

College Guild
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Travel

~ Australia & New Zealand ~

Unit 4 of 5

AUSTRALIA

1. What comes to mind when you think of Australia?

You may not know that Australia started out as the world's first penal colony. In 1788, England was facing a tough decision: after the Revolutionary War (which America won), they could no longer send their prisoners across the Atlantic. They decided to send their criminals to Australia, and that year they sent over 736 convicts to "the land down under." The convicts were chained beneath the deck, and about ten percent of them died on this first voyage over. These were not all violent prisoners either; one convict sent over on that first trip was a seventy-year-old woman who stole cheese. If the convicts tried to escape they were then sent to an island 600 miles east of Australia.

2. Write a ten-line dialogue between two prisoners in the bottom of the boat on their voyage to Australia.

3. How should England have dealt with their prisoners?

However, Australia was inhabited far before England sent their prisoners there. Known as the Torres Strait Islanders, Australia's first inhabitants were believed to have walked over a land bridge (now covered by water) from South-east Asia. There were estimated to have been 750,000 - 1,000,000 indigenous people before the English settled in Australia. British colonies were set up in the years after the penal colony was founded, and since these colonies were established, there has been a drastic decline in the number of native Australians.

4. Why do you think the native population declined so drastically?

The city of Melbourne, located in the state of Victoria, was once a vital meeting place for the indigenous clans of Australia. The Wurundjeri, Boonwurrung, and Wathaurong would meet in Melbourne as there were ample food and water sources. When it was discovered that there was gold in Victoria in 1851, there was an influx of people into Melbourne, causing the population to grow from 25,000 to 40,000 quite rapidly. Since 2011, it has been named "the world's most livable city" by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

5. If you had a steady paying job and a family, would you have risked moving to Melbourne in hopes of finding gold in 1851? Why or why not?

6. What do you think makes a city the "most livable"?

Currently, Melbourne is the second most populous city in Australia, with over four million people living there. The Port of Melbourne is Australia's busiest seaport, and Melbourne also has the world's largest urban tram network.

7. Do you think the seaport or the tram network contributes more to the city? Why?



A koala

You might end up taking a walk to the Melbourne Zoo, where you can see animals unique to Australia! The zoo even offers special events that allow you to *meet* the animals; you can feed and have your picture taken with a giraffe, giant tortoise, kangaroo, meerkat, squirrel monkey, or seal. The kangaroo is an especially popular one with tourists, as there are fifty-five species of kangaroo native to Australia. One fascinating fact about kangaroos is that the mother kangaroo can delay gestation of her offspring if there are environmental factors that might diminish the baby's chance of survival.

8. What might some of these negative environmental factors be?

The baby kangaroo is born extremely early (equal to the seventh week of pregnancy for a human) and spends the next several months in the mother's pouch. It will then begin to explore the world, but may still return to the pouch, and even jump into it head first if something frightens it. Kangaroos also have incredible hearing. They are able to swivel their ears in different directions without moving their heads.

9. Would you rather have extraordinary hearing or eyesight? Explain why.

Have you ever heard someone refer to a furry Australian marsupial as a "koala bear?" Apparently, the first settlers from Europe thought that the mammals were bears, but koalas are actually more closely related to kangaroos than to bears!

10. What are two different species that look or act alike? Explain their similarities and differences.

Because koalas are marsupials, the females have pouches where the young are raised (like kangaroos), except the koala's pouch opens downward. They're also quite the fussy eaters! Koalas eat only two or three types of eucalyptus leaves -- there are over 600 types and the koala uses its amazing sense of smell to choose its favorites. The eucalyptus leaves are often poisonous to other animals, but koalas have special bacteria in their stomachs that break down the poisonous oils in the plant. Of course, eating plants all day long means the koala doesn't take in many calories -- to compensate for this they conserve energy by sleeping about TWENTY hours a day!

11. How do you think the baby koalas stay in the pouch if it opens downward?

12. Write a bedtime story for a koala mother to tell her baby.

Melbourne has several sister cities as well: Osaka, Japan; Tianjin, China; Thessaloniki, Greece; Boston, Massachusetts, US; Saint Petersburg, Russia; Zagreb, Croatia; and Milan, Italy. Thessaloniki is an important city in Greece, acting as a

cultural, economical, and political hub, and housing one of the biggest ports on the Mediterranean. Thessaloniki and Melbourne officially became "sister cities" on March 19, 1984. Melbourne has the largest Greek-speaking population outside of Europe, so The Thessaloniki Association was created to continue to foster a relationship between these large Greek populations. The two cities also bond over the large ports that help their cities prosper.

13. Pick two other cities you think would be good sister cities and explain the connection.

Thessaloniki was also named "the best mid-sized European city of the future for human capital and lifestyle," by Financial Times in 2014. The Port of Thessaloniki is the second largest port in Greece, and around fifteen million tons of product go through the port as trade to and from countries nearby. As well as being an economic hub, the Port of Thessaloniki is also the second most important *commercial* port in Greece. The Royal Caribbean International (a famous cruise ship company) even wants to add the port as one of its destinations.

14. What do you find the most interesting about Thessaloniki? How about Melbourne? Why?

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is a country made of two islands, the North Island and South Island, that lie about 900 miles east of Australia. Because New Zealand is so remote, it was one of the last islands to be settled by humans, meaning there was a diverse niche of plants and animals never seen by humans. In 1250-1300 CE, Polynesians were believed to have made their way to New Zealand and the Māori culture emerged. The Māori continue to place emphasis on oral traditions, such as songs, story-telling, music, and poetry. A big ceremonial event for the Māori is the "tangihanga." The tangihanga is a ceremony that sends the dead off to the afterlife and supports the living family.

15. How do you imagine the tangihanga differs from a traditional Western funeral?

In 2002 a film about the Māori culture called "Whale Rider" was released. The move was coproduced by New Zealand and Germany. It follows the life of a twelve-year old Māori girl, named Kahu Paikea Apirana, who wants to be the chief of her tribe -- a role the grandfather believes should be held only by males. The film deals with issues of equality and changing traditions.

16. Give an example of when it was necessary to revise tradition and why. What was the reaction among the general population?

You may find it surprising to know that only 5% of the New Zealand population is human, the rest are animals! One animal, a flightless bird called the "kiwi", is the national bird of New Zealand. In fact, the bird is so strongly associated with the culture that New Zealanders are often referred to as "Kiwis." New Zealand has borrowed words from Australian, British, and American English; however they also have "slang" completely unique to their language. Below are some New Zealand words/phrases -- guess what they mean and you can check Appendix 1 after for the answers!

- 17. (a) "fang it" --
- (b) "get your beans" --
- (c) "knackered" --
- (d) "munted" --
- (e) "sweet as!" --
- (f) "rattle your dags!" --
- (g) "togs" --
- (h) "stoked" --

The oldest city in New Zealand, established in 1856, is Christchurch. Christchurch is located on the South Island, and is in the region of Canterbury. Canterbury was used as one of the filming locations for the well-known *Lord of the Rings* series. The trilogy follows a hobbit named Frodo, who has been given the task of traveling to the Cracks of Doom to destroy a ring filled with dark magic. The film crew set up several different locations across New Zealand, taking advantage of the country's lush and varied landscape. The movie had a budget of \$280 million.

18. If you had \$280 million dollars to give away to charity, which one/s would you choose?

The *Lord of the Rings* and eventual *Hobbit* series, both filmed in New Zealand, deal with the subject of wizards and mythical creatures. In 1967, Christchurch became home to a real-life, non-fictional wizard who, in a 2012 article, says he "spent the past 40 years of [his] life in a largely solo attempt to re-enchant the world." Known as "The Wizard of Christchurch," Ian Brackenbury Channell was a Sociology lecturer at the University of New South Wales when he started a revitalization movement called ALF -- Action for Love and Freedom. In this movement he tried to bring together two ideologies: that of the hippies who yearned for love, and that of the activists who yearned for freedom from religious/business corporations. He also called this the "Fun Revolution." He was declared as unprofessional and taken from his job as a professor, but after much consideration, was given the title of the official "Wizard of the University of New South Wales." Going against the "mechanistic science and economic development" he believes comes with religious fundamentalism, the Wizard is working to become a pure, self-created being, or a "Living Work of Art." He says he has "cast spells for the Rugby team", "defied Census authorities", and "broken several droughts by highly publicized rain dances here [New Zealand] and in Australia, without any failures."

19. Do you believe there are wizards in the world?

20. The Wizard created the ALF revitalization movement. What would be your goals if you had the power to start a movement?

21. If the wizard was truly a prophet, what is one thing you would want to know about the world's future?

Though the Wizard of Christchurch helps bring in tourists, Canterbury also went through a huge campaign to help promote the benefits of living and working in South Canterbury. There was a video made by Tekapo Springs that follows the life of a tourist and a local sheep. It became quite famous, making many people laugh and advertising the Canterbury region.



Kiwi



Rugby



The Wizard of Christchurch

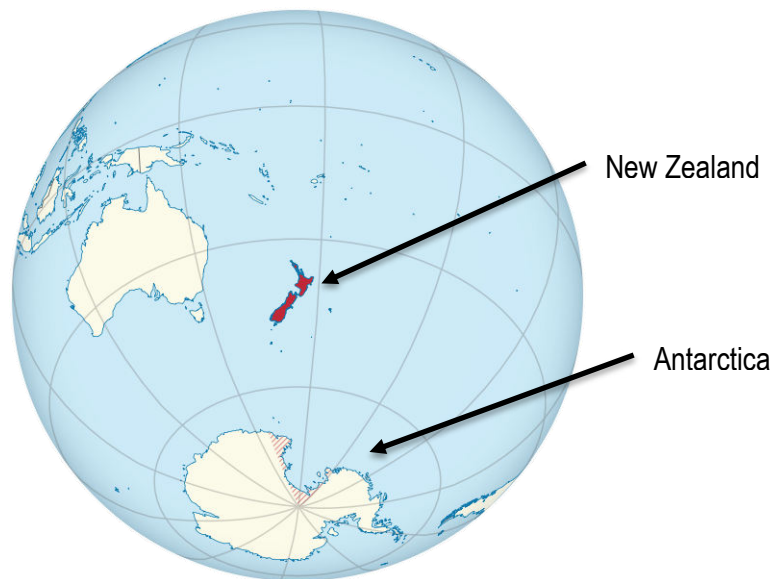
When in New Zealand, many people also hope to see a rugby game, which has become an integral part of New Zealand culture. Founded in 1870, Rugby is now the unofficial national sport of New Zealand. It's played by about 150,000 New

Zealanders and the national team, the *All Blacks*, has won several Rugby World Cups. Their accomplishments have brought pride to the nation, and there have been ceremonial dances and endless media attention dedicated to the sport. It's reported that sometimes as many as 5,000 people will show up just to watch the *All Blacks* practice.

22. What is it about sports that attracts so many rabid fans?

There are several parks dedicated to playing rugby, cricket, and netball among other sports. In fact, Christchurch has so many gardens and parks it has been named "The Garden City." With 1/3 of all public land devoted to parks and reserves, it's easy to see why Christchurch is famed for its beautiful displays of native flowers and plants. In 1909, the first rose garden was established, consisting of 132 beds and around 2500 rose bushes. It was considered the finest rosarium in Australasia.

23. Why are roses such a popular flower? Why do you think they symbolize love?



As you can see from the map above, New Zealand is relatively close to Antarctica. Christchurch has been involved with Antarctica exploration for years, especially noting the treks of Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton. In the city center there is a statue of Robert Scoot, which was sculpted by his wife Kathleen. The Canterbury Museum also holds many artifacts and stories from the Antarctic explorations. The Christchurch Airport is also used as a takeoff for planes from the United States that are visiting their bases in Antarctica. Christchurch's Clothing Distribution Center also has more than 140,000 pieces designed for extraordinarily cold weather.

On September 4, 2010, an earthquake of 7.1 magnitude hit the Canterbury area, causing severe damage but fortunately, no fatalities. A few months later, on February 22, 2011, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake hit Canterbury again, bringing tragedy to the surrounding Christchurch area. The earthquake only lasted around ten seconds, but 185 people were killed in the aftermath. More than half of the deaths occurred in the Canterbury Television Building, which caught fire upon collapsing. Many more buildings were destroyed, and this event was named New Zealand's costliest natural disaster. Economists estimate it will take Christchurch's economy 50-100 years to recover, and will cost over fifteen billion (in NZ currency).

24. Write a poem in the voice of a natural disaster (earthquake, hurricane, tsunami, avalanche, etc.)

Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes

Appendices Travel: Unit 4 of 5

Appendix 1

- (a) to go fast
- (b) get what's coming to you; be punished
- (c) tired; worn out
- (d) destroyed, trashed, broken; a weird or odd person
- (e) cool! awesome!
- (f) hurry up!
- (g) a swimsuit
- (h) very pleased; delighted

Citations

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