

Australia

advanced version

Basic Facts

- Australia lies between the Pacific and Indian Ocean – It is located 2 000 km from New Zealand
- The population of Australia is nearly 23 million
- English is the major language in Australia

History

- Human habitation of the Australian continent is estimated to have begun around 65 000 to 70 000 years ago, with the migration of people by land bridges and short sea-crossings from what is now Southeast Asia.
- These first inhabitants were the ancestors of modern Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal Australian culture is one of the oldest continual civilizations on earth.
- The 1st recorded European sighting of the Australian mainland, and the first recorded European landfall on the Australian continent (in 1606), are attributed to the Dutch.
- The 1st ship and crew to chart the Australian coast and meet with Aboriginal people was the Duyfken captained by Dutch navigator, Willem Janszoon.

Politics

- Australia is a part of the British Commonwealth
- It is a constitutional monarchy
- The head of state is the monarch of the United Kingdom – Queen Elizabeth II
- Her representative is the Governor General
- The head of the government is the Prime Minister

Economy

- Australian dollar is the currency of the nation
- Unemployment rate is 5.2 %
- Australia is the world's twelfth largest economy
- Australia is one of the richest countries

Cities

- The capital city of Australia is Canberra
- It is located in the territory of ACT (Australian Capital Territory)
- It is in the south – east of Australia
- Sydney is Australia's largest city
- It is located in the state of New South Wales
- It is in the south – east of Australia to the north of Canberra
- Melbourne is the second largest city in Australia
- It is located in the state of Victoria
- It is on the south – east coast to the south – west of Canberra
- Brisbane is the third largest city in Australia
- It is located in the state of Queensland
- It is on the east coast of Australia

Geography

- Australia consists of 6 states and 2 main territories
- Although Australia is a country, it is also the smallest continent in the world.

- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world
- Mount Kosciuszko is the highest peak on the Australian mainland, but the highest peak of the whole country is Mawson Peak (2 745 m a. s. l.) which lies on the Heard Island
- Deserts cover a significant part of Australia
- There are also rainforests in the north-east of Australia
- Australia is the driest inhabited continent
- Australia — owing to its size and isolation — is often dubbed the "island continent", and is sometimes considered the world's largest island.
- Australia has more than 30 thousands kilometres of coastline (excluding all offshore islands), and claims an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone of 8 148 250 square kilometres

The people of Australia

- The native people of Australia are called Aborigines
- There were no people there before that
- The first Europeans started significantly settling Australia at the end of 18th century

National symbols

- The flag of Australia is a defaced Blue Ensign: a blue field with the Union Jack in the canton (upper hoist quarter), and a large white seven-pointed star known as the Commonwealth Star in the lower hoist quarter. The fly contains a representation of the Southern Cross constellation, made up of five white stars – one small five-pointed star and four, larger, seven-pointed stars.

Wildlife

- There are a lot of unique animals in Australia
- Kangaroos are very typical animals of Australia
- The koala is another typical marsupial living in Australia
- The Tasmanian devil is a marsupial predator living on the island of Tasmania

Famous people

- Nicole Kidman is a famous Australian actress
- Mel Gibson, Russel Crowe, Chris Hemsworth, Liam Hemsworth are famous actors
- The singer Kylie Minogue comes from Australia

Popular sports

- Australian Football and Rugby League are the most popular sports.
- Cricket is another popular sport
- Australians also enjoy Rugby Union and field hockey

Doplňující otázky

1. Where in the world do you find Australia?
 - Australia is in the southern hemisphere on its own continent.
2. Is the Australia a bigger or a smaller country?
 - Although the continent Australia is the smallest in the world, the country is the 6th largest in the world.
3. How many states are part of Australia?
 - Australia consists of 6 states and 2 main territories

4. Who are the neighbouring countries of Australia?

– Australia lies between the Pacific and Indian Ocean – It is located 2 000 km from New Zealand

5. What is the largest city in Australia and which one is the capital city?

– Australia's largest city is Sydney
– The capital city of Australia is Canberra

6. Who are the people of Australia and what is their origin?

– The native people of Australia are called Aborigines
– The first Europeans started significantly settling Australia at the end of 18th century

7. Is the countryside life the same as city life in Australia?

– There is big difference mainly because deserts cover a significant part of Australia and there is not much life. So most of the people live in the big cities – like in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, etc.

8. Who is the head of Australia now?

– The head of Australia is the monarch of the United Kingdom – Queen Elizabeth II, her representative is the Governor General Peter Cosgrove

9. What is the traditional food in Australia?

– There is not really a special Australian way of eating in Australia. One of special Australia's food is Vegemite (salty black stuff with a strong taste, eating on their bread) or a Peach Melba (delicious pudding made with peaches, cream, cake and nuts).

10. Is English in Australia the same as the British English?

– No it is not, a lot of words is made by shortening English words, There are special words for farming and the countryside (e.g. Oz – Australia, ta – thank you, bowzer – very good, Pom – an English person, Seppo – an American)

11. What are the symbols of Australia?

– The official symbol is a flag. The flag of Australia is a defaced Blue Ensign: a blue field with the Union Jack in the canton (upper hoist quarter), and a large white seven-pointed star known as the Commonwealth Star in the lower hoist quarter. The fly contains a representation of the Southern Cross constellation, made up of five white stars – one small five-pointed star and four, larger, seven pointed stars.

12. Do you know any world famous Australians?

– Vyberte si sami, koho dobře znáte 😊 (Kylie Minogue, Russell Crowe, Mel Gibson, Nicole Kidman, Chris Hemsworth, Liam Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett)

13. Which natural monument do you think is the most famous in the world? Why?

– The most famous is the Ayers Rock, is the largest piece of stone in the world. It is 335 meters high and you can see it from many kilometres away.

14. What is the highest peak of the state?

– The highest peak of the country is Mawson Peak (2 745 m a. s. l.) which lies on the Heard Island.

15. Which sports are the most popular in Australia?

– Australian Football and Rugby League are the most popular sports. Cricket is another popular sport.

16. Otázky na Vaše názory:

– Would you like to take a road trip around Australia? Which city of Australia do you like the most? Would you like to go to Australia one day? Which places would you like to see?

Důležitá slovíčka

– Fonetická výslovnost není pro lepší srozumitelnost uvedena

commonwealth	(kamnvelt)	společenství
crossconstellation	(kroskoncelejšn)	křížové souhvězdí
ensign	(ensajn)	prapor
governor general	(gavernl dženerl)	generální guvernér
marsupial	(marsupil)	vačnatec
significant	(signifiknt)	významný, výrazný
tasmanian devil	(tezmejnien devl)	tasmánský
čertunemployment rate	(animplojment rejt)	míra nezaměstnanosti
wealth	(velt)	bohatství