

Where Australians Live 1

Read the information then complete the tasks on this page and on page 17.



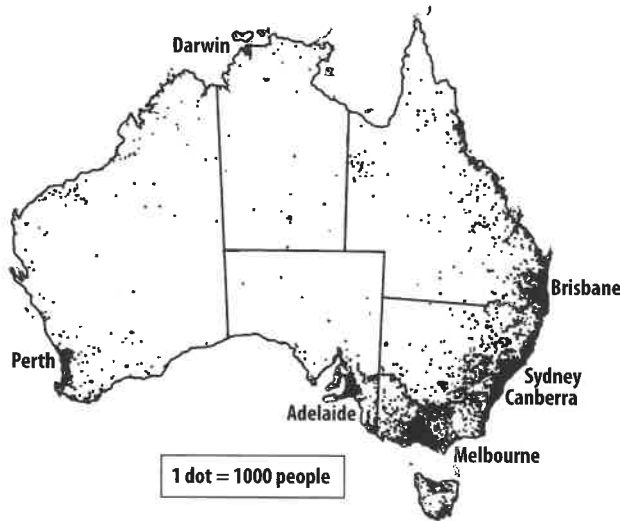
Pre-colonisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples inhabited mainly the coastal areas of Australia, and a lesser number, the interior of Australia. European settlers focused on coastal settlements in order to access fresh water and food, and drove indigenous Australians inland. Today more than three quarters of Australia's population live in coastal areas, mostly along the south-east and south-west of Australia. The population within these regions is concentrated in urban areas, particularly in the state and territory capital cities.

Population Density

Population density refers to the number of people living per unit in an area. It measures how densely populated an area is. Australia's population density is currently 2.9 people per square kilometre (sq km). The states' and territories' population statistics are presented below.

Over the past 100 years, even with the enormous technological advancements in irrigation, agriculture and mining, 89% of Australians live in coastal regions, and only 11% live in rural and remote locations.

Population Distribution In Australia



STATE OR TERRITORY	PEOPLE PER SQ KM	POPULATION	AREA (KM SQ)
Australian Capital Territory	162.1	370,700	2,280
Victoria	25.54	5,574,500	227,146
New South Wales	9.05	7,247,700	800,642
Tasmania	7.48	511,700	68,401
Queensland	2.6	4,513,000	1,730,648
South Australia	1.67	1,645,000	983,482
Western Australia	0.94	2,387,200	2,529,875
Northern Territory	0.17	232,400	1,349,129

A. Answer the questions about the distribution of the Australian population.

1. Is the population evenly or unevenly spread?

2. Where do most people live?

3. What is the least populated area?

4. Why do you think this is?

Where Australians Live 2

Read the information on page 16, then complete the tasks below.

A. Summarise the distribution of Australia's population. Think about the following factors: environmental (climate, etc.), employment, natural resources, services and facilities, attachment to place, etc. Write a practice paragraph first, then edit your writing. Write your final copy underneath your practice paragraph. You can use your workbook if you need more space to write.

Practice Paragraph:

Final Paragraph:

Challenge

B. Choose a rural town that you have heard of or have a connection to and compare the population density of that town with your closest capital city.