

AUSTRALIA

BASIC FACTS

Australia is the largest country/ island [ajlend] and the smallest continent. It is located south of Asia, between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The capital is **Canberra**. People pay by Australian dollar. The head of the country is **Queen Elizabeth II**, because Australia is a member of the Commonwealth – a political association of 54 countries, former territories of the British Empire.



THE FLAG is blue, with the Union Jack—the British flag in the upper-left corner and **six white stars representing the six states**. Australia has **6 states and 2 territories**

(New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory). The main and official language in Australia is English. The population is about 20 million people/ about 20 million people live there.

GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE



Australia has a **very hot and dry centre**, a DESERT, there are places where it didn't rain for 7-8 years! The south is milder, with hot summers and cool winters. There are a lot of bushfires and droughts in the country.



The most famous landform is ULURU/ Ayers Rock in the centre of the country. They say it changes colour during the day. It is 348m high. You can climb [klajm] up the



rock, It is in **Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park**. Next one is for example **Great Sandy National Park**.



THE GREAT BARRIER CORRAL REEF is the world's largest coral reef. It has over 800 colorful islands stretching for over 2,600km. When it changes colour into white, it's dying.



CHRISTMAS TIME

Australians celebrate Xmas on the **25th of December**, people come together at night, sing carols outside, they like celebrations, **the weather is summer and warm**,

so a lot of people come to the beach, drink champagne with friends on the beach and have fun by the sea.



AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

The first people, who came to Australia about 50,000 years ago, were so called ABORIGINALS. [eboridžinls] (They put white paint onto their faces and bodies)

The first European [juropíjen] people were the Dutch [dač] holand'ani, **in the 17th century**. James Cook, the British explorer claimed Australia for Britain in the 18th century/ made Australia a part of Britain. **The British Queen** has been **the head of the country** since then. Her representative is **the governor-general**.

Australia was first **a prison colony**, Britain deported prisoners from their country to Australia. In 1850s (eighteen fifties – padesátá léta) **gold was discovered** and many people moved to Australia. A gold mania started. In 1901 **Australia became an independent country**.

FLORA AND FAUNA



Thanks to the climate [klajmit] and isolation [ajsolejšn] of the country, there are **unique animals and animal species** [junýk spíšis] such as **kangaroos, the KOALA BEAR** [ber], the Tasmanian devil [devl] tasmánský čert. Typical for Australia is for example eucalyptus tree [jukalyptus] producing oil with strong smell used in medicine. Koala bears live in the trees and eat eucalyptus leaves.

In Australia there are some of **THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMALS** in the world, such as

some SNAKES, spiders, crocodiles, or SHARKS, a web spider, box jellyfish or YELLOW BLUE-ringed OCTOPUS.



SPORTS

Typical sports for Australia are cricket, rugby, football and soccer, people love **surfing**, too.

Ian Thorpe is a famous, successful Olympic Australian swimmer.



FAMOUS AUSTRALIANS

Famous Australians are **Nicol Kidman**, **Kylie Minoque**, a singer, or actors **Russel Crowe**, **Mel Gibson** or **Nicol Kidman**.



CHRIS HEMSWORTH comes from Melbourne, he is best known for playing **Thor** in 8 Marvel films. The latest Avengers. Endgame made him one of the highly-paid actors in the world. His brother Liam is also a well-known actor.

CATE BLANCHETT was also born in Melbourne, she is best-known for the role in the movie Elizabeth



HUGH JACKMAN is best-known for playing Logan or **Wolverine** in the **X-men** film series. A role for which he holds the **Guinness World Record** longest career as a live-action Marvel superhero (2000-2018). Other of his lead roles are for example Van Helsing or some Broadway musicals.



NICOL KIDMAN an Australian actress started her career in Australia, now she is a popular Hollywood star with citizenship both in Australia and the USA.

People love her for the role in the film Aquaman,

Interpetor(tlumočnice) or Batman Forever. She was

married to Tom Cruise. Since 1994 she's been one of the ambassadors for UNICEF. She helps children.

FAMOUS CITIES

The capital city is **CANBERRA**, but Australia's largest and most popular city is **Sydney**. The second largest city is **Melbourne**.



The top spots for tourists in **SYDNEY** are **Sydney Opera House**, which was designed in the **shape of sails** in the bay. Danish architect Jørn Utzon designed it. Construction was expected to take 4 years, in reality it took 14 years to finish the building.



Sydney Harbour Bridge is popular for its huge New Year's Fireworks.
The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Sydney beaches, Taronga Zoo, Hyde park (the Australian one ☺)

3C Sydney: Worksheet

- 1 Watch the video report and complete the fact file about Sydney.

SYDNEY

Location in Australia: _____

Population: _____

Also known as: _____

First Europeans arrived: _____

Most famous for: _____ and _____

Number of tourists per year: _____

Harbour Bridge opened: _____

- 2 Watch the report again and answer the questions.

- 1 Who was living in Australia when the Europeans arrived?

- 2 Who arrived in eleven ships with Captain Arthur Phillips?

- 3 How many lanes of traffic does this bridge carry?

- 4 What did a couple do on the bridge in 2008?

- 5 Who was Jørn Utzon?

- 6 Apart from opera, what can you watch at the Opera House?

Would you like to visit Australia? Why? Why not?