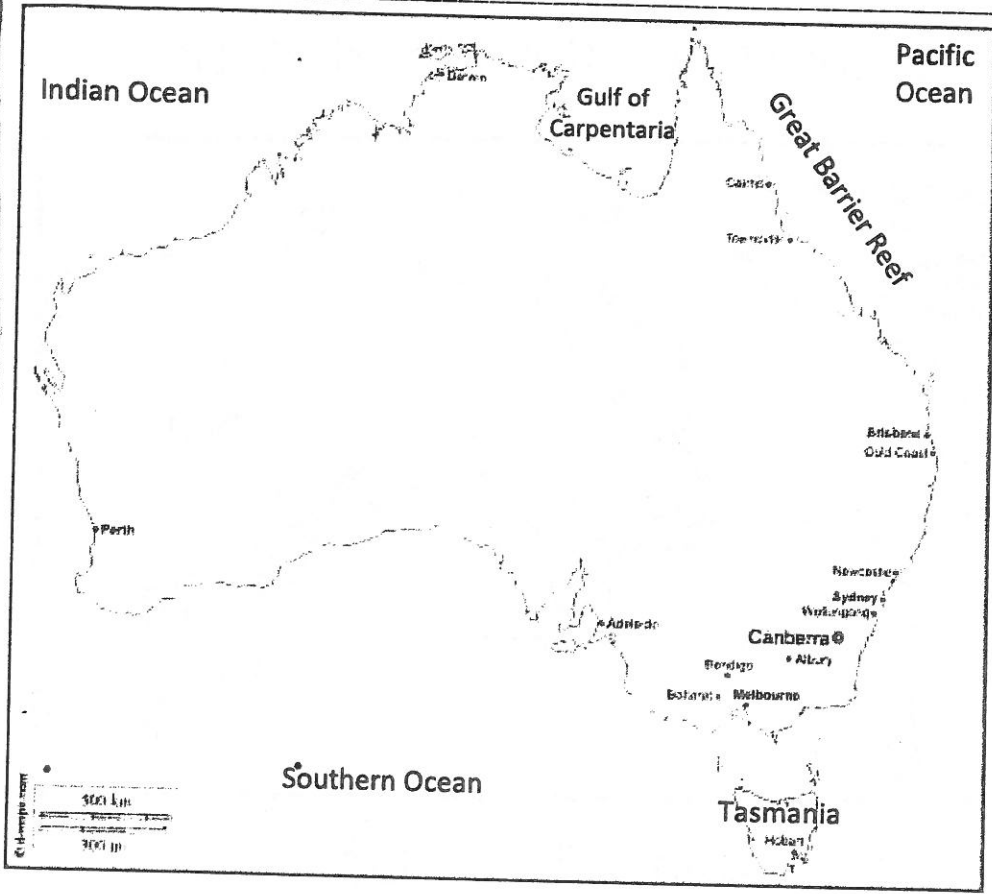


# AUSTRALIA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



1. What is the capital of Australia?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. If you traveled from Perth to Darwin, which direction would you be going?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which three oceans border Australia?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which island is to the south of Australia? \_\_\_\_\_

5. The famous Opera House is in Sydney. To get there from Adelaide, which direction would you need to travel?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. If you wanted to snorkel in the Great Barrier Reef, which direction would you need to go if you were coming from Bendigo? \_\_\_\_\_

7. The Gulf of Carpentaria is to the north of Australia. Describe what a gulf is.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

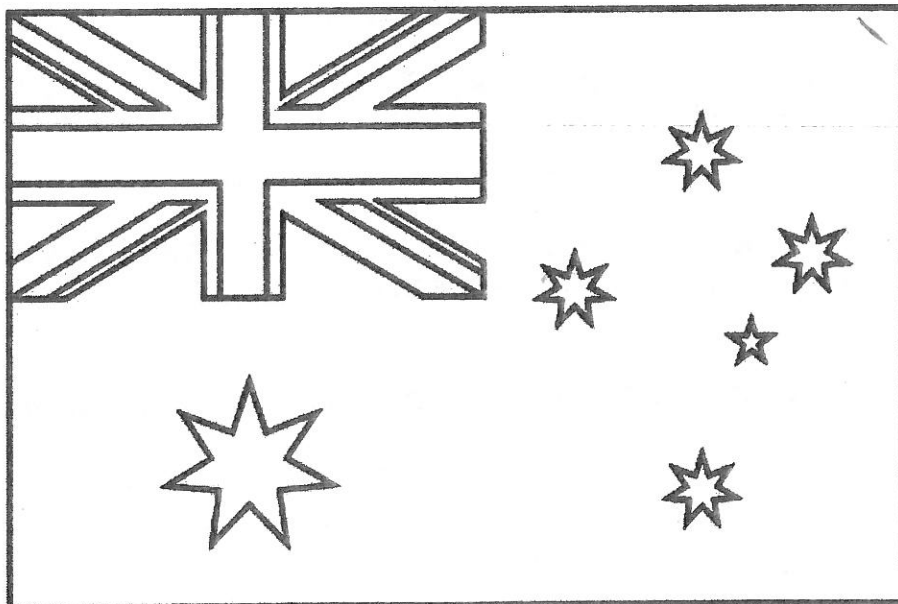
# AUSTRALIA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Color Australia on the World Map:



Color Australia's Flag



red

cross and  
"X" outlined in  
white

blue  
background

white  
stars

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD: AUSTRALIA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

When December rolls around in Australia, it is one of the hottest months of the year! Kids are out of school for about six weeks, and love to spend time outdoors swimming, sailing, surfing, and riding bicycles. No such thing as a white Christmas for most Australians!

Even without the cold weather, people in Australia love to celebrate Christmas. They send Christmas cards to friends and family and children write letters to Santa. They like to attend plays about the Christmas story, and they sometimes decorate the outsides of their homes with lights. Inside their homes, they decorate with Christmas trees or a Christmas bush (native plant), tinsel, glass ornaments, snowmen, fake snow and Santa Claus figures. Some decorations have six white kangaroos pulling Santa's sleigh and there's a song that many children sing at school called *Six White Boomers* by Rolf Harris. Another decoration you might see is Santa dressed for the beach.

One popular activity is called Carols by Candlelight. This takes place a few days before Christmas and thousands of people gather to sing Christmas Carols together. The largest one started in 1938 and is still held at Melbourne's King's Domain Gardens. Smaller versions can be found in several Australian towns.

On Christmas Eve, some families attend Mass (church service) together. When they get home, sometimes the father will place a candle in the window to symbolize welcoming Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. The youngest child is the one usually chosen to light this candle. On Christmas Eve, children hang up their stockings or pillow cases for Santa to fill. They leave a glass of milk for Santa and some carrots for the reindeer.

When the children wake up on Christmas morning, presents are opened and many families have a breakfast of ham and eggs. The Christmas meal is celebrated in different ways across the country. Some people still cook a traditional English style meal with roasted turkey, stuffing, potatoes and gravy, peas, carrots and plum pudding for dessert. Many families now though, like to have their big meal at a beach, at a park, at a campsite, or even in their own backyard. Since it is so hot, they may grill some meat or simply have cold turkey or ham, seafoods and salads. Dessert might be custard or Pavlova, which is meringue topped with whipped cream and fresh fruit.

December 26th is also a holiday and is called Boxing Day. Many Australians enjoy watching sporting events on this day, like the Australian Cricket Team match, called "The Boxing Day Test", or they may watch the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, which starts at Sydney Harbour.

1. What is the weather like during the Christmas season in Australia?

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2. Make an inference. Why do you think some of the Santa decorations in Australia have Santa dressed up for the beach, instead of in his traditional red suit?

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3. Compare and contrast the decorations in Australia and the decorations in your country. How are they similar? How are they different? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Look at the two types of Christmas meals in Australia. If you lived in Australia, which type of meal would you prefer? Why?

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5. Which two sporting events do Australians typically watch on Boxing Day?

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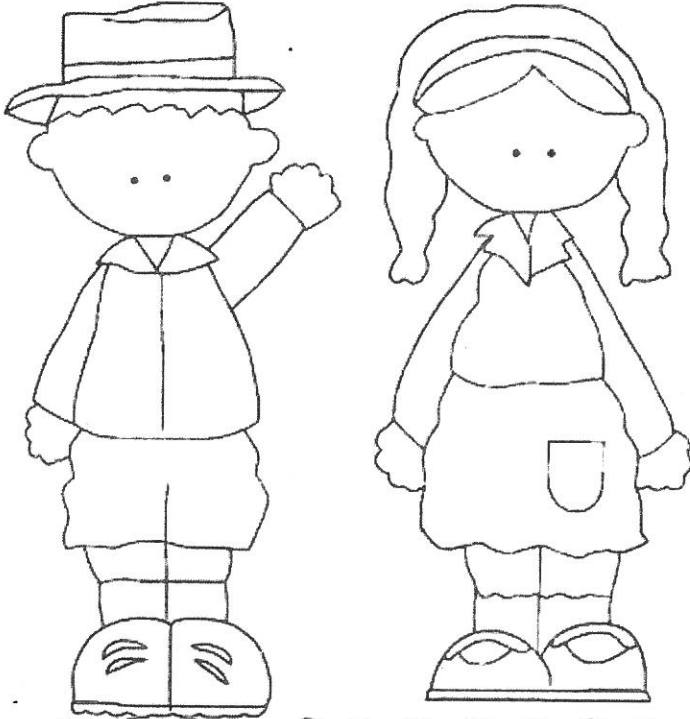
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# AUSTRALIA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



HOW TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS:  
Happy Christmas  
or  
Merry Christmas

Gift Giver:

An Australian Tradition:

Traditional Holiday Food:

