

# Lecture 8

## Australia and New Zealand

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3. Administrative division and the population
4. Government
5. National anthem, flag and the coat-of-arms
6. Australia's main cities
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#### II. New Zealand

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2. The first European settlements
3. New Zealand's main cities
4. Government
5. National anthem, flag and coat of arms
5. Plants and animals

# 1. Geographical and climatic features of Australia

Australia is the world's smallest, flattest, and driest continent. It is the biggest island and the smallest continent in the world. Australia is the oldest continent on earth.

Australia is located south of Asia, between the Pacific and Indian ocean.

Australia's area of 7,682,300 sq. km. Australia is the flattest of all continents.



The centre of the continent is taken by the deserts: Great Sandy Desert; Great Victori Desert, Simpson Desert.

There are few rivers and lakes in Australia.

Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere, so the seasons are the other way round. Summer is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August, and spring from September to November. It is sometimes called Down Under because of its geographical position.

Because of the country's great size, the climate of Australia ranges from the tropical regions of the Northern Territory to the cool temperate conditions in the southeast.

Australia's coldest regions are in Tasmania and in the southeast it comes of the mainland.

January and February are the hottest months, June and July are the coldest months.



## **2. First European settlement**

Australia was the last continent to be inhabited by the white man.

The first landing by Europeans took place in 1606.

Until the name "Australia" (meaning "South Land") became generally accepted for the continent, it had been referred to as New Holland, New South Wales, or Botany Bay.

Gradually more and more people arrived and a number of settlements were founded along the southern and eastern coasts.

In 1901 the separate colonies in Australia merged together and became the States of the Commonwealth of Australia

### 3. Administrative division and the population

The official name of the country is The Commonwealth of Australia. There are six states and two territories in Australia. Northern Territory is one of the two Australia territories. The official name of the country is The Commonwealth of Australia.

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New South Wales is the first state in Australia. It has the biggest population, is most industrialized and is a leader in agricultural production.

Western Australia is the largest state of Australia. Tasmania is the only island state of Australia



The state of Victoria is the smallest of Australia's inland states. Queensland is the second largest state of Australia after Western Australia. Australia is the least populated of the world's continents, its population being only 18.3 million people.

Now Australia is a multicultural society: nearly five million people are settlers from almost 200 nations. One in every five Australians was born overseas, half of those come from a country where English is not the first language.



## **4. Government**

Australia is an independent sovereign nation within the Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth II is formally Queen of Australia and is represented by a Governor-General and six State Governors.

Each state has its own constitution, governor (the monarch's representative), executive (drawn from the parliament), and legislative and judicial system. Each territory has its own legislative assembly. The main political parties are the Liberal Party, the National Party (normally in coalition), the Australian Labor Party, and the Australian Democrats.

Australia is a federation of the states in which legislative powers are divided between the Australian Federal Parliament (located in Canberra) and the six state parliaments.

The Federal Parliament has two chambers: the House of Representatives (the Lower House) and the Senate (the Upper House).

## 5. National anthem, flag and the coat-of-arms



### *he National Anthem*

## **ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR**

*Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are young and free,  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,  
We'll toil with hearts and hands;  
To make this Commonwealth of ours  
Renowned of all the lands;  
For those who've come across the seas  
We've boundless plains to share;  
With courage let us all combine  
To Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.*





## 6. Australia's main cities

Australia's people are city dwellers. Less than one third of the population lives outside Australia's cities and towns.

More and more of Australia's people are moving away from rural areas into the towns and cities.

Most important among them are: Adelaide, Alice Springs, Brisbane, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Hobart, Geelong, Newcastle, Townsville, Wollongong.

More than 80 per cent of Australia's population live in the capital cities of the six states (Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth).

## 7. Plants and animals

Australia is sometimes called “The Land of Wattle”, “Kangarooland”, “The Lucky Country”.

Australia has 20,000 species of plants and brilliant wildflowers such as the red and green kangaroo paw. The continent has 700 species of acacia, which Australians call wattle, and 1200 species eucalypti or gum trees. Many of the trees lose their bark not their leaves and a lot of flowers have no smell. Although predominantly evergreen, vegetation ranges from the dense bushland of the coast to the mulga and mallee scrub of in- land plains. Palms, ferns, and vines grow prolifically among the oaks, ash, cedar, brush box and beeches.

The wild flowers of the region are varied and spectacular.  
Australian states and territories have their own floral emblems.  
There are many national parks in Australia

Australia's best-known animals are the kangaroo, koala, dingo (wild dog), Tasmanian devil (marsupial), wombats (bearlike marsupials), opossum, spiny anteater (or echidna), platypus. There are crocodiles in the north. The koala is one of the most famous and best-loved animals.

Two thirds of Australia's native mammals are marsupials.

Some of Australia's best known birds are the emu (which cannot fly), lyrebird, bower-bird, kookaburra (or laughing jackass), black swan and many varieties of cockatoos and parrots.

Australia's coastal waters and rivers contain many varieties of fish.

## **1. Physical features and climate of New Zealand**

New Zealand (Aotearoa) is an Island Nation, situated midway between the Equator and the South Pole in the southern Pacific Ocean.

The distance between the two countries is more than 1,600 kilometers. The countries are separated by the Tasman sea.

The area of New Zealand is 270.534 sq. kilometers. It is a small, quiet and green country, with only 3.5 million people

New Zealand has two large islands, one smaller island, and numerous much smaller islands. The main islands are the North Island (114.500 sq. km) and the South Island (150.700 sq. km). There is a great number of small islands, some of them far away from the main group.

New Zealand rivers are mainly short and swift.

New Zealand has an oceanic climate, without extremes of heat or cold. The yearly range of temperatures is quite small, with about 10 degrees Celsius variation between winter and summer. New Zealand enjoys long hours of sunshine throughout the year.

Temperatures are higher in the north of the country with subtropical warmth in summer. Winter brings much snow in the Southern Alps.

Situated in the mid-latitude westerly wind belt and surrounded by the open ocean, New Zealand has a temperate, moist, and mark time climate.

Snow is common only in the mountains.

Temperatures are moderate, with no great extremes except in limited areas of high altitude. As New Zealand lies south of the equator, temperatures are generally warmer in the north than in the south.

## **2. The first European settlements**

The Dutch navigator Abel Janszoon Tasman was the first European to sight New Zealand in 1642.

The first European shore stations in New Zealand, established after 1790, were chiefly for hunting seals and whales, obtaining timber and flax, and trade with the growing Australian colonies. A missionary visit in 1814 led to the founding of the first mission station at the Bay of Islands.

Traders supplying whalers drew Maori into their economic activity, buying provisions and supplying trade goods, implements, muskets, and mm. Initially the Maori welcomed the newcomers.

Europeans soon founded colonies in the unsettled regions.

### 3. New Zealand's main cities

The majority of New Zealanders live in cities and towns, which have changed in their importance relative to each other. The main New Zealand's cities and towns are: Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton, Dunedin, Whangarei, Rotorua, Gisborne, New Plymouth, Napier/Hastings, Wanganui, Palmerston North, Nelson, Blenheim, Westport, Greymouth, Hokitika, Timaru, Wanaka Queenstown, Oamaru, Invercargill.

Although the country is about the same size as Japan, Italy or Great Britain, it is not as densely populated.

The population is very unevenly distributed. Three fourths of New Zealanders, (including more than 95 percent of the Maori) live on the warmer North Island.

About 73 percent of the population of New Zealand is of European (mainly British) descent. About 12 percent are Maori, a Polynesian group  
New Zealand was one of the last land areas to be populated by human beings. It was first settled by Polynesians.

## 4. Government

New Zealand is a sovereign, independent state and a member of the Commonwealth.

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy. The British monarch is the head of state, represented by the governor-general.

Parliament consists of only a single chamber, the House of Representatives. Its members are elected every three years. There are 120 members.

The parliament seats in Wellington in the building which is called The Beehive because of its form. The prime-minister's residence in Wellington is known as Vogel House.

Executive action nominally is taken on behalf of the governor-general, who is appointed by the British monarch.

The two main parties in the House of Representatives during the past 50 years have been the National Party and the Labour Party.

The Prime Minister is the leader of the party in power.



## 5. National anthem, flag and coat of arms

### English Version

God of Nations at Thy feet,  
In the bonds of love we meet,  
Hear our voices, we entreat,  
God defend our free land.  
Guard Pacific's triple star  
From the shafts of strife and war,  
Make her praises heard afar,  
God defend New Zealand.

Men of every creed and race,  
Gather here before Thy face,  
Asking Thee to bless this place,  
God defend our free land.  
From dissension, envy, hate,  
And corruption guard our State,  
Make our country good and great,  
God defend New Zealand.

Peace, not war, shall be our boast,  
But, should foes assail our coast,  
Make us then a mighty host,  
God defend our free land.  
Lord of battles in Thy might,  
Put our enemies to flight,  
Let our cause be just and right,  
God defend New Zealand.

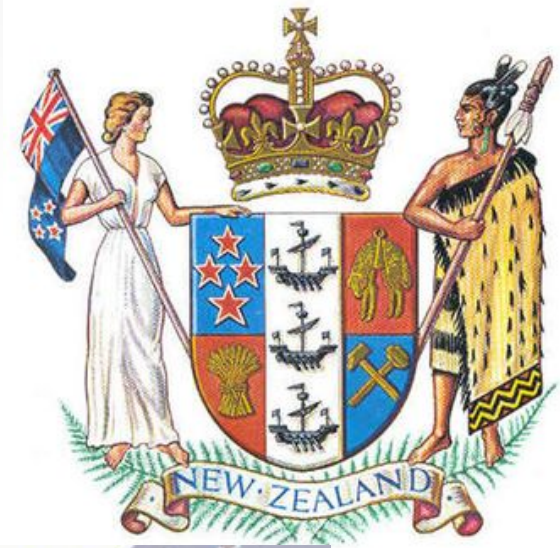
<http://National-Anthems.net>

### Māori Version

E Ihowā Atua,  
O ngā iwi mātou rā  
āta whakarongona;  
Me aroha noa  
Kia hua ko te pai;  
Kia tau tō atawhai;  
Manaakitia mai  
Aotearoa

ōna mano tāngata  
Kiri whero, kiri mā,  
Iwi Māori Pākehā,  
Rūpeke katoa,  
Nei ka tono ko ngā hē  
Māu e whakaahu kē,  
Kia ora mārire  
Aotearoa

Tōna mana kia tū!  
Tōna kaha kia ū;  
Tōna rongo hei pakū  
Ki te ao katoa  
Aua rawa ngā whawhai  
Ngā tutū a tata mai;  
Kia tupu nui ai  
Aotearoa



### National Anthem

*God of Nations at thy feet      Guard Pacific's triple star  
In the bonds of love we meet      From the shafts of strife and war  
Hear our voices, we entreat,      Make her praises heard afar  
God defend our free land.      God defend New Zealand*



## **5. Plants and animals**

New Zealand plant life is remarkable: out the country's 2000 species, about 1500 are endemics

most of the New Zealand flora and fauna is indigenous/endemic.

The vegetation of New Zealand has great variety. Before man arrived, most of New Zealand was forested.

North Island has predominantly subtropical vegetation

The most famous New Zealand tree is the great kauri tree.

In New Zealand one can see the world's largest flightless parrot (kakapo), the only truly alpine parrot (kea), the oldest reptile (tuatara), the biggest earthworms, the largest weta, the smallest bats, some of the oldest trees, and many of the rarest birds, insects, and plants in the world

There are 44 species of reptiles in the islands, but there are no snakes. There were two species of lizard

New Zealand has a large population of wild birds, including 23 native species: the flightless kiwi, takahe, kakapo, albatross and weka among them.

In the absence of predatory animals, New Zealand was a paradise for birds, the most interesting of which are flightless.

Some birds are peculiar to New Zealand, but many others, such as the tui, the fantail, and the bellbird, are closely related to Australian birds.