

# AUSTRALIA



## Australia Key Facts

- It's the sixth largest country in the world
- It's located on the smallest continent in the world
- Population: 18 million
- Geographic size: 2.97 million square miles
- Capital: Canberra
- Other famous towns: Sidney, Melbourne
- It's the 2<sup>nd</sup> driest continent
- It's famous for its desert which covers most of the interior of the country

**Australia** is also called the land down under for its position in the southern hemisphere.

The name "Australia" is derived from the Latin Australis, meaning of the South.

The Aborigines migrated to Australia about 50 thousand years ago. After World War II, many immigrants came not just from Britain but also from other European countries and from Southeast Asia.



# Curiosity corner

## Didgeridoo



This is a picture of the **didgeridoo**. It is commonly considered the national instrument of Aboriginal people, and it is the world's oldest wind instrument. Some artefacts are over 1500 years old.



## Boomerang

Australian Aborigines have used boomerangs for many thousands of years. They used them for hunting, and for religious and recreational activities.

The name of the boomerang comes from the Indigenous Australian Turuwal tribe of aborigines who lived south of Sidney, Australia. In recent years the modern sport of throwing them has caught on in the United States and other countries.

Fans can find boomerangs of all shapes and sizes. The kind of boomerang used in sports has a curved surface on one side and a flat surface on the other. As the boomerang flies, the air flows across the two sides differently. As it flies, the boomerang spins. The spinning boomerang comes full circle back to its starting point. If you want to do this uncommon sport, here are some golden rules to be followed: practice in an open area with the help of an adult wear eye protection. Be careful!

Remember, what goes around comes around!



# New Zealand



## New Zealand Key Facts

- Capital: Wellington
- Population of New Zealand: 3.8 million
- Most popular sport: Rugby
- Highest Mountain: Mount Cook
- Largest Lake: Lake Taupo
- Biggest Mountain Chain: Southern Alps
- Most active volcano: Rotorua
- Name of the indigenous people: Maori
- Ocean around New Zealand: Pacific
- Languages spoken: English and Maori (both official)
- Largest cities: Auckland, Christchurch

**New Zealand** is situated in the southeast of Australia and consists of two main islands:

the North Island and the South Island, separated by Cook Strait. The North Island is 829 km long and volcanic in its south-central part. This area contains many hot springs and beautiful geysers. South Island has the Southern Alps along its west coast, with Mount Cook, the highest point. Maoris were the first inhabitants of New Zealand. According to the Maori oral history the Maoris came to the island in seven canoes from other parts of Polynesia.

# Curiosity corner

## Kiwi

The **kiwi** is a bird and the national symbol of New Zealand. New Zealanders call themselves kiwis.



Here is the English version of some Maori words

- haere mi - welcome
- haka - war dance and chants performed by the men
- kumara - sweet potato
- makomako - bellbird
- manu - bird
- pakeha - foreigner, white person, European
- puna - spring of water
- roto - lake
- whare - house

# Haka

Haka is a war chant with many aggressive sounds and movements.

It is performed before a rugby union game.

The All Blacks perform the haka before a rugby union game.

It is characterised by loud chanting, aggressive flailing of arms and stomping of feet, fierce looks and, in the end, an angry sticking out tongues.

Here's a version of the haka performed before major games against non-New Zealand teams.

Ka mate, ka mate  
Ka ora, ka ora  
Tenei te tangata puhuruhuru  
Nana i tiki mai whakawhiti te ra  
Upane, upane  
Upane kaupane  
Whiti te ra



This is the English version:

It is death, it is death

It is life, it is life

This is the hairy man

Who caused the sun to shine again for me

Up the ladder, up the ladder

Up to the top

The sun shines

