

# Geography - Australia



Australia is a continent and an island – in fact it’s the world’s biggest island but the world’s smallest continent!

Vocabulary	Definition
Great Barrier Reef	The largest reef in the world, found off the north-east coast of Australia.
Indigenous people	The original inhabitants, the natives of a country.
Marsupial	An animal that carries its young in a pouch, such as kangaroos, wombats and koalas.
Outback	The bush or desert, a mostly uninhabited region of Australia.
Uluru	The Aboriginal people's name for their sacred mountain, found in the middle of Australia.

- Although Sydney is Australia’s most well-known city, Canberra is actually the capital.
- Australia is the sixth biggest country in the world. At 7,692,024km<sup>2</sup> it’s about 32 times bigger than the United Kingdom!
- The first people who arrived in Australia were the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. They came by boat from the islands of Indonesia and lived in all parts of the country for an estimated 60,000 years before the arrival of British settlers in 1776.
- Australia is an animal lovers' paradise. It is home to more reptiles than any other country, with over 750 different species living there.
- Australia is also home to some of the world’s most deadly creatures, including snakes, spiders, sharks and crocodiles. In fact 20 of the top 25 most venomous spiders come from Australia!



The Australian outback, an area of hot and dry desert, is one of the most empty and uninhabited places on Earth. Most Australians live in coastal towns and cities in the southeast of the country.