

3. Read the text.

Australia's hot climate is primarily due to its location in low latitudes, thanks to which it receives a large amount of solar heat. In the central part, the continent is crossed by the Southern Tropic. It explains the predominance of tropical types of climate. In winter tropical air masses dominate over it. A high pressure area is established above the center of the mainland, from which dry and hot southeastern trade winds blow. In winter, the southern coast of the mainland falls into the zone of action of moderate sea air masses: westerly winds bring precipitation. In summer, an area of low pressure is established over the strongly heated land. Air masses are drawn into the center of the continent from less heated oceans, over which high pressure remains. The northern edge of the continent is in the zone of influence of the humid northwestern equatorial monsoon from the Indian and Pacific Oceans. On the east coast, humid southeast trade winds blow from the Pacific Ocean all year round. The Great Dividing Ridge plays the role of the main climate divide of the continent. Its ridges "intercept" most of the rainfall brought by the trade winds from the Pacific Ocean. The elongation of the Australian land from west to east and flat relief are the reasons for the prevalence of continental climate types. The northern edge of the continent is washed by the warm South Tradewind Current, and the eastern edge is washed by the warm East Australian Current. These currents contribute to the abundant rainfall. The western coast is washed by the cold West Australian Current, so semi-deserts are formed here. Tasmania and New Zealand are washed by the cold current of the West Winds.

Australia is located in four climatic zones (from subequatorial to temperate).

The equatorial belt covers only part of Melanesia, including the north of the island of New Guinea. The equatorial type of climate is characterized by high temperatures (+ 26 ... + 28 °C) and uniform heavy rainfall (2000–4000 mm) throughout the year. The subequatorial belt occupies the south of New Guinea and the northern coast of the mainland. It is characterized by monsoon-trade wind circulation. The tropical belt occupies the largest area on the mainland. Three regions are distinguished in it: with a tropical humid type of climate in the east, a tropical desert climate in the center and a climate of coastal deserts in the west. In the central part of the Great Dividing Range, under the influence of humid trade winds and warm currents, a tropical humid type of climate is established with uniform moisture (1000–1500 mm) throughout the year. The temperatures of the coldest month (July) are + 14 ... + 18 °C, the warmest (January) are + 22 ... + 26 °C.

The interior regions of Central Australia are the kingdom of the tropical desert (continental) climate. Hot and dry tropical air masses dominate all year round. In summer the air warms up to + 24 ... + 32 °C, in winter it cools down to + 12 ... +16 °C. Daily temperature ranges reach 40 °C. Australia is the driest continent of the planet: 2/3 of the territory receives from 100 to 250 mm of precipitation per year. On the western coast, under the influence of the trade winds from the Indian Ocean and the cold current, the climate of coastal deserts is formed.

The southern outskirts of Australia are located in the subtropical zone. It distinguishes between three types of climate: humid, continental and Mediterranean. The southeast of the mainland and the north of the islands are characterized by a subtropical humid type of climate with uniform moisture (600–1000 mm). Summer precipitation is brought by trade winds from the Pacific Ocean, winter – by cyclones. In winter, the temperature does not drop below + 6 ... + 10 °C, in summer it rises to + 16 ... + 24 °C. The subtropical continental type of climate is characteristic of the middle part of the subtropics. It is distinguished by significant annual

temperature ranges and scarce precipitation (150–300 mm). The Mediterranean type of climate is inherent in the southwestern outskirts of the mainland and in the southwest of the Murray Basin. In summer, due to the arrival of tropical air, hot (+ 23 ... + 26 °C) and dry weather is established. In winter, moderate air masses make the weather warm (+ 12 ... + 14 °C) and humid (500–1000 mm). The temperate zone is occupied by the south of the islands of New Zealand and Tasmania. The temperate marine type of climate is distinguished by a uniform course of temperatures and precipitation (600–800 mm), brought by westerly winds from the “roaring forties” latitudes.

Are these statements true or false?

1. Australia's climate is determined by its position at low latitudes. true false
2. The Great Dividing Belt serves as a climate divide. true false
3. The mainland is located in five climatic zones. true false
4. The tropical belt occupies the largest area. true false
5. Australia is the wettest continent on the planet. true false
6. The temperate zone is occupied by the south of the islands of New Zealand and Tasmania. true false
7. The interior regions of Central Australia are the kingdom of the subtropical climate. true false
8. The northern edge of the continent is washed by the warm South Tradewind Current, and the eastern edge is washed by the warm East Australian Current. true false
9. The subtropical type of climate dominates in Australia. true false
10. The subtropical zone distinguishes three types of climate: humid, continental and Mediterranean. true false