

Facts about Australia

a) First read these statements through. Say if you think they are true or not – or if you aren't sure.

b) Now find their 'other halves' below. Then you'll see if you were right – and you'll find out more!

c) Choose five 'fact pairs' that you find most interesting and write them down. Try to find pictures from magazines, brochures or the Internet to go with them. Add more information if you can.



1. Australia is the world's largest 'island'.
2. Australia is about the same size as the USA (without Alaska and Hawaii), but only about 18 million people live there.
3. Australia is the home of 150 million sheep.
4. Most Australians live in the big cities on the north coast.
5. Melbourne is the third largest 'Greek' city in the world.
6. Most immigrants to Australia today come from Asia.
7. The first inhabitants of Australia, the Aborigines, came from the north by raft or boat.
8. From 1980 to 1990 sharks killed eleven people in Australia.
9. The first European settlement in Australia was for convicts.
10. For millions of years, the continent of Australia was isolated from the rest of the world. So its plants and animals developed differently.
11. Only 10% of today's Australians are Aborigines.
12. Aussies love surfing.
13. In June and July, Sydney is great for beach parties and barbecues.
14. You can do winter sports in the Australian Alps in New South Wales.

a) Many of them are from Vietnam.

b) Even fewer! Only about one in a hundred people are Aborigines.

c) After Athens and Thessalonica.

d) That's only about two people per square kilometre.

e) Kangaroos, koala bears – even budgies – are examples of this.

f) True! Then you could even fly north to Queensland and go surfing the same day.

g) The prisons in Britain had become so crowded that the government sent ships full of convicts to start a colony on the 'new' continent. They arrived in 1788.

h) This was perhaps about 60,000 years ago – or even earlier.

i) There's a city on the east coast of Queensland that's called Surfers Paradise.

j) Think again! Christmas is summer-time down under. (Then you can really enjoy Bondi Beach – and over thirty others!)

k) It is also the world's smallest continent.

l) So it's no surprise that Australia exports more wool than any other country in the world.

m) True. But on the other hand, traffic accidents killed 32,000 during those ten years!

n) Most of the big cities are on the south east and east coasts. Only about one in seven people live in the country.