



Some facts about Australia



The country

Australia is one of the oldest lands and the flattest continent. It is the sixth largest country after Russia, Canada, China, the United States and Brazil and is the only nation that occupies an entire continent. It is about 25 times larger than Britain and Ireland.

The climate

Australia's climate ranges from tropical in the north and temperate in the south. Seasons are inverted in the southern hemisphere so summer is from December to February and winter is from June to August. After Antarctica, Australia has the lowest rainfall of any continent.

The fauna

Australia is the only continent where marsupials live. The best known of Australia's unique animals are the kangaroo, the koala, the platypus, the wombat and the spiny anteater, or echidna.

Some history

Australia's first inhabitants, the Aboriginal people, arrived from Asia more than 40,000 years ago. In 1770 Captain Cook, of the British Navy, reached the east coast of the continent and landed at Botany Bay. In 1787, a fleet of 11 ships arrived from England with 1030 people on board of whom 736 were convicts. They settled at Botany Bay. The small settlement in time became Sidney, Australia's biggest city.

Choose the correct option to complete each sentence

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1) Australia is the country. | A smallest
B richest | C biggest
D 6th largest |
| 2) In Australia Christmas is in | A autumn
B spring | C summer
D winter |
| 3) Australia is the second continent. | A driest
B warmest | C rainiest
D coldest |
| 4) Marsupials are ... | A from Europe.
B from Australia. | C the only animals in Australia.
D unique and funny. |
| 5) Echidna eats | A ants.
B marsupials. | C grains.
D snakes and small reptiles. |
| 6) The native Australians are | A the Maoris.
B very old. | C Asians.
D the Aborigines. |
| 7) Most of the first European settlers were | A farmers.
B British mariners. | C prisoners.
D soldiers |

