

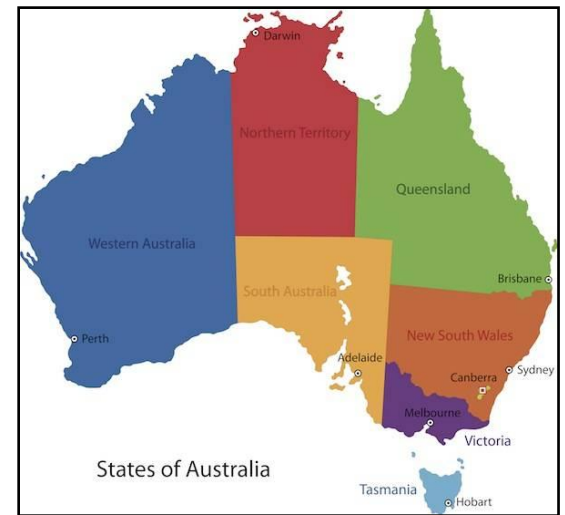
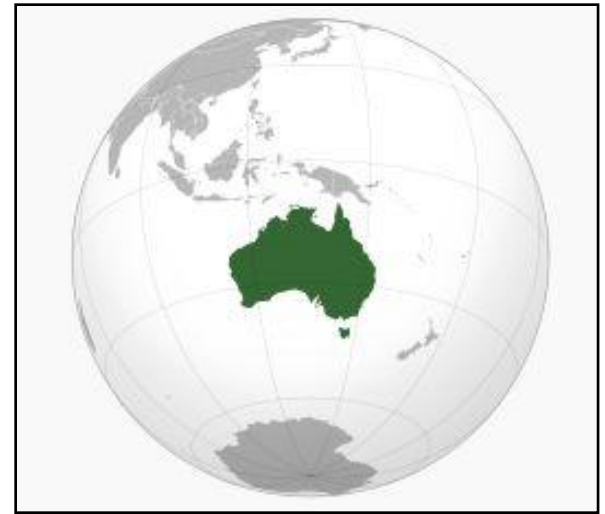
AUSTRALIA

Captain Charles Sturt was born on April 28, 1795, in Bengal, India. He joined the British army at age 18. He was known for his expedition down the Murrumbidgee and Murray rivers from 1829-1830.

His expedition is considered one of the greatest explorations in Australian history. From 1828-1829 Sturt led the first of his major expeditions, discovering the Darling river. While recovering in England from exhaustion and near blindness from his explorations, Captain Sturt wrote *Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia, 1828-31*. This book led to the choice of South Australia as the site for a new British settlement.

Australia is the only country in the continent of Australia. It is divided into 7 states.

- Referred to as the largest island in the world
- There are 1500 species of Australian spiders
- Australia's national colors are green and gold
- The golden wattle is Australia's national flower
- Australia held the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, and the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney



Population: 36,593,000

Area: 3,296,044 square miles

Ranking: Australia is the seventh largest (smallest) and sixth most populous continent

Bordering Bodies of Water: Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Philippine Sea, Tasman Sea, Coral Sea

Major Rivers and Lakes: Lake Gairdner, Lake Carnegie, Lake Taupo, Lake Murray, Murray River, Murrumbidgee River, the Darling River

Major Geographical Features: Great Dividing Range, MacDonnell Ranges, Australian Alps, Great Victorian Desert, Tanami Desert, Great Artesian Basin, Great Barrier Reef (in the Coral Sea), Southern Alps, South Island

Fun Facts about Australia:

Australia was first used as a prison colony by Britain where they would send unwanted criminals and outcasts.

The name Australia means "land of the south".

There are less people that live in Australia than in the US state of Texas.

Australia is located in the southern hemisphere. This means that it has winter during June, July, and August and summer during the months of December, January, and February.



Flag of Australia



A kangaroo hops along the beach of Australia.



The opera house in Sydney, Australia.