

Australian Geography and History Guided Notes

Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea

- The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef.
- Coral reefs are made up of living organisms.
- The Great Barrier Reef stretches over an area of almost 133,000 square miles. (Size of California is 155,000 sq. miles!)
- It is so vast that it can be seen from outer space.
- It lies in the Coral Sea, off the northeast coast of Australia.

Great Victoria Desert

- The Great Victoria Desert is in southern Australia.
- It is vast, barren region with many small lakes and grasslands.

Ayers Rock/Uluru

- Ayers Rock is a giant sandstone rock formation.
- It lies in central Australia.
- Ayers Rock has many waterholes, caves, and springs.
- The Aborigines believe Ayers Rock is sacred.

The Outback

- Much of Australia is covered by the Australian Outback.
- It is a dry region that covers most of Australia's interior.
- Temperatures in the Outback can be very hot.
- There is very little rain.
- Most of the soil is not good for farming.
- Harsh conditions and the lack of fertile farmland mean that very few people live in the Outback.

British Culture

- Australia was once a British colony.
- British culture has greatly shaped the modern culture of Australia.
- English is the official language.
- The government is modeled after the United Kingdom.
- The king or queen of the United Kingdom still has a symbolic role.
- Most Australians who follow a religion claim to be Christian.
- British missionaries introduced Christianity in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

Australian Geography and History Guided Notes

Aboriginal Culture

- Aboriginal cultures still exist in Australia.
- Aborigines are native Australians whose ancestors lived on the continent before Europeans arrived.
- Many Aboriginal citizens have adopted western customs (fashion, work in urban areas, go to universities, and have similar lifestyles)
- Other Aborigines live a more traditional existence.
- Many of the societies exist in the Outback, where the harsh climate and geography discourages Europeans from interfering with the native peoples' way of life.

Literacy

- Australia's literacy rate is very high.
- Most Australians are well educated.
- The literacy rate is lower among Aborigines.
- Due to years of discrimination, there are still problems in the Aboriginal community, such as poverty, and lack of education.

European Exploration

- First Europeans to sail to Australia were the Dutch (Netherlands) in 1606, but they didn't settle there.
- The Dutch made one landing, were attacked by Aborigines, and then abandoned further exploration.
- In 1770, Captain James Cook sailed around Australia. Cook named the area "New South Wales".
- He ignored the Aborigines living there & claimed the land for England. Sailors also mapped the coast of eastern Australia & Tasmania.

Prisoners as Colonists

- The American Revolution forced the British to stop sending prisoners to Georgia (used as a **penal colony** at the time).
- Great Britain had to start looking for another place to send its prisoners...
- Australia seemed like a good choice: no chance of escape, no colonies around it, and very few indigenous people lived there.

Penal Colony

- In 1787, British ships called the "First Fleet" left England with convicts to establish a prison colony.
- In 1788, British prisoners settled in Australia.

New South Wales

- From 1788 to 1832, New South Wales was officially a penal (prison) colony consisting mainly of convicts, marines (guards), and the marines' families.
- Only 20% of the first convicts were women.

Australian Geography and History Guided Notes

The Perfect Colony

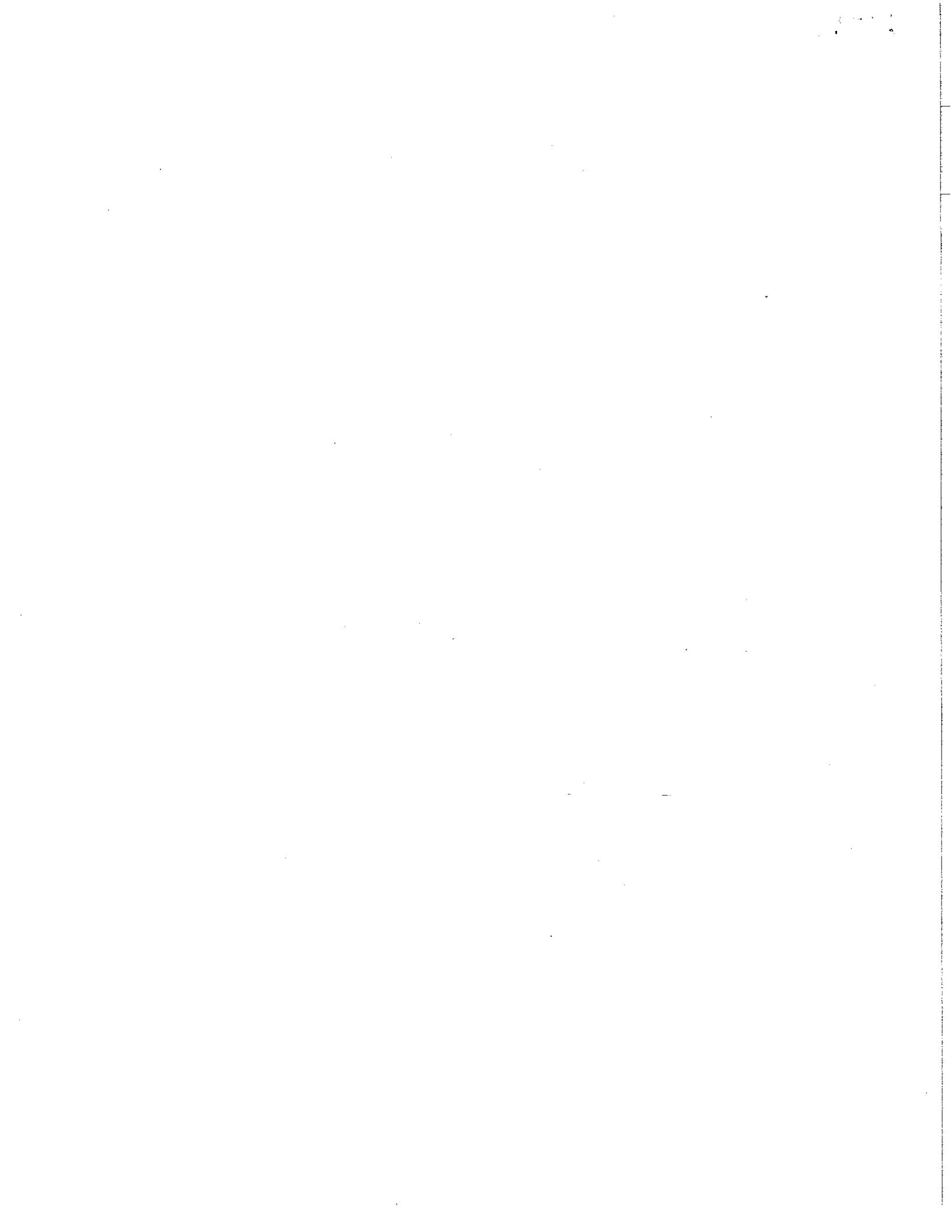
- Great Britain saw that Australia was a good location to base its navy in the South Pacific Ocean.
- Its location would make it possible for British ships to make repairs & get supplies.
- Australia also had many opportunities for trade with Asia and the Americas.

Results of settling...

- A gold rush in the 1850s attracted thousands of new settlers to Australia.
- That resulted in more conflicts with Aboriginal people and hundreds more deaths.
- Aboriginals lost land to the British settlers
- Put up little resistance due to British 'technologies' of advanced weapons.

Aborigines

- Aborigines are the native people of Australia.
- They have gone through stages of being conquered and having their lands taken.
- Aborigines are believed to have descended from Europeans and Asians who migrated south between 62,000 and 75,000 years ago.
- European settlers often separated Aborigines from society.
- In the 1830s, remnants of the tribes (a social group of 10 to 20 people) in the settled areas were moved onto reserves.
- They were forbidden from teaching their children their own language and customs.
- During the 1900s, separation was an official government policy which lasted for many decades.
- Today, many Aboriginal people do not know their origins: which tribe they are descended from or the names of their parents and or grandparents.
- They are a lost generation.



Australia Government and Economy Guided Notes

Australian Government:

- Australia was heavily influenced by the United Kingdom
- As a result, they have a parliamentary democracy

Parliamentary Democracy:

- In Australia's parliamentary democracy, there is a prime minister who leads the country
- The Queen of England has a symbolic role in the government and is represented by the governor-general
- In a parliamentary democracy, the citizens vote for members of parliament (MPs)
- These MPs choose a prime minister from amongst themselves
- Parliament is the legislative branch (lawmaking body) of Australia's government
- They make all of the laws in the country

Australia's Economy:

- Australia has a heavily market economy and is toward the right side of the economic continuum
- It is very easy for entrepreneurs to start businesses in the country and provide jobs for workers
- Australia invests in both physical (machinery/technology) and human capital (education/skills of workers)
- As a result, they have a high G.D.P.
- Australia is known for its abundance of natural resources
- They are especially rich in minerals, which they trade with other countries for goods that they need
- China is a major trading partner of Australia
- They use the raw minerals from Australia to create finished products

Australia's Specialization:

- Since Australia has access to many natural resources, like iron ore, they trade their minerals with other countries
- This way, they can get goods that they normally would not have access to
- This is called specialization

4 Factors of Production:

- The 4 factors of production are:
- Natural resources
- Human resources (human capital)
- Physical capital
- Entrepreneurship

The 4 Factors in Australia:

- Entrepreneurs invest in physical capital by purchasing machinery/technology
- They invest in human resources by providing training/education for their workers
- They use the natural resources available in Australia to grow their businesses
- They help Australia's economy by being entrepreneurs and creating jobs for citizens with their businesses

