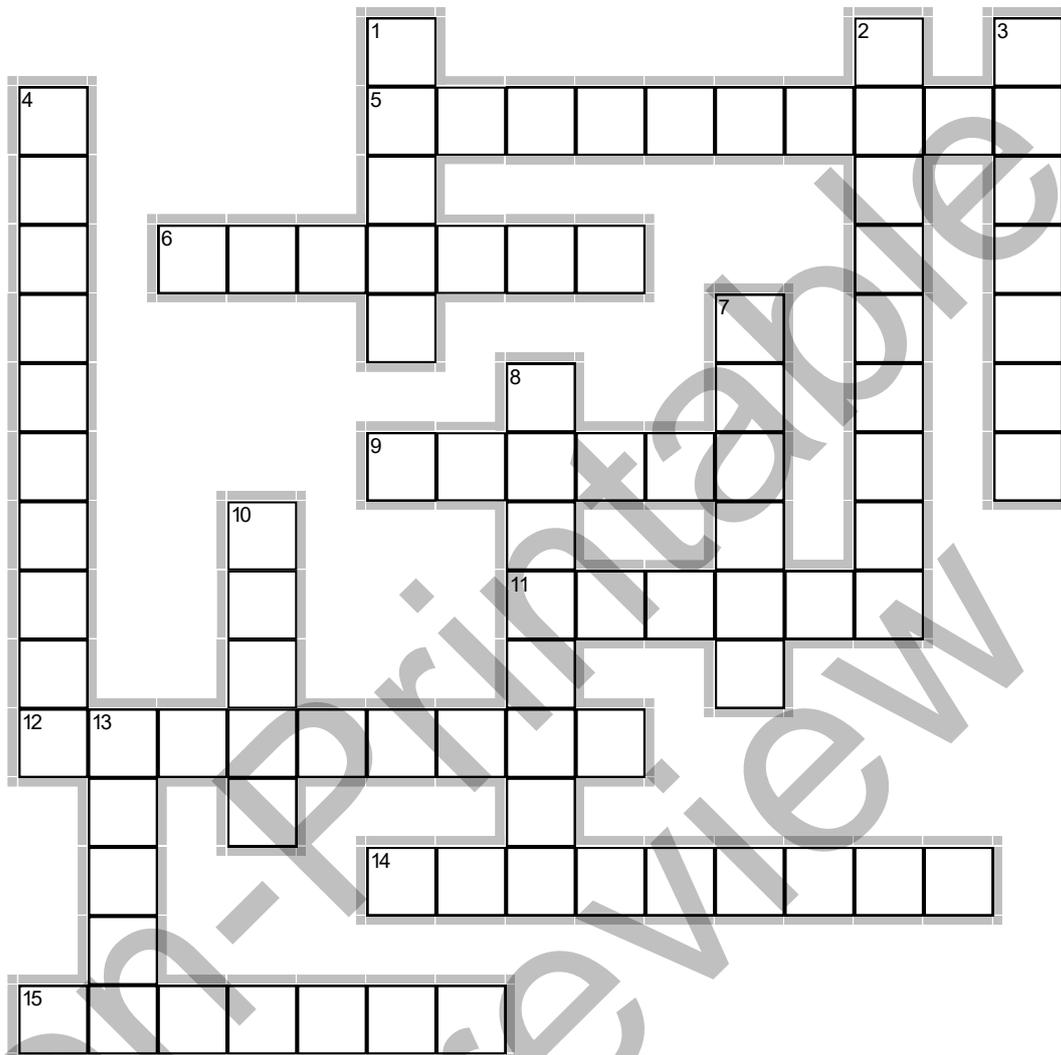


Across

- 3. meat from sheep
- 4. city on the eastern coast
- 8. top of a mountain
- 10. Australia's capital
- 11. rock from which you can make aluminum
- 12. when an egg breaks and a baby comes out
- 14. not too hot and not too cold
- 15. land with water on three sides

Down

- 1. half of the earth
- 2. what Australia is often called (2 words)
- 5. person who goes to another country to live and work there
- 6. dry weather for a longer period of time
- 7. type of animal that carries its babies in a skin pocket
- 9. typical Australian animal
- 13. cows on a farm



Across

- 5. half of the world
- 6. line around the middle of the Earth
- 9. city in the north of Australia
- 11. host city of the 2000 Olympic Summer Games
- 12. tropical plant from which you can get sugar
- 14. animal that carries its babies in a skin pocket
- 15. the inner part of the Australian continent

Down

- 1. crop used to make white bread
- 2. only for a short time
- 3. a hundred years
- 4. classic Australian tree
- 7. the work of digging coal, gold or other minerals out of the ground
- 8. person who is locked in a building and cannot get out
- 10. hard white or pink material formed from the bones of small sea animals
- 13. Aboriginal name for Ayers Rock

12

Email

You admire Australia and have heard so much about the opportunities that the country offers, so you have decided to emigrate "down under". Besides filling out a form with your personal data, you are required to email the immigration officials.

In this **email** (200 - 300 words) , you should

- tell the immigration authorities about yourself
- explain what kind of special skills you have that the country needs
- write about why you want to live and work in Australia

Room for corrections

13

Diary

You are on a three-week adventure trip to Australia. On this fascinating trip, you have decided to write a diary.

Write **three diary entries** (about 100 words each). You should

- describe a day that, in your opinion, was the most fascinating
- write about one of the not so pleasant experiences in your trip
- write about special people who you have met in Australia

Room for corrections

Non-Printable Preview