

Australia at a glance – country fact sheets

Von Natalie Jäger, Stuttgart

Mit rund sieben Millionen Besuchern jährlich ist der Fünfte Kontinent nach wie vor ein Touristenmagnet. Immer mehr junge Erwachsene entscheiden sich heutzutage für Auslandsaufenthalte in Down Under – sei es, um dort Sprachkurse zu besuchen oder erste Arbeitserfahrungen im Ausland zu sammeln. Trotz ihrer Abgelegenheit hat sich die ehemalige britische Sträflingskolonie zu einer wirtschaftsstarke Nation entwickelt, in der sich aktuell mehr als 300 Niederlassungen deutscher Unternehmen befinden.

In dieser Unterrichtseinheit erweitern die Schüler ihr landeskundliches Wissen über den Fünften Kontinent. Anhand von Hör- und Leseverstehensübungen erarbeiten sie Interessantes zu den Themen „Geografie“, „Wirtschaft“, „Bevölkerung“ und „Geschichte“. Die Lernenden beschäftigen sich zudem mit der australischen Umgangssprache sowie landestypischen Verhaltensweisen und erweitern so ihre interkulturelle Kompetenz.



Besonders bei jungen Menschen ist Australien ein beliebtes Ziel für Aufenthalte im englischsprachigen Ausland.

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Mit Hörbeispielen
auf CD!

Das Wichtigste auf einen Blick

<p>Kompetenzen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – das landeskundliche Wissen über „Geografie“, „Bevölkerung“ und „Wirtschaft“ in Australien erweitern – die wichtigsten Ereignisse der australischen Geschichte kennen – umgangssprachliche Ausdrücke des australischen Englisch kennen und anwenden – landestypische Verhaltensweisen kennen und mit deutschen vergleichen – Hörtexten Informationen entnehmen 	<p>Dauer</p> <p>6 Stunden</p> <p>Niveau</p> <p>B1</p> <p>Ihr Plus</p> <p>mit einer Farbfolie und zwei Hörverstehensübungen zum Thema</p>
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Verlaufsübersicht

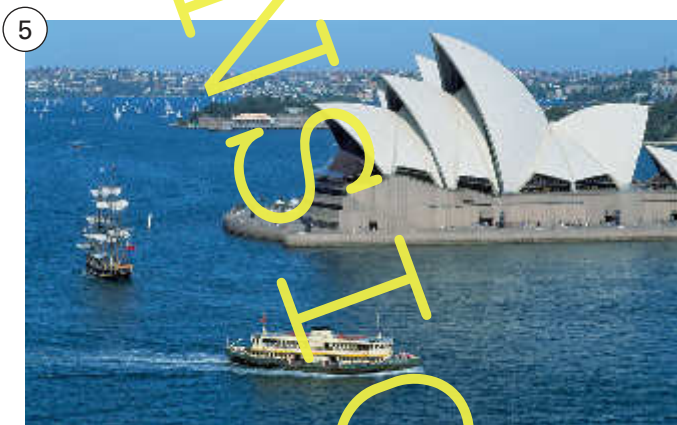
1. Stunde: Welcome to the land down under – basic facts about Australia	
Material	Verlauf
M 1, OHP	The land down under – first impressions of Australia / Vorwissen zum Thema anhand von Bildimpulsen aktivieren und die Bezeichnung „ <i>land down under</i> “ erklären
M 2; CD 19, Track 16	Guess and listen! – Basic facts about Australia / grundlegende Fakten zu den Themenbereichen „Geografie“, „Bevölkerung“ und „Sehenswürdigkeiten“ anhand einer Hörverstehensübung erarbeiten
M 3	Welcome to the fifth continent! – Check your answers / die Antworten zu den Fragen auf M 2 mithilfe des Transkripts der Hörverstehensaufgabe überprüfen
Stundenziel:	Die Schüler kennen grundlegende Fakten zu den Themenbereichen „Geografie“, „Bevölkerung“ und „Sehenswürdigkeiten“.

2. Stunde: On the move – about the history of immigration to Australia	
Material	Verlauf
M 4	On the move – about the history of immigration to Australia / Eckdaten der Immigrationsgeschichte Australiens anhand einer Leseverstehensübung erarbeiten
Stundenziel:	Die Lernenden kennen die wichtigsten Eckdaten der australischen Geschichte und verstehen, warum es heute in Australien verschiedene ethnische Gruppen gibt.

3./4. Stunde: Working in Down Under – about Australia's economic situation	
Material	Verlauf
M 5	Working in Australia – reading young people's blog entries / Blog-Einträge junger Menschen, die vorübergehend in Australien arbeiten, arbeitsteilig lesen
M 6; CD 19, Track 17	Doing business in Australia – listening to a radio interview / anhand eines Interviews mit zwei Angestellten die Bedeutung des Bergbaus und des Dienstleistungssektors für die Wirtschaft Australiens herausarbeiten
Stundenziel:	Die Schüler verstehen, dass die Bereiche Bergbau und Dienstleistungen für die Wirtschaft Australiens eine wichtige Rolle spielen. Zudem kennen sie verschiedene Möglichkeiten, einen Auslandsaufenthalt in Australien zu verbringen.

5./6. Stunde: How to behave and speak in Australia – about etiquette and language	
Material	Verlauf
M 7	G'day, mate! – About Australia's everyday language / wichtige umgangssprachliche Ausdrücke des australischen Englisch mittels einer Zuordnungsübung erarbeiten
M 8	How to be an Aussie – tips to get around in Australia / sich mit australischen Umgangsformen vertraut machen und diese in einer Mediationsübung mit deutschen vergleichen
Stundenziel:	Die Schüler kennen typische australische Verhaltensweisen und sind sich über den Unterschied zu deutschen bewusst.

The land down under – first impressions of Australia



© Fotos: Thinkstock

Pictures: 1. Warning road sign of kangaroos crossing in the outback; 2. Uluru (Northern Territory); 3. Political map of Australia; 4. Man of Aboriginal origin performs smoking ceremony at an urban event in Sydney; 5. Sydney Opera House; 6. Santa Clause on the beach during Christmas time

Tasks

1. Describe the pictures and say what they tell you about Australia.
2. With your partner, discuss why Australia is called "the land down under"?
3. Get together with another pair. Think about what exactly is "upside down" or "the wrong way round" in Australia and create a mind map.

M2 Guess and listen! – Basic facts about Australia

Listen to an Australian telling you interesting facts and figures about his country.



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CD 19;
Track 16

Tasks

1. Guess the answers to the questions and write them into the column "your guess".
2. An Australian tourist guide tells you about the country's geography, its population¹ and its sights. While listening, write the answers he gives into the column "tourist guide".
3. Check your answers with the help of the transcript and see if your guesses were correct.

Take a guess!	your guess	tourist guide
① How many hours is the time difference between Germany and Australia?	_____	_____
② How does Australia rank in size in the world?	_____	_____
③ How far is it from the east to the west of the country?	_____	_____
④ How many times larger than Germany is Australia?	_____	_____
⑤ How many federal states ² does Australia have?	_____	_____
⑥ What is the capital city ³ Australia?	_____	_____
⑦ How many people live in Sydney and Melbourne respectively ⁴ ?	_____	_____
⑧ How many people live in Australia?	_____	_____
⑨ What percentage ⁵ of the population is of Asian origin today?	_____	_____
⑩ How many international tourists came to Australia in 2014?	_____	_____
⑪ Where are the Opera House, the Bondi surfer beach and the Harbour bridge?	_____	_____
⑫ Where is Uluru, the famous red rock?	_____	_____
⑬ How high is Australia's highest mountain?	_____	_____
⑭ How many kangaroos live in Australia?	_____	_____

Vocabulary

1 **population**: die Bevölkerung – 2 **(federal) state**: der Bundesstaat – 3 **capital (city)**: die Hauptstadt – 4 **respectively**: jeweils – 5 **percentage**: der prozentuale Anteil

Welcome to the fifth continent! – Check your answers

M 3

Read what the tourist guide says and check your answers.



CD 19;
Track 16

Welcome to the fifth continent, the land down under. Let me give you some interesting facts and figures about this fascinating country.

Geography

- Australia is on the opposite¹ side of the world from Europe. So when you arrive in Sydney, for example from Frankfurt, you need to change your watch and add ten hours.
- Australia is a continent and at the same time it's the world's sixth largest country by area. From east to west, Australia extends 4,000 kilometres and from north to south it's 3,700 kilometres. In all, the land area is 7.7 million square kilometres². That's 21 times larger than Germany.
- The Australian mainland³ consists of five states (Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia) and one territory whose official name is the Northern Territory. Tasmania, Australia's sixth state, is an island close to the mainland.
- Australia's capital, Canberra, is situated in the southeast between Sydney and Melbourne, Australia's largest cities. Both have more than four million inhabitants⁴.

Population

- Australia's population is only 22 million. And can you imagine that at the beginning of the 20th century the country's population wasn't even four million people?
- Today, people of many different ethnic backgrounds live in Australia. There are three main ethnic groups: About 90% of the country's population descend⁵ from European immigrants. The second largest group are inhabitants of Asian origin. Today, they make up about 7% of the whole population. And 2.5% of the population can claim descendancy⁶ from the various indigenous⁷ or Aboriginal groups.



Tourist guide in Brisbane talking to young couple

Tourism and sights

- A lot of visitors come to Australia every year. In 2014, almost 7 million international tourists spent their holidays in the land down under.
- There is really a lot to see in Australia! In Sydney, you can visit the Opera House, the famous Bondi surfer beach and the Harbour Bridge. The Great Barrier Reef, in the northeast is also very famous with tourists. It's the world's largest coral reef⁸. In the outback, you can visit Uluru, an impressive red rock in the middle of the desert.
- In Australia, you cannot only spend lazy days on the beautiful beaches. In winter, you can also go skiing in the mountains. Australia's highest mountain is Mount Kosciuszko, which is 2,228 metres high.
- Did you know that there are 35 million kangaroos in Australia? You can find about 50 different kinds in the land down under. And the biggest one can measure up to 2.4 metres!

Vocabulary

1 **opposite**: gegenüber liegend – 2 **square kilometre**: der Quadratkilometer – 3 **mainland**: hier: die Hauptinsel – 4 **inhabitant**: der/die Einwohner/-in – 5 **to descend from so. / descendancy**: von jmdm. abstammen / die Abstammung – 6 **indigenous**: eingeboren, einheimisch, ursprünglich – 7 **Aboriginal**: die Ureinwohnervölker Australiens betreffend – 8 **coral reef**: das Korallenriff

Working in Australia – reading young people’s blog entries

Three young people from different countries are currently working in Australia. Read their travel blog entries and find out what exactly they’re doing.

Catherinegoestoaustralia.blogspot.com

13 February 2016, Bundaberg: I arrived in Bundaberg, one of Australia’s leading harvest work regions, a few days ago. I found a job as a lemon picker on a farm.



Most backpackers who travel to Bundaberg come for one reason: fruit picking²! They want to earn money for their Australia trip.

In this region of Queensland, fruits and vegetables are grown all year because of the warm and sunny climate. However, only the coasts of Australia are suitable for agriculture³. The regions in the middle of the continent are too dry for farming.

My Work & Travel Experience in Australia

Hi! My name is Steven and I’m from Brighton in the UK. I’ve come to Australia with the Working Holiday Visa. Australia issues⁴ more than 130,000 of these visas a year to young international people who want to live and work in Australia. This visa allows you to stay in the country for twelve months. You have to be between 18 and 30 years old and you have to prove that you have 5,000 Australian Dollars. You aren’t allowed to work for more than six months for the same employer⁵. You can study or do work experience⁶ for up to four months.

Why I have come to this country? I’ve always been fascinated by the many different animal species that can only be found here. With the Working Holiday Visa, I’m able to do work experience in a koala clinic in New South Wales. The koala bears in the clinic are mainly victims⁷ of bushfires.

Thomas@workinaustralia

G’day day from Australia! I’ve been in Australia for three months now and I’ve worked in the travel industry⁸ here. In Germany, I’ve already worked as a travel agent⁹ in Berlin for two years after my traineeship. We had many international clients so my English was already quite good before I came to Australia. Therefore, I could easily find the job here. It’s only for six months. We’ll see if I’ll be staying longer.



Did you know that tourism brought about 24 million Australian Dollars into the country in 2010? Currently, more than 500,000 people work in tourism here. Most tourists travel to Sydney.

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Vocabulary

1 **harvest**: die Ernte – 2 **fruit picking**: das Obstpflücken – 3 **agriculture**: der Ackerbau, die Landwirtschaft – 4 **to issue sth.**: hier: etw. ausstellen – 5 **employer**: der/die Arbeitgeber/-in – 6 **to do work experience**: ein Praktikum machen – 7 **victim**: das Opfer – 8 **travel industry**: die Tourismusbranche – 9 **travel agent**: der Reiseverkehrskaufmann/die Reiseverkehrskauffrau

Tasks

1. Work in groups of three. Read one blog entry each and take notes on the following questions: a) What is your person doing in Australia? b) What does he/she tell you about Australia’s economy?
2. Present your person to your group. Take notes on the two other people the group members present.
3. “Tourism is very important to Australia’s economy.” Discuss this statement in your group. Take notes on your results.

M 6 Doing business in Australia – listening to a radio interview

Listen to two Australians talking about their jobs and learn about Australia’s economic situation.



CD 19;
Track 17

Tasks

1. Before listening read the questions carefully and look up the following words in a dictionary: chef • Greek cuisine • sponsorship • mining engineer • gemstone • to be viable
2. Work in pairs. One of you focusses on Mr Robertson, the other on Ms Papadopoulous. Make notes on the answers on the worksheet.
3. Tell each other what you have learned about Mr Robertson or Ms Papadopoulous and their jobs. Then complete your worksheet.



© Colourbox

Mr Robertson	Ms Papadopoulous
What are his everyday job duties?	What does she do?
How much money does he earn?	What’s her professional career as an immigrant?
In how far is the mining industry important to Australia’s economy?	How many chefs are employed in Australia?
What does he say about Australia’s trade partners?	What does she say about the Australian food culture?

VORANSICHT

M 8 How to be an Aussie – tips to get around in Australia

Steffen Huber from Düsseldorf has worked and lived in Australia for almost five years. Read what he writes about Australian etiquette in his blog.



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Tips to get around in Australia

- ① If you want to catch a bus here, just go to the stop and wait till the next bus comes. Then people give a sign to the driver by raising their hand. If you forget that, the bus won't stop. Can you imagine that bus stops don't even have a name here? And I've never seen an Australian checking the _____.
- ② Here people not only _____ on the left side, they also walk on the left side. Be careful that you don't bump into another person because they don't get out your way.
- ③ Australians say "sorry" and "thank you" very often. If you accidentally push a trolley¹ into a person, don't be surprised if they _____ to you first! It comes over Aussies' lips very easily. It's also likely that they will then say "thank you" if you apologise² in return.
- ④ In Australian restaurants, you are allowed to bring your own _____ like a bottle of wine. But on the street, you are only allowed to carry the bottle closed and in a bag. And it's prohibited³ to drink alcohol in the streets or in public parks. People here often meet in a pub for a beer after work.
- ⑤ Australians like to address others by their _____, even though they might not know each other very well. Students even call their professors by their first names. In business conversations, greetings are casual and people prefer first names, too. To be on first name terms⁴ with someone doesn't necessarily mean that you have a close relationship with this person.
- ⑥ At work, Australians usually get down to business quickly. They are very _____ in the way they communicate and usually mean what they say.
- ⑦ Although Australians always seem to be relaxed, they are hard-working people. In my experience, _____ is not as common here as it is in Germany. But I was surprised to learn that most Australian employees⁵ only get 20 days of holidays a year.

Tasks

1. Read the tips and fill in the gaps with the words from the grey box below.

drinks • first names • doing overtime⁶ • apologise • drive • direct • schedule⁷

2. Work with a partner and take turns. Imagine a friend of yours is planning to spend a year in Australia. He/she tells you about several everyday situations in Germany. Tell him/her in German how an Australian would probably behave in the same situations.
 - a) „Gestern wurde ich von einem Mann auf der Straße angerempelt. Ich habe ziemlich genervt reagiert.“ → „In Australien würde man ...“
 - b) „Am Samstag war ich mit Freunden unterwegs und wir haben auf der Straße Bier getrunken.“
 - c) „Ich gehe immer fünf Minuten vor Abfahrt des Busses zur Haltestelle.“
 - d) „Ich habe 30 Urlaubstage im Jahr.“
 - e) „Heute wurde ich von einem Firmenkunden einfach so mit Vornamen angesprochen. Das fand ich unhöflich.“

Vocabulary

1 **trolley**: der Einkaufswagen – 2 **to apologise to so.:** sich bei jmdm. entschuldigen – 3 **prohibited**: (gesetzlich) verboten – 4 **to be on first name terms**: jmdm. mit dem Vornamen ansprechen – 5 **employee**: der/die Angestellte – 6 **to do overtime**: Überstunden machen – 7 **schedule**: hier: der Fahrplan