

Complete the text with ONE word that fits into each gap.

Most people in Oceania live on the continental islands of Australia and New Zealand. Geographically, New Zealand **(1)** _____ part of Polynesia. Unlike most other islands of Oceania, New Zealand and Australia are populated mostly **(2)** _____ Europeans. The recent histories of these nations are similar, as are their economies. English is the official **(3)** _____ in each nation.

One of the similarities **(4)** _____ Australia and New Zealand is the importance of sheep to the economies of both nations. In addition to its domestic animals, Australia and New Zealand **(5)** _____ also home to many forms of wildlife found nowhere **(6)** _____ in the world.

One animal found only in Australia is the koala, **(7)** _____ is often referred to as a bear. However, it is not a bear at all but a marsupial, an animal with a pouch. Unlike bears, koalas do **(8)** _____ eat meat. They only **(9)** _____ leaves from the eucalyptus tree.

(10) _____ a koala is born, it is about as thick as a pencil and only one inch long. This tiny creature crawls into **(11)** _____ mother's pouch, where it stays for about six months.

New Zealand also has unusual forms of wildlife. The kiwi, for **(12)** _____, is a bird that cannot **(13)** _____. Instead, it runs very fast. The kiwi has whiskers **(14)** **like** a cat and a long, straight bill **(15)** _____ digging up worms and insects. The kiwi is the national symbol of New Zealand, and its picture appears on stamps, coins, and the national seal.