

# Australian Culture

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# Introduction

Have you ever wanted to travel to another country? Have you ever wanted to learn about the people that live in a different place? One way to do that is to study a nation's culture, which is the way they live their every day life. Culture includes things like religion, food, school, music, art, and games. Learning about a country's location, flag and language is important in knowing more, too. As you read about Australia, think about which country you'd like to learn more about, then study it!



# General Australia Info

Australia has a special location, a language and a flag. It is a country that is its own continent! It is an island, too, and has water all around it. Australia is next to New Zealand and is surrounded by the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean. Most people in Australia speak English, but it sounds a little different than English in America. The Australia flag is red, white and blue (like ours), and has three symbols on it: a Union Jack (another name for the flag in England), the Commonwealth Star and a constellation called the Southern Cross. So you can see, Australia has a special location, a language and a unique flag.

**Union Jack:** The English flag is part of the Australian flag to show that it was once part of England.

## Commonwealth

**Star:** This star has seven points to show the unity of the Commonwealth and the six states.

## Australian Flag

## Southern Cross:

This is a constellation seen in the night sky in the Southern Hemisphere and tells about Australia's' geography.



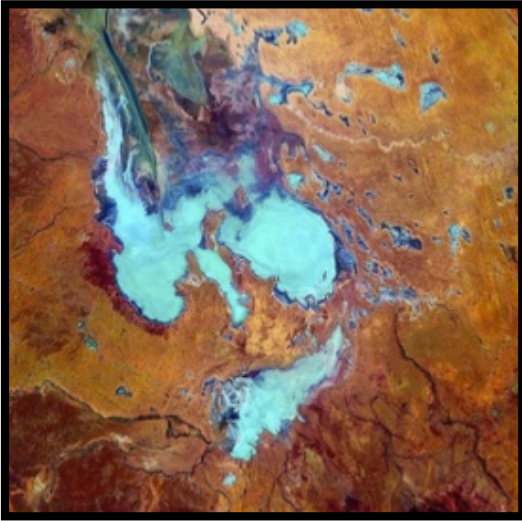
## Map of Australia

## Australian Words

**Chook:** chicken  
**Dinkum:** good, great  
**G'day:** Hello!  
**Mate:** friend  
**Tah:** Thank you  
**Hooroo:** See you later!



# Australian Land and Water



**Lake Eyre** is the lowest point in Australia.



The **Blue Mountains** are on the southeastern end of Australia.

Australia has many different kinds of landforms and bodies of water. The land in Australia is very different on the coasts and in the center. The coasts have beaches, and the interior (called the Outback) is mainly desert. Grasslands, plateaus and mountains are also found in Australia. Because it is an island, water is all around the continent of Australia. There are also many rivers that run through the northern part of the country, and lakes throughout the country. As you can see, Australia has a variety of different kinds of land.



**The Outback:** In the interior of the country, there are many deserts, as well as plateaus and grasslands dotting the countryside. Very few people live in this part of Australia.

# Holidays Down Under



Australia Day fireworks,  
Federation Square, Melbourne



Traditional chocolate Easter bilby



Boxing Day Cricket Test,  
Australia v. Sri Lanka



Sandman on a beach in  
Adelaide for Christmas

Parades are often held throughout Australia to commemorate the landing of the Australian and New Zealand troops in Turkey during WWI.



Australians celebrate many different holidays. Just like many Americans, Australians often celebrate Christmas and Easter. Unlike ours being in winter, Australian Christmas is in the middle of summer and many families celebrate with a beach barbecue! Easter is enjoyed over a long weekend and usually involves family meals, too. Boxing Day (December 26) is another annual holiday in Australia. It is the start of the bargain shopping season, and features many national sports events, as well. Australia Day (January 26) is similar to our 4th of July, and commemorates the founding of the country. Lastly, Anzac Day (April 25) celebrates those who have served in the military, and is like our Veterans' and Memorial Days here. As you can see, Australians celebrate many traditional holidays throughout the year.



# Aussie Schools

In Australia, kids go to school, but there are some things that are different than American schools. First of all, many kids don't actually go to a school, but instead do their work at home and send it in. Because many families live far away from towns, on farms, students watch their lessons on TV and mail in their assignments. Also, in Australia, kiddos wear uniforms. Schools have teams and sometimes students wear special uniforms to match their team colors. Often these teams compete in sports and contests against each other. Another difference is that Australian schools are in session almost year-round. Their school year starts in February and continues until the middle of December, with 2 week breaks between terms. So you can see, Australian schools have many differences from schools in America.

Every student in Australia wears uniforms, and usually they are different for boys and girls; boys wear pants and girls wear skirts/dresses. Often the uniforms also include a hat.

2016

TERM 1 2016	Thu 28 Jan 2016 – Fri 8 Apr 2016 Eastern Division, Teachers commence Wednesday 27 January 2016.
TERM 1 2016	Thu 4 Feb 2016 – Fri 8 Apr 2016 Western Division, Teachers commence Wednesday 3 February 2016.
TERM 2 2016	Wed 27 Apr 2016 – Fri 1 Jul 2016 Teachers commence Tuesday 26 April 2016.
TERM 3 2016	Tue 19 Jul 2016 – Fri 23 Sep 2016 Teachers commence Monday 18 July 2016.
TERM 4 2016	Mon 10 Oct 2016 – Fri 16 Dec 2016 Teachers finish Tuesday 20 December 2016.

Sample Australian  
School Schedule



# Foods in Australia

Australians eat many different things. Generally, Australians eat many of the same things as we do in America. Beef is the most popular meat, and mutton (made from sheep) is also common. There are also foods that are specific to Australia, like Vegemite, which is a spread made from yeast that many people eat on toast. Lamingtons are a staple of bake sales, and pavlova is a typical dessert. Lamingtons are little cakes covered in chocolate and coconut, and pavlova is made from meringue and often is fruit-topped. Also popular in Australia are Anzac biscuits, which were originally eaten by troops on long trips because they last a long time. Therefore, Australians eat many different things.



Mutton Chops



Vegemite



Pavlova



Lamingtons



## Rugby

Rugby is one of the most popular sports in Australia. It is similar to both American football and soccer. The Australian Rugby League has 16 teams from all over the country. It's often called "the working man's sport" and is played and watched by many around Australia. Since 1993, there have been both men's and women's leagues.

**Australia  
National  
Rugby  
Team**



## Surfing

Because of the miles of coastline available in Australia, surfing is a popular pastime with outdoor-lovers of all ages. In all major cities, like Sydney, Perth, or Hobart, surfers can catch a wave at famous places like Bondi Beach, Bells Beach, the Gold Coast or Byron Bay.



**Surfing the coast in Australia**

# Sports in Australia

## Soccer



**Australia Socceroos**

Soccer, which is called *football* in Australia, is the most widely-played outdoor sport. The national teams in Australia are called the Socceroos (mens) and the Matildas (womens). There is also an indoor version of football, called futsal, that is popular with players in the country. It was created in 1970 after there was so much rain that the sport couldn't be played outside.



**2015 ICC Australia Cricket Team**

## Cricket

Cricket is another popular game in Australia. Like Rugby, there is a national league, and cricket is also played internationally. The game, which has some similarities to American baseball, can be played on grass or on the beach. Also like rugby, there are both women's and men's teams. It is known as Australia's National Sport because it is so widely played across the country.