GeoJournal

As you read this chapter, use your journal to record similarities and differences in the ways people live in each of these three areas: Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica. Use clear and concise language to note interesting details about the region.

Chapter Overview
Visit the Glencoe World Geography Web site at geography.glencoe.com and click on Chapter Overviews—Chapter 33 to preview information about the cultural geography of the region.
Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know
What images have you seen in the news or in films of the various peoples living in Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica? What geographic factors might account for the ways people live in each of these areas?

Reading Strategy
Taking Notes As you read about the population patterns of the region, use the major headings of the section to create an outline similar to the one below.

I. Human Characteristics
   A.
   B.
   C.

II. Languages

Read to Find Out
• What peoples settled in Australia and Oceania?
• How does the region’s geography affect population density, distribution, and growth?
• What factors account for settlement in urban and rural areas?

Terms to Know
• Strine
• pidgin English

Places to Locate
• Kiribati
• Sydney
• Melbourne

Population Patterns

A Geographic View

Dream Journey

Lying back and looking at the night sky, I felt pulled upward into that shimmering immensity... Laserlike, a shooting star cuts the sky... and you suddenly understand how the Aborigines, who slept out here beneath these same stars for 50,000 years before the [Europeans] came, could devise their wonderful mythologies of the Sky Heroes who came down from the stars in that mystic Dreamtime and shaped the landscape.


The Aborigines, Australia’s earliest people, feel a direct relationship to the landscape that has shaped their movements throughout the island continent. Physical geography also has influenced migration and settlement patterns of other peoples in Australia and Oceania. In this section you will learn why Australia and Oceania have diverse cultures and what geographic factors influence where their populations live. You will also visit Antarctica, the cold, icy continent at the bottom of the world.

Human Characteristics

Australia and Oceania have populations with diverse ancestries—indigenous, European, and Asian. Both physical geography and the migration patterns of peoples have shaped the region’s cultures.
Aborigines and Maori

Australia’s Aborigines may have the oldest surviving culture in the world. The name given to them by European settlers is from the Latin ab origine, meaning “from the beginning.” The first Aborigines probably arrived in Australia 40,000 to 60,000 years ago from Southeast Asia. They lived as nomadic hunters and gatherers in small kinship groups along the temperate coasts, in the northern rain forests, and across the vast interior deserts. Over the centuries, the Aborigines successfully learned to deal with the challenges posed by these environments. Today, Aborigines number about 315,000, making up about 2 percent of Australia’s population.

New Zealand’s indigenous peoples, known as the Maori (MOWR•ee), came from the Pacific islands of Polynesia. In New Zealand they hunted, fished, established villages, and raised crops. Many ancient Maori traditions still remain a part of Maori life. For example, Maori communities hold festive gatherings called hui in which important local events such as weddings, funerals, and the dedication of new buildings are celebrated. As a result of intermarriage with European settlers over the years, most Maori people today have at least some European ancestry.

Pacific Islanders

The islands of Oceania were probably first settled by peoples from Asia more than 30,000 years ago. Waves of migrants from Asia continued to arrive over many centuries, while groups already living in the Pacific area moved from island to island. Today many different peoples speaking hundreds of languages live on Oceania’s scattered islands. However, there are three major indigenous groups—Melanesians, Micronesians, and Polynesians—based on the island cluster on which each group lives. People on all three island clusters generally support themselves by fishing or farming.

The first cluster is Melanesia, located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It includes independent island countries, such as Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands, as well as French-ruled New Caledonia. Melanesian cultures differ greatly, even among groups living in different parts of the same island.

Next is Micronesia, situated in the western Pacific east of the Philippines. Among the independent countries of Micronesia are the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, and Kiribati (KIHR•uh•BAH•tee). The area also includes the United States island territories of Guam and the Marianas. Micronesians also have several different languages and cultures.

The last cluster is Polynesia, located in the central Pacific area. Three independent countries—Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu—are found in Polynesia. Other island groups, known as French Polynesia, are under French rule and include Tahiti, Polynesia’s largest island. Most Polynesians share similar languages and cultures.

Europeans

From the 1500s to the late 1700s, Europeans sailed the waters around Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania. They set up trading settlements and eventually colonized the region. Europeans, mainly of British descent, still make up most of the populations of both Australia and New Zealand. Smaller numbers of European groups live on various Pacific
islands. For example, the French-ruled islands of Tahiti and New Caledonia are home to many people of European descent.

**Asians**

Asian communities also exist in the South Pacific area. Chinese traders and South Asian workers settled parts of Oceania during the 1800s, and today their descendants are included in the populations of places such as French Polynesia and Fiji. From the early 1900s to 1945, Japan ruled a number of Pacific islands, although few people of Japanese descent live there today. Australia and New Zealand once blocked non-European immigration, but the need for more workers finally led to more open immigration policies after the 1970s. Since then, increasing numbers of East Asians and Southeast Asians have migrated to Australia and New Zealand in search of economic opportunity.

**Population Distribution**

Because of uninhabitable land and vast differences in physical features and climates, population in Australia and Oceania is unevenly distributed. Australia is the region’s most heavily populated country. About two-thirds of the South Pacific area’s 31 million people live in Australia, which has almost 90 percent of the region’s habitable land. Very few people, however, live in Australia’s dry central plateaus and deserts. Most live along the southeastern, eastern, and southwestern coasts, which have a mild climate, fertile soil, and access to sea transportation. Most of New Zealand’s people also live in coastal areas.

**Languages**

Before the era of modern transportation and advanced communications, mountains, deserts, and ocean separated the peoples of the South Pacific area. As a result, isolated groups developed many different languages. Of the world’s 3,000 languages, 1,200 are spoken today in Oceania alone, some by only a few hundred people.

European colonization brought European languages to the region. Today French is widely spoken in areas of Oceania that remain under French control. English is the major language of Australia and New Zealand. Australian English, called *Strine*, has a unique vocabulary made up of Aboriginal words, terms used by early settlers, and slang created by modern Australians. For example, Australians today call a barbecue a “barbie,” and greet each other with the phrase “G’day.” In many areas of Oceania, varieties of *pidgin English*, a blend of English and an indigenous language, developed to allow better communication among different groups.

**Where People Live**

Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica span a vast area; Australia and Oceania together cover about 5.7 percent of the earth’s land surface. However, a high percentage of the region’s land is unsuited for human habitation. Thus, the region has only one-half of one percent of the world’s population.
Diverse

Peoples

The South Pacific region is home both to this indigenous man from Papua New Guinea (inset) and these children of European descent from Australia.

Place

Where are the South Pacific’s most urbanized areas located?

In Oceania, the population is divided unequally among the island countries. Papua New Guinea leads with about 5 million people, whereas Nauru—the world’s smallest republic—has a population of only 10,000. Many more Pacific islanders live on their countries’ coasts than in the often rugged interiors.

Antarctica’s forbidding, icy terrain and merciless polar climate have never supported permanent human settlement. Conditions are difficult for all but short-term stays by research scientists and adventurous tourists. Although Antarctica measures about 5.5 million square miles (14.2 million sq. km), most research stations cluster along the Antarctic Peninsula, where summer temperatures may rise to a relatively mild 32°F (0°C). During this season the population of research stations reaches about 10,000, but only about 1,000 people remain during winter.

Population Density

Like population distribution, population density varies throughout the region. In Australia, for example, the population density averages only 7 people per square mile (3 per sq. km). In some interior rural areas, a person can travel 100 miles (161 km) without seeing another human being. In coastal urban areas, however, population density is much higher. Australia’s urban areas are home to 85 percent of the country’s total population. Like many developed countries, Australia has an aging population and a declining birthrate. Yet Australia’s population probably will continue to increase because of immigration.

Oceania’s population is growing at an average rate of 2.3 percent per year because it has a relatively young population. The land area of Oceania’s 25,000 islands totals only 551,059 square miles (1,427,246 sq. km), and the population density varies greatly. Because Papua New Guinea has a large area, its population density is only 28 people per square mile (11 per sq. km). Tiny Nauru, measuring just 9 square miles (23 sq. km), has the highest population density in Oceania—about 1,111 people per square mile (435 per sq. km). In spite of its small area, mining of the island’s rich phosphate deposits provides jobs and funding for economic development.

Urbanization

Most people in Australia and New Zealand live in cities or towns along the temperate coasts. The largest Australian cities are Sydney and Melbourne—each with more than 3 million residents. Sydney, located on the eastern coast, and Melbourne, on the southern coast, are port cities and commercial centers. Other coastal urban areas in Australia are Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth. Few people, on the other hand, live in the hot, dry climate of Australia’s interior.

New Zealand’s ports of Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington are Oceania’s largest cities. These and other cities in the region offer newcomers opportunities for a high standard of living, quality health care, and excellent education.

Urban areas in Australia and Oceania draw people from within their own countries as well as from other countries. In Australia internal migration has
led to shifts in population distribution. During the 1990s the population in rural areas declined while that of large cities and their suburbs grew rapidly. A similar pattern can be seen in Oceania, where 70 percent of the population lives in urban areas.

**Government Immigration**

Rapid expansion of industry after World War II drew many immigrants to Australia. At first most immigrants came from European countries, such as the United Kingdom, Greece, Yugoslavia, and the Netherlands. In the 1980s Australia’s industries still needed more workers, so the Australian government created programs to attract people from other regions. Today immigrants come from South Africa and various parts of Asia and Latin America. A number of them also come from Oceania. Population growth and uneven economic development in the various Pacific islands cause many young people and skilled workers to seek work elsewhere.

Publicly funded programs provide travel assistance to immigrants and help them adjust to Australian society. Most immigrant workers settle in major industrialized cities because of high-paying jobs. Today about 26 percent of Australia’s population is foreign born. One worker from Lebanon describes his experience to a journalist:

“In this one factory you had people from maybe ten, twelve different countries, all speaking different languages. That’s what Sydney was like. . . . It’s a beautiful . . . country—beautiful. Great weather. Lovely lifestyle. Plenty of opportunity if you want to work hard.”


Throughout Australia and Oceania, meeting the needs of a growing multiethnic population is a major concern. Diversity enriches the region’s languages, arts, music, and lifestyles. At times, however, this same diversity may cause disagreements over issues such as immigration, health benefits, employment, and the effects of colonial rule. The next section highlights the legacy of the past and how it shapes life in Australia and Oceania today. Antarctica, with no permanent population, has a history that is unique to that icy continent.
Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know
Various indigenous peoples lived in Australia and Oceania before the Europeans established colonies there. What indigenous groups in various parts of the world have you read about or seen in movies or on television?

Reading Strategy
Organizing Complete a web diagram similar to the one below by filling in the hardships the Maori faced after British settlement in New Zealand.

Maori Hardships

Read to Find Out
• What were the lifestyles of the region’s indigenous peoples before colonization?
• How did colonial rule affect social, economic, and political structures?
• How do today’s governments reflect the region’s history?

Terms to Know
• clan
• boomerang
• trust territory
• dominion

Places to Locate
• Vanuatu
• Tonga

History and Government

A Geographic View

Pacific Origins
Samoa itself is said to mean “sacred center” . . . [T]his is where the world began as the creator, Tagaloalagi, first called forth earth, sea, and sky from rock . . . Language links and artifacts suggest that the first distinctly Polynesian culture may have developed here some 3,000 years ago. Over the centuries that followed, seafarers in double-hulled sailing vessels stocked with pigs, dogs, and fruits spread that culture across much of the Pacific.

European and American influences in the past three centuries have profoundly changed the indigenous peoples and cultures of the South Pacific area. In this section you will learn about the early inhabitants of Australia and Oceania, the effects of Western settlement and rule in these areas, and the emergence of independent countries and new governments during the past 100 years.

Indigenous Peoples
Historians, anthropologists, archaeologists, and other scientists are continually uncovering new information about the history of early South Pacific peoples. At the same time, after years of Western dominance, indigenous peoples throughout the region are rediscovering their historical roots and are renewing their traditional cultures. All of these developments have heightened global interest in and appreciation of the South Pacific’s pre-European past.
Early Migrations

Various peoples from Asia settled the region of Australia and Oceania more than 40,000 years ago. Some may have migrated to Australia over land bridges during the Ice Age, when ocean levels were much lower than they are today. Others probably used canoes and rafts to reach the South Pacific region.

The reason they came to these areas is a mystery. Because of their connection to the sea, some of these peoples, especially those who came to the South Pacific region, may have regarded exploration as a natural part of daily life. Author Peter Crawford, impressed with the daring of these early explorers, described the early Polynesian:

“A tenacious, seafaring people had abandoned the shores of Southeast Asia and sailed into the Pacific. As their culture developed, they acquired new skills of survival, and new knowledge of the ocean world which became their home... The vibrant Polynesian culture that grew and flourished... is testament to the invention and adaptability of its people.”

Peter Crawford, Nomads of the Wind: A Natural History of Polynesia, 1993

Economics

Indigenous Lifestyles

In the hot, dry Australian interior, the early Aborigines led a nomadic life. They used well-traveled routes to reach water and seasonal food sources. These same routes made trading and social exchanges possible. Clans, or family groups, traveled together within their ancestral territories, carrying only baskets, bowls, spears, and sticks for digging. To hunt animals, Aboriginal men used a heavy throwing stick, called a boomerang, that soars or curves in flight, and the women and children gathered plants and seeds.

In Oceania people settled in family groups along island coasts. For food they relied on fish, turtles,
and shrimp as well as breadfruit and coconuts. Pacific islanders also cultivated root crops, such as taro and yams, and raised smaller animals, such as chickens and pigs. Well-built canoes made lengthy voyages possible, and trade gradually developed among the islands. To make trading easier, people on some islands used long strings of shell pieces as money. Today in New Britain, an island off the northeast coast of Papua New Guinea, shell money still is exchanged for canned goods or vegetables at markets.

Increased trade was accompanied by migrations among the islands. Between the A.D. 900s and 1300s, the Maori people left eastern Polynesia and settled the islands of New Zealand. On New Zealand’s North Island and South Island, Maori groups hunted, fished, established villages, and farmed the land. Maori farmers, like the Pacific islanders, grew root crops, such as taro and yams, which they had brought from their Polynesian homeland.

**European Colonization**

From the 1500s to the 1700s, Europeans of various nationalities explored vast stretches of the South Pacific region. Perhaps the most well-known explorer was the British sailor James Cook, who undertook three voyages to the region between 1768 and
1779. Cook claimed eastern Australia for Great Britain, visited various South Pacific islands, circled Antarctica, and produced remarkably accurate records and maps of these places.

**European Settlement**

Great Britain at first used Australia as a colony for convicts sent out from overcrowded British prisons. The first shipload of prisoners arrived at Botany Bay, in what is today Sydney, in 1788. By the early 1850s, the imprisonment of British convicts in Australia had ended, and growing numbers of free British settlers were establishing coastal farms and settlements. Livestock, especially sheep, were introduced to the continent. As British textile manufacturers increased their demand for wool, Australian settlers profited greatly from exporting wool to the parent country. Another source of wealth for Australia was gold, which was discovered there in the early 1850s. The resulting gold rush nearly tripled Australia’s population in 10 years and also promoted the mining of other mineral resources in the continent’s interior.

Meanwhile, the British and other Europeans were also establishing settlements in Oceania. Attracted by excellent fishing waters and rich soil, British settlers arrived in New Zealand in the early 1800s. They brought with them sheep, cattle, and horses. By the end of the century, raising livestock had become a major part of New Zealand’s economy. On some South Pacific islands, European businesspeople set up commercial plantations for growing sugarcane, pineapples, and other tropical products.

**Indigenous Peoples**

The arrival of Europeans in Australia and Oceania had a disastrous impact on indigenous peoples. As British migrants spread across Australia, they forcibly removed the Aborigines from the land and denied them basic rights. Many Aborigines resisted the European advance, but European diseases and weapons steadily reduced the Aboriginal population. In the mid-1800s, British-Australian authorities placed many Aborigines in reserves, or separate areas.

British settlement in New Zealand brought hardships to the Maori, who died from diseases carried by the newcomers. The Maori social structure also was weakened when the British colonists introduced new ways of farming and other aspects of European culture. As the number of European settlers increased, the British and some Maori chiefs signed a treaty in 1840 that guaranteed the Maori full rights under the British monarchy. Disagreements about the treaty, however, led to armed Maori resistance to British rule over the next 15 years. During these conflicts, many Maori were killed, and the Maori gradually lost most of their land to the British.

The Europeans also brought far-reaching changes to the other peoples of Oceania. Because European diseases had reduced indigenous island populations, the Europeans brought in workers from other Pacific islands and from more distant areas, such as South Asia. The resulting mix of cultures weakened indigenous societies and eventually led to ethnic conflicts. Meanwhile, Europeans sought to replace traditional ways of life with European beliefs and practices.

**Struggle for Power**

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Britain, France, Germany, Spain, and the United States struggled for control of various Pacific islands. Many of these countries already had commercial interests in the area. The Europeans hoped to expand their influence and gain new sources of raw materials.

The two World Wars changed the course of Oceania’s history. After World War I, many of Germany’s Pacific colonies came under Japanese rule. Then in December 1941, Japanese airplanes bombed the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. This attack brought the United States into World War II. During the conflict the United States and Japan fought a number of fierce battles on Pacific islands such as Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima.

Following Japan’s defeat in World War II, Japan’s South Pacific possessions, such as the islands of Micronesia, were turned over to the United States as trust territories. Trust territories were dependent areas that the United Nations placed under the temporary control of a foreign country. Since the 1970s most of these islands, including Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, have become independent countries.

**Independent Governments**

Independence came to most of the South Pacific region during the 1900s. Australia and New Zealand
became the region’s first independent countries in the early 1900s. By the century’s end, most of the Pacific islands had gained independence.

**Australia and New Zealand**

Australia and New Zealand both peacefully won their independence from British rule. In 1901 Britain’s Australian colonies became states, united to form the Commonwealth of Australia. The new Australian country was a dominion, a largely self-governing country within the British Empire. Australia’s form of government blended a United States-style federal system with a British-style parliamentary democracy. The British monarch—represented by a governor general—served as Australia’s head of state, but a prime minister actually headed the national government.

In 1907 New Zealand became a self-governing dominion with a British parliamentary system. New Zealanders, however, contributed some political “firsts” of their own. In 1893 New Zealand became the first country in the world to legally recognize women’s right to vote. New Zealand also was among the first countries to provide government assistance to the elderly, the sick, and the unemployed.

Until World War II, New Zealand and Australia maintained close economic, military, and political ties to Great Britain, now known as the United Kingdom. After 1945 British global influence declined, and the two Pacific countries looked increasingly to the United States for trade and military protection. In addition, Australia and New Zealand developed their own national characters based on increasingly diverse populations. The Aborigines and the Maori won greater recognition of their unique cultural identities, and many non-British immigrants settled in both countries. Many Australians now want to cut ties to the British monarchy and elect a president. In 2002, terrorist attacks on the Indonesian island of Bali shattered Australia’s sense of security. More than a third of the nearly 200 people killed were Australians.

**South Pacific Islands**

Beginning in the 1960s, a number of the small islands in Oceania moved toward independence. Samoa—formerly Western Samoa—had been ruled by Germany until New Zealand assumed control after World War I. In 1962 Samoa became the first Pacific island territory to win its freedom. Today most of the South Pacific islands enjoy some form of independent government. For example, Vanuatu, once jointly governed by the United Kingdom and France, is a republic, and Tonga, formerly under British protection, is a constitutional monarchy. Some island countries, such as Fiji and the Solomon Islands, have been torn by ethnic conflict since independence. Many conflicts have roots in colonial times, when European rulers brought in foreign workers from other cultures, ignoring traditional ethnic and cultural patterns.
**Antarctica**

Europeans first sighted Antarctica during the early 1800s, but they believed that the icy continent had little, if any, commercial value. As a result, expeditions did not venture into Antarctica until much later. In the early 1900s, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and British explorer Robert Scott, each with a team of four people, engaged in a dramatic race to be the first to reach the South Pole. Amundsen’s team reached it on December 14, 1911; Scott’s team arrived about a month later. Unfortunately, Scott and his team died on the return trip.

The race for the South Pole opened the rest of Antarctica for exploration. On their quests, Antarctic explorers looked for economic resources as well as adventure in the frozen landscape. The countries they represented hoped for new trading routes and seal-hunting areas as well as Antarctic mineral resources. Nonetheless, much of Antarctica remained unexplored until advances in radio communication and air travel made exploration easier and safer.

By the 1960s, scientists from 12 countries had established research centers in Antarctica. To preserve Antarctica as a peaceful scientific research site, the 12 countries signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1959. Since then, a number of other countries have agreed to abide by the treaty. In 1991 the treaty countries made an additional agreement to prohibit mining and to protect the environment of this unique continent.
AN EXPEDITION CARRYING TONS OF CANDY, 500 cases of eggs, and 60,000 sheets of writing paper? Where might such an expedition be headed? What conditions would warrant such provisions? These were a small portion of the supplies on a ship that left New York City in 1928, headed for Antarctica. Also aboard were United States Navy officer Richard E. Byrd and a crew of 53 scientists and other professionals.

Lure of the Unknown
The Byrd Antarctic Expedition set out to establish a foothold in one of the most ferocious climates on Earth. Antarctica is the world’s coldest place, where winter temperatures can drop to −129°F (−89°C). Thick ice buries most of the continent. Violent winds lash the Polar Plateau, where the South Pole lies. Glaciers spill out between mountain peaks that rim the coast, creating vast ice shelves that limit access by sea.

In 1928 little was known about Antarctica. Whalers and sealers had hunted its coastal waters in the 1800s. In 1911 Antarctica was the site of the tragic race to the South Pole—Roald Amundsen of Norway made it back, while British explorer Robert Falcon Scott and his team perished. Other than these brave souls, few people had ventured inland. Admiral Byrd was determined to change that.
Little America

Before leaving New York, Byrd spent three years preparing for the inhuman conditions in Antarctica. He worked with numerous experts to determine vital supplies. Clothing was especially important. Reindeer fur proved the warmest and was used for parkas, pants, and boots. Other animal skins, such as sealskin, also were used.

Stopping in New Zealand, the last outpost of civilization, the expedition still had to negotiate iceberg-filled waters to reach the Ross Ice Shelf, the thick expanse of Antarctic ice that would be home for 14 months. Arriving in late 1928, the crew and 80 sled dogs moved more than 650 tons (590 t) of material from ship to shore. The crew built the first scientific station on the frozen continent. A village complete with multiple weather-tight buildings, bunkhouses, and storerooms, the station was named Little America.

Once Little America was established, Byrd launched his assault on Antarctica. Using an airplane he had brought by ship, Byrd and his crew made numerous flights over vast areas never seen by humans. Byrd’s expedition accomplished many firsts: a flight over the South Pole, the mapping of 150,000 square miles (388,000 sq. km) of new territory, the invention of specialized instruments, and more.

Byrd returned to Antarctica four more times to supervise the completion of Little America II through V. His expeditions laid the groundwork for future research and international cooperation. Today the United States and many other countries maintain scientific stations in Antarctica. Scientists work on a variety of projects there, from studying animal behavior to monitoring ozone depletion and global warming.

Looking Ahead

How did the hardships and dangers Byrd and his comrades endured benefit humankind? How might Antarctic research be important to the future of life on Earth?
Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know

World music, which includes musical expressions from many cultures, has become very popular in the United States. What instruments or types of music have you heard that come from other parts of the world?

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read about the cultures and lifestyles of the region, use the major headings of the section to create an outline similar to the one below.

I. A Blend of Cultures
   A. 
   B. 

II. Everyday Life
   A. 
   B. 

Read to Find Out

• What role does religion play in the region’s cultures?
• How have the peoples of Australia and Oceania expressed their heritages through the arts?
• How does everyday life in the region reflect cultural diversity?

Terms to Know

• subsistence farming
• fale

Places to Locate

• Papua New Guinea
• Samoa

Cultures and Lifestyles

A Geographic View

Living in Australia

We’re connected to Europe and North America culturally, but we’re in an Asian time zone, which gives us an advantage. We have a highly educated workforce, ... a first-rate international airport, good communications, and a stable and sophisticated financial system. We have a wonderful climate and attractive lifestyle—good restaurants, nice beaches, an optimistic way of looking at the world that I think outsiders find attractive. Once you develop a critical mass of those things, you find that more and more people want to come and be part of it.


Australia, like other South Pacific countries, blends both European and indigenous elements in its culture. In recent years Asian influences also have increased in the region. In this section you will learn about the religions, arts, and lifestyles of the peoples of Australia and Oceania.

A Blend of Cultures

The movement of different peoples into the South Pacific region has contributed to the shaping of cultures there. Indigenous peoples developed lifestyles in harmony with their natural environment. Later, European immigrants brought their ways of life, using the environment to build Western-oriented societies.
Religion

The religious traditions of the region’s indigenous peoples focus on the relationship of humans to nature. Australia’s Aborigines, for example, believe in the idea of Dreamtime, the early time when they say wandering spirits created land features, plants, animals, and humans. They believe that all natural things—rocks, trees, plants, animals, and humans—have a spirit and are interrelated. Europeans later brought Christianity, which attracted many followers among the indigenous peoples. Christianity is the most widely practiced religion in Australia and Oceania today.

The Arts

South Pacific peoples traditionally used art, music, dance, and storytelling to pass on knowledge from generation to generation. Australian Aborigines, for example, recorded their past in rock paintings and developed songs to pass on information about routes and landmarks. In New Zealand, Maori artisans developed skills in canoe making, basketry, tattooing, and woodcarving. Today Maori meeting houses are decorated with elaborate wood carvings.

After a time of copying European themes and styles, European artists in the region began looking to the South Pacific environment for inspiration.

“Strong emotional ties with the land … are not the sole preserve of the Aborigines. … Australian writers and poets, … composers and painters [have] come to realise that a tangle of eucalyptus trees, red gums in a dried-up steam bed, red rocks and dripping rain forest can have their own powerful visual appeal.”

Roger Fenby, “Walkabout Oz,” BBC World Service (online), August 4, 2000

Graph Study

Australia and Oceania: Religions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Number of Followers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>8,097,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>7,279,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglican</td>
<td>5,386,000</td>
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<td>Eastern Orthodox</td>
<td>691,000</td>
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<td>Hindu</td>
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<td>Other religions</td>
<td>1,232,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonreligious</td>
<td>3,628,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Britannica Book of the Year, 2000; World Almanac, 2001

Geography Skills for Life

1. **Interpreting Graphs** Which two religions have the largest number of followers in the region?

2. **Applying Geography Skills** Why do you think Christian religions are dominant in the region?
In recent decades the South Pacific region has produced a number of outstanding musicians, writers, and artists. Australia’s Joan Sutherland and New Zealand’s Kiri Te Kanawa became famous opera performers. New Zealand author Sylvia Ashton-Warner wrote of her experiences as a schoolteacher in Maori communities. Australian writer Thomas Keneally wrote the novel *Schindler’s List*, which was later made into an award-winning motion picture.

Australia and New Zealand also have contributed well-known movie stars such as Mel Gibson, Nicole Kidman, and Russell Crowe. Filmmakers in both countries have made popular motion pictures, such as *Gallipoli*, *Crocodile Dundee*, *Muriel’s Wedding*, and *The Piano*.

**Everyday Life**

In many parts of Australia and Oceania, people have urban lifestyles that reflect modern influences. In other places in the region, people live in a more traditional way.

**Economics**

**Traditional and Modern Lifestyles**

Some Pacific island countries, such as Papua New Guinea, produce cash crops, including sugarcane, coffee, ginger, and copra—dried coconut meat. Others, such as Kiribati, have soil that is too poor for plantation agriculture. Many Pacific islanders work at *subsistence farming*, growing only enough for their own needs. These farmers grow bananas, coconuts, or sweet potatoes; raise chickens and pigs; or fish in ocean waters. Other islanders work in government offices, in the tourist trade, or in other service industries.

Kinship ties are the basis of traditional life throughout the region, but these bonds have weakened as young people find better job opportunities elsewhere. Even so, important events draw distant family members back home and help maintain the culture.

A typical traditional South Pacific home is very simple in design. On Samoa, this type of simple dwelling is called a *fale* and has a thatched roof for shelter and open sides that allow cooling ocean breezes to circulate. Blinds of coconut palm leaves can be lowered for privacy.

The simplicity of South Pacific island life contrasts greatly with the fast-paced, urbanized lifestyle in parts of Australia and New Zealand, where people are linked to the cities by roads and modern communications technology. A mild climate and nearness to the sea enable many people in the South Pacific region to enjoy outdoor activities.

**Education and Health Care**

The quality of education varies throughout the region. Both Australia and New Zealand provide free, compulsory education until age 15. Literacy rates are high in these two countries, and many students attend universities. Many students in Australia’s remote outback receive and turn in assignments by mail or communicate with teachers by two-way radios.

Australians and New Zealanders, especially those in cities, generally have access to quality medical care and other social services. In some parts of Australia, rugged terrain and long distances
make access to health care difficult. Modern technology, however, allows doctors to consult with patients through the use of two-way radios and through mobile clinics of the Flying Doctor Service.

Indigenous peoples, however, often do not receive these and other benefits. For example, many Aborigines suffer from poverty, malnutrition, and unemployment. In recent years the Australian government and private organizations have been trying to make up for past injustices, and the courts have recognized the claims of Aborigines to government assistance, land, and natural resources.

Many Pacific islanders also lack an adequate standard of living. On remote islands, fresh food, electricity, schools, and hospitals often are limited. Recently island countries, with international assistance, have begun to improve their quality of life.

**Sports and Leisure**

Sports and leisure activities reflect the region’s diversity. Western-style resorts attract tourists to the beaches, where they and the local people enjoy the traditional Pacific island sport of surfing. Traditional sports, such as outrigger canoe racing or spearfishing, are popular, as are Western sports. For example, British settlers brought cricket and rugby to Australia and New Zealand.

In former American territories, islanders play baseball. The French introduced cycling and archery to islands they controlled. Even small communities often have facilities for these and other sports, such as soccer, volleyball, and tennis. In urban areas of Australia and New Zealand, where Western influence dominates, leisure activities include boating, fishing, waterskiing, and other water sports along the metropolitan beaches.

In the next chapter, you will learn how people in Australia and Oceania are meeting the challenges of their environment.
Scientists and researchers who study the earth use satellites to help them gather data. Photographs taken by these satellites orbiting the earth provide a detailed record of conditions and changes on the earth’s surface.

Learning the Skill

Scientists use LANDSAT images to receive a broad view of the surface of the earth. LANDSAT refers to a series of observation satellites that have been launched by the United States since 1972. The most recent satellite, LANDSAT 7, was launched on April 15, 1999. Orbiting at an altitude of about 500 miles (805 km), LANDSAT spacecraft have recorded millions of images of the earth.

The main purpose of LANDSAT is to map and monitor natural resources and changes to the environment. Farmers, government officials, environmentalists, and the military use LANDSAT data, which can be helpful in making decisions that affect the health of the planet. For example, these satellites can identify the locations of tropical forests and provide information about the rates and effects of deforestation.

One of LANDSAT’s main benefits is its ability to capture images of every place on Earth. LANDSAT 7 completes a full orbit of the earth every 99 minutes, allowing over 14 orbits a day. LANDSAT 7 is able to provide photographic coverage of the entire earth in only 16 days.

Follow these steps to analyze a LANDSAT image:

• **Read the title.** This feature explains the data being collected, the location, and the time period.

• **Study the image carefully.** In the images on this page, red indicates healthy vegetation, light blue areas indicate deforested land, and light blue lines indicate roads.

• **Compare different images of the same place.** Notice changes that occur over time.

• **Think about what has caused the changes and how they may affect the area’s physical and human geography.**

Practicing the Skill

The LANDSAT images on this page show an area of tropical forest in Brazil as it appeared in 1975 and in 1992. Use the images to answer the following questions.

1. Which image shows large areas of undisturbed tropical forest?

2. Compare the area in 1975 to the area in 1992.

3. How is the pattern of deforestation in the 1992 image connected to roadways?

4. How do you think these areas have changed in today’s LANDSAT images? Explain your reasoning.

Deforestation in Rondônia, Brazil

1975

1992

Applying the Skill

Locate LANDSAT images of Australia, Oceania, or Antarctica on the Internet. For each image, list its location and the kinds of data it includes. Choose one image, and write a paragraph describing two possible uses for the data.
SUMMARY & STUDY GUIDE

SECTION 1: Population Patterns (pp. 811–815)

**Terms to Know**
- Strine
- pidgin English

**Key Points**
- Many different peoples settled in the South Pacific, resulting in diverse cultures and lifestyles.
- The population of the South Pacific is unevenly distributed because both the physical geography and the climate differ dramatically from place to place and because many areas cannot support life.
- Migration between and within South Pacific countries has influenced population patterns and caused a blending of cultures.

**Organizing Your Notes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Populations</th>
<th>Migration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 2: History and Government (pp. 816–821)

**Terms to Know**
- clan
- boomerang
- trust territory
- dominion

**Key Points**
- Many of the area’s earliest inhabitants came from Southeast Asia and survived by hunting, gathering, and, in some cases, farming.
- European countries were attracted to the area by its raw materials, rich fishing areas, and fertile coastal land.
- During the late 1800s and early 1900s, European countries, Japan, and the United States sought possessions in the region.
- Australia, New Zealand, and a number of Pacific islands are independent; a few island groups are still under foreign rule.

**Organizing Your Notes**

History and Government
I. Indigenous Peoples
   A. Early Migrations
   B. Indigenous Lifestyles
II.  

SECTION 3: Cultures and Lifestyles (pp. 824–827)

**Terms to Know**
- subsistence farming
- fale

**Key Points**
- The culture of the South Pacific is a mixture of Western and indigenous lifestyles.
- Some people in the area still live in traditional villages; others live in modern urban areas.
- Modern technology helps provide services to people in some remote areas.

**Organizing Your Notes**

Use a web like the one below to help you organize your notes for this section.

Cultures and Lifestyles
- Traditional
- Modern
Critical Thinking
1. **Identifying Cause and Effect** How did the South Pacific’s physical geography contribute to its cultural diversity?

2. **Comparing and Contrasting** In what ways were European influences similar in Australia and in New Zealand? Different?

3. **Problem Solving** Use a Venn diagram to compare the lifestyles and living standards of indigenous and European peoples in the region.

**Reviewing Key Terms**

Write the key term that best completes each of the following sentences. Refer to the Terms to Know in the Summary & Study Guide on page 829.

1. The Micronesian islands became a(n) ______ after World War II.

2. In some parts of Oceania, ______ is spoken.


4. A(n) ______ provides simple shelter on tropical islands.

5. In 1901 Australia became a(n) ______ of Great Britain.

6. Some islanders still make their livings by ______.

7. The ______ was originally a hunting tool.

8. Each aboriginal family group traveled as a(n) ______.

**Reviewing Facts**

**SECTION 1**

1. Who were the original settlers of Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania?

2. How has geography influenced settlement patterns in the region?

**SECTION 2**

3. What ways of life did Pacific indigenous peoples practice?

4. In what ways did European settlement influence the region?

5. Why was the Antarctic treaty established in 1959?

**SECTION 3**

6. How have the arts enriched life in the South Pacific region?

7. What are some characteristics of modern lifestyles in Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania?
Using the Regional Atlas
Refer to the Regional Atlas on pages 784–787.

1. Region  What part of Australia has most of the country's coal deposits?

2. Human-Environment Interaction  Which physical features limit economic activity in central Australia?

Thinking Like a Geographer
Analyze the effects of processes, such as migration and colonization, on the traditional cultures of the South Pacific’s indigenous peoples.

Problem-Solving Activity
Contemporary Issues Case Study  The issue of land rights in Australia and New Zealand involves cultural divergence, or separation, between indigenous peoples and those currently using the land. Use print resources and the Internet to research the opposing viewpoints on this issue. Then, write a paragraph stating a possible solution.

GeoJournal
Expository Writing  Using the information you logged in your GeoJournal as you read this chapter, write a paragraph comparing and contrasting two cultures in the region. Use your textbook and the Internet as resources to make your information as clear and accurate as possible. Provide visuals to illustrate your ideas.

Technology Activity
Using the Internet for Research
Use the Internet to research a specific cultural group in the region. Identify at least three Web sites you used in your research. After you have completed your research, create a poster to illustrate one aspect of the group’s culture, such as homes, clothing, or the arts.

Standardized Test Practice
Choose the best answer for each of the following multiple-choice questions. If you have trouble answering the questions, use the process of elimination to narrow your choices.

1. Which of the following has influenced population distribution in the South Pacific?
   A  Distance from North America
   B  Location of rivers
   C  Climate
   D  Animal domestication

2. When a group of people is described as indigenous, it means that they are
   F  highly dependent on the agriculture of a region.
   G  the governing party of a region.
   H  the earliest inhabitants of a land.
   J  a culturally isolated group.