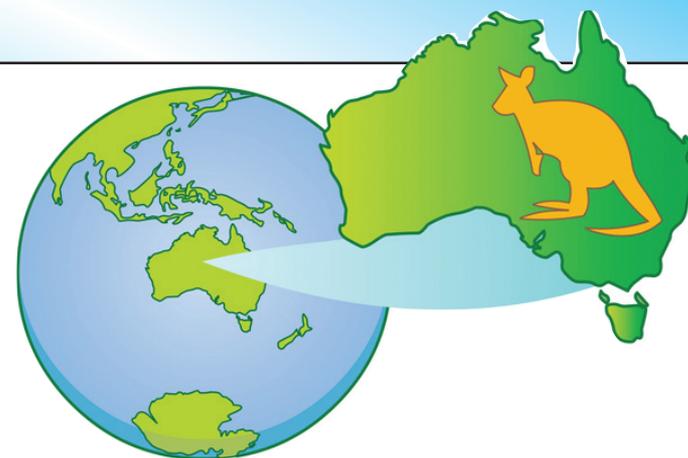




Travel With Us!

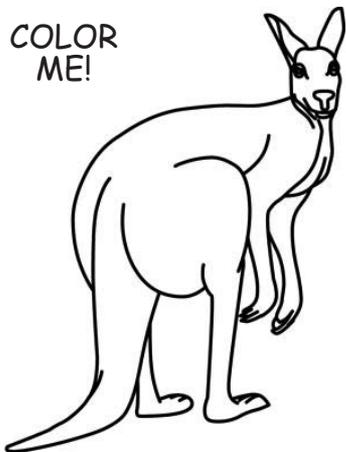


Australia



- Australia is the world's largest island! Although this is the largest island, Australia, is the smallest continent.
- The capital is Canberra. It even has it's own territory!
- The official name of the island is the Commonwealth of Australia. The continent was once under the control of Great Britain and was given that name. The first European discovery of the island was in 1606, by the Dutch. British people started to inhabit the land in 1788. Many settlers were prisoners sent to live there as punishment. The new people lived with the native population in peace for a short time, and then fighting over the land broke out.
- The population is about 23 million people!
- The currency is the Australian Dollar.
- Weather in Australia includes all seasons. They may seem backwards compared to United States seasons, because winter is from June to August, spring is from September to November, summer is from December to February, and autumn is from March to May. In the north, there are two seasons. The two seasons are called the wet season and the dry season. The wet season is December to March and is when tropical Australia receives the most rain and storms. The dry season, May to October, is mainly sunny skies.
- The discovery of gold in Australia drew more and more foreign settlers to the continent. By 1859, six different colonies were formed. By 1901 the colonies came together to form the Commonwealth of Australia.

COLOR ME!



- The official language of Australia is English.
- The government is a democracy.
- A desert area known as "the outback" covers about two-thirds of the land. A large mass of land rising from the ground is called Uluru and located in Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park in Australia's Red Centre, which is rich in Australian indigenous culture and spirituality. It is a World Heritage site and an ancient spiritual site for the indigenous population.
- It is estimated the humans have lived in Australia for around 45,000 years. The indigenous people of Australia are Australian Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. Aborigines make up 2% of Australia's population today.
- Australia has more than 378 mammal species, 828 bird species, 4000 fish species, 300 species of lizards, 140 snake species, two crocodile species and around 50 types of marine mammal.
- Sydney, Australia is home to an iconic opera house, designed by the Danish Jørn Utzon and opened in 1973.
- Australia is the only country in the world to take up an entire continent.
- There are an estimated 27,700 plant species in Australia.



The Great Barrier Reef in Eastern Australia is home to more than 3,000 reefs, which contain over 350 species of corals and over 1,500 species of fish. It is the biggest coral reef in the world.