**Australia текст 1**

How big is Australia? Roughly 3 million square miles. It is the smallest continent and the largest island in the world. Inside Australia you could squeeze about 32 UK or 24 Norways or 3 Mexicos. The length of Australia’s coastline including Tasmania is about twice that of the seaboard of the USA.

As Australia is situated in the south hemisphere, it has winter when we have summer, and summer when we have winter. Summer lasts from December to February, winter - from June to August. The hottest month is January.

It is believed that Australia’s geological isolation has resulted in, many species not found elsewhere. Many animals have developed differently from animals on other continents. The most peculiar feature in Australia’s animals is the pouch. The best-known are kangaroo, the koala bear, the possum.

There are 800 varieties of birds in Australia. Among them are eagles, hawks, parrots, cockatoos. The Emu is a large bird which cannot fly, but runs well. The Emu and the kangaroo are represented on the emblem of Australia.

Australia is a dry continent. Much of central and western Australia is a desert where little or nothing grows.

In Eastern Australia, where the most Australians live, the climate is pleasant, so people can be outdoors all year round. At winter weekends they go up into the mountains to ski. In summer, as soon as the day’s work is over, the families go off to the beach to sunbathe and swim and go surfing. The Australians are fine yachtsmen. At weekends the harbor is crowded with sailing boats, large and small. They are good swimmers as well. Australians have won a number of Olympic and Commonwealth gold medals for swimming. They have also produced several world-class runners.

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**Cultural Desert Blooms текст 2**

The British used to sneer that Australia was a cultural desert. Now Australia is famous for its buildings, literature and films.

The Sydney Opera House took 20 years to build and has become as much a symbol of Australia as the Eiffel Tower is of France. Its sail-shaped roof echoes the billowing sails of the yachts on the Harbour. It attracts the world's finest opera singers, including Australia's own Dame Joan Sutherland.

There is a friendly rivalry between Sydney and Melbourne, which regards itself as the cultural capital of Australia, with its arts centre, galleries and music festivals. Sydney-siders think their arts and drama are more modern and adventurous.

The Adelaide Festival of Arts features international performers in music, poetry and literature.

Popular annual festivals are held in all major cities. Typically of Australia, not everything is taken too seriously. Small country towns have some mad events, like goat racing.

One of Australia's most popular modern artists is Ken Done, whose trade marks are bright, bold colours. His work appears everywhere, even on souvenir T-shirts from Sydney.

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**Entertaining thу World текст 3**

Australia has made its mark in the world of entertainment. Popular films such as Crocodile Dundee and Mad Max have made Hollywood stars of Paul Hogan and Mel Gibson. Geoffrey Rush won an Oscar for his performance in Shine. The Australian sense of humour reaches a worldwide audience through films like Strictly Ballroom and The Adventures of Priscitta, Queen of the Desert. Australian directors are sought after by the American film industry. Among the most successful have been Peter Weir (Dead Poets Society) and George Miller (Babe).

Other Australian media have also enjoyed international success: television soap operas such as Neighbours and Home and Away attract huge audiences abroad, particularly in Britain. On the music scene, Australia has produced world-famous rock bands like INXS and AC/DC. Every night, pubs and clubs in every city rock to the sounds of young musicians, hoping to follow the same route to fame.

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**The Rocky Mountains текст 4**

The Rocky Mountains (or the Rockies) are a major mountain range in western North America. The Rocky Mountains stretch more than 3,000 miles (4,830 km) from the northernmost part of British Columbia, in western Canada, to New Mexico, in the southwestern United States. The range's highest peak is Mount Elbert located in Colorado at 14,440 feet (4,401 m) above sea level. Within the North American Cordillera, the Rockies are somewhat distinct from the Pacific Coast Ranges and the Cascade Range and Sierra Nevada which all lie further to the west.

The Rocky Mountains were formed from 80 million to 55 million years ago by the Laramide orogeny. Since then, erosion by water and glaciers have sculpted the mountain range into dramatic valleys and peaks.

There are a wide range of environmental factors in the Rocky Mountains. The Rockies range in latitude between the Liard River in British Columbia (at 59° N) and the Rio Grande in New Mexico (at 35° N). Prairie occurs at or below 1,800 feet (550 m), while the highest peak in the range is Mount Elbert at 14,440 feet (4,400 m). Precipitation ranges from 10 inches (250 mm) per year in the southern valleys to 60 inches (1,500 mm) per year locally in the northern peaks. Average January temperatures can range from 20 °F (−7 °C) in Prince George, British Columbia to 43 °F (6 °C) in Trinidad, Colorado. Therefore, there is not a single monolithic ecosystem for the entire Rocky Mountain Range.

The Rocky Mountains are important habitat for a great deal of well-known wildife, such as elk, moose, mule and white-tailed deer, pronghorns, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, black bears, grizzly bears, coyotes, lynxes, and wolverines. For example, North America's largest herds of moose is in the Alberta-British Columbia foothills forests.

Economic resources of the Rocky Mountains are varied and abundant. Minerals found in the Rocky Mountains include significant deposits of copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, silver, tungsten, and zinc. The Wyoming Basin and several smaller areas contain significant reserves of coal, natural gas, oil shale, and petroleum. For example, the Climax mine, located near Leadville, Colorado, was the largest producer of Molybdenum in the world. Molybdenum is used in heat-resistant steel in such things as cars and planes. The Climax mine employed over 3,000 workers. The Coeur d'Alene mine of northern Idaho produces silver, lead, and zinc. Canada's largest coal mines are near Fernie, British Columbia and Sparwood, British Columbia; additional coal mines exist near Hinton, Alberta, and in the Northern Rockies surrounding Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia.

Abandoned mines with their wakes of mine tailings and toxic wastes dot the Rocky Mountain landscape. In one major example, eighty years of zinc mining profoundly polluted the river and bank near Eagle River in north-central Colorado. High concentrations of the metal carried by spring runoff harmed algae, moss, and trout populations. An economic analysis of mining effects at this site revealed declining property values, degraded water quality, and the loss of recreational opportunities. The analysis also revealed that cleanup of the river could yield $2.3 million in additional revenue from recreation. In 1983, the former owner of the zinc mine was sued by the Colorado Attorney General for the $4.8 million cleanup costs; five years later, ecological recovery was considerable.

Every year the scenic areas and recreational opportunities of the Rocky Mountains draw millions of tourists. The main language of the Rocky Mountains is English. But there are also linguistic pockets of Spanish and Native American languages. French is an official language in Canada's national parks.

People from all over the world visit the sites to hike, camp, or engage in mountain sports.

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**Australia ltd текст 5**

Australia's prosperity has been founded on its natural resources. It produces almost every mineral from gold to uranium. In the Pilbara region of Western Australia whole mountains are being destroyed in order to extract 112 million tonnes of iron ore per year. Diamonds are also mined and the Argyle mine is the world's largest.

Traditionally, Australia was a farming country, even though only 55 per cent of the land can be used for grazing and six per cent for crops. In spite of this, Australian wealth was founded on wool, cattle and wheat. It is still a major exporter of food, making it the breadbasket of Asia. In recent years Australian wines and beers have made an international name for themselves. Beer has always been a favourite drink in Australia, though unlike the British, Australians prefer their beer ice-cold.

Agriculture and mining, however, employ comparatively few people. Tourism is now Australia's largest industry, employing six per cent of the population. More than three million visitors come to Australia each year - many of them from Japan, Korea and Singapore.

With a well-educated population and Asian markets nearby, Australia is now developing modern, knowledge-based industries, such as medical science, solar energy, communications and computers.

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The History of the Common текст 6**

The Commonwealth of Australia is situated in the south-west of the Pacific Ocean, occupying the continent of Australia and a number of islands. On its western shoreline the continent-island is washed by the Indian Ocean, and on its east coast — by the Pacific Ocean.

It is impossible to say who the first discoverers of Australia were. There is evidence that the Chinese had some knowledge of the continent as far back as the 13 century. Though, at the beginning of the 17 century the lands of Australia and New Zealand were discovered by Dutch explorers, for more than a hundred years after that they remained vague lines on the map. Scientists in Britain were anxious to find out if this land really did exist, so in 1768 they sent an expedition to the southern seas to look for it. The leader of the expedition was Captain James Cook. He sailed up to the east coast of New Zealand, and he raised the Union Jack to claim it for Britain. After leaving New Zealand, Cook sailed North West, and nineteen days later they found another land. It was Australia. They landed in a bay on the north east coast which is today a part of Sydney, and to their astonishment they saw plants and creatures that no white man had ever seen before kangaroos and koalas, brilliantly colored birds and butterflies. That place was named ‘Botany Bay’.

In 1788 the first British colony was founded in Sydney. Most of early settlers were convicts-criminals and political prisoners, transported from England. The system of transportation was abolished only in the 19 century.

The colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania were federated under the name ‘Commonwealth of Australia’.

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