



环球英语直通车·学生英语阅读世界丛书

Reading Australia



仓兰菊\编著

阅读 澳大利亚



广东教育出版社



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Australia is a vast island continent lying south of Indonesia (印尼) and Papua New Guinea (巴布亚新几内亚). It lies between the Pacific and Indian oceans. It is the only continent without current volcanic activity (火山活动) and also the only nation to occupy an entire continent. Its landmass (大陆) of nearly 7.7 million square kilometers makes it the sixth largest country in area. Australia measures some 4,000 km east to west and 3,200 km north to south.

It is the flattest continent and the second driest after Antarctic, but it has extremes of climate and topography (地形). The Australian Alps (阿尔卑斯山) in the southeast contain Australia's highest ground. More than one-fifth of its land area is desert, more than two-thirds are arid (干旱的) or semi-arid (半干旱的), unsuitable for settlement. Much of the interior (内部) of the country is flat but with poor soil and hardly anybody lives there. Most of the population lives on the narrow eastern coastal plain (滨海平原) and on the southeastern coast. The continent-long Great Dividing Range (大分水岭) runs north-south down the eastern seaboard (沿海地区), separating the



coastal plain from the drier inland areas. Corals came and settled on a flooded coastal plain, forming the Great Barrier Reef(大堡礁)of Queensland(昆士兰).

1. Australia is a continent that is all of the following except _____.
 - A. the driest continent
 - B. the flattest continent
 - C. the one that occupies a whole continent
 - D. the one that has no current volcanic activity
2. More than one-fifth of the land area of Australia is _____.
 - A. rainforests
 - B. croplands
 - C. desert
 - D. plains
3. Australia measures some _____ east to west.
 - A. 7,700 km
 - B. 4,000 km
 - C. 3,200 km
 - D. 6,000 km
4. Most of the population lives _____.
 - A. on the eastern coastal plain
 - B. on the southeastern coast
 - C. both A and B
 - D. in the interior
5. Which of the following is true about the Great Dividing Range?
 - A. It is continent-long.
 - B. It runs north-south down the eastern seaboard.
 - C. It separates the coastal plain from the drier inland areas.
 - D. All of the above.

2

Australian seasons are the antithesis (相反) of those in Europe and North America: summer starts in December, autumn in March, winter in June and spring in September. Seasonal variations (变化) in temperature are not extreme except in the deserts, where scorching (灼热的) daytime temperatures can reach freezing by night. Otherwise, it's rare for temperatures to drop below zero on the mainland except in the mountains. As you head north, the seasonal variations become even less clear except that summer is much wetter and more humid. Darwin, in the far north, is in the monsoon belt (季风带), where there are just two seasons: hot and wet (when floods can occur) and hot and dry. The coldest regions are in the highlands (高地) and tablelands (高原) of Tasmania (塔斯马尼亚岛) and the south-eastern corner of the mainland.

The southern states are popular during the summer months, but the best time to visit there is probably spring or autumn when the weather in the south is mild, Queensland is still warm, and there are fewer flies in the bush. Spring in the outback (内地) can be spectacular (壮观的) if rains encourage wildflowers.



1. In Australia, summer starts in _____.
A. June B. December C. September D. March
2. In the deserts, temperatures _____.
A. vary extremely
B. are scorching by the daytime
C. are about freezing by night
D. All of the above.
3. As you head north, the seasonal variations become even _____.
A. more clear B. more extreme
C. less clear D. less extreme
4. In the monsoon belt, there are _____ seasons.
A. one B. two C. three D. four
5. The best time to visit the southern states is probably _____.
A. spring B. summer
C. autumn D. both A and C

3

The flag of Australia is the only one to fly over a whole continent. The small Union Jack (英国



国旗) represents the historical link with Britain. The large seven-pointed star represents the six States and the combined Territories (地区), and the small

stars form the Southern Cross (南十字座) — a prominent feature (突出的特点) of the southern hemisphere (南半球) night sky.

Australia is an independent nation with a population of more than 19 million. It is one of the world's most urbanized (城市化的) countries, with about 70 per cent of the population living in the 10 largest cities, along the eastern seaboard and the southeastern corner of the continent. And more than 80 per cent of Australians live within 100 kilometers of the coast.

1. Which is NOT true about the flag of Australia?
 - A. It is the only one to fly over a whole continent.
 - B. The small Union Jack represents the historical link with Britain.
 - C. The large star represents the six States and the combined Territories.
 - D. It reflects that Australia is a multicultural society.
2. More than _____ per cent of Australians live within 100 kilometers of the coast.
 - A. 23
 - B. 80
 - C. 70
 - D. 94

4

Australia's lifestyle represents its mainly Western origins, but Australia is also a multicultural (多元



文化的) society, which includes about five million settlers from almost 200 nations. They come to Australia for various reasons — partly because of the climate, and partly because of the wonderful lifestyle (生活方式).

Australian Aboriginal (原居民) and Torres Strait Islander peoples (托雷斯海峡岛民) belonged to many language groups and were themselves culturally different. But their lives were changed after the British announced Australia as a colony (殖民地) in 1788.

The first Europeans to settle in Australia were criminals transported from Britain from 1788 to 1868. Free immigrants from the early 1790s joined the criminals. The gold rush era (淘金热时代) in Australia of the 1850s brought people from many parts of the world.

1. The gold rush era was in the _____.
A. 1850s B. 1790s C. 1780s D. 1860s
2. Which of the following is NOT one of the reasons why the immigrants came to Australia?
A. Criminals who were transported to Australia from Britain.
B. The gold rush that brought people from many other countries.
C. The wonderful lifestyle in Australia.
D. The desire to colonize Australia.

5

For many people, Australia is famous for its big plains, far horizons (视野), kangaroos (袋鼠), men like “Crocodile Dundee” (鳄鱼邓迪, 著名的电影人物) and tennis players. It is all these things and much, much more. As an island continent, Australia is a very large country with a rather small population.

It has a different history that goes back at least 40,000 years and probably longer, but no one really knows how long the Aboriginal people have lived here. Over the last 200 years Australia has grown into a society with its own unique (独特的) culture and history. Originally (最初) a British colony, it is now an independent country within the British Commonwealth of Nations (英联邦国家). The majority of the population is still British and Irish but the following waves of immigration have made it a multicultural nation.

Sports are the true interests of most Australians. The country stops for a horse race on the first Tuesday in November each year and Australian Rules football is regarded by many as the “religion” of the state of Victoria.



Tell whether the following statements are true or false by writing T or F in the brackets:

1. Australia is a very large country and an island continent with a large population. ()
2. It has a different history that goes back at most 40,000 years. ()
3. The majority of Australian population is British and Irish but the following waves of immigration have made it a multicultural nation. ()
4. The country stops for a horse race twice a year. ()

6

Australia is known around the world for its wonderful landscapes. It is a land of contrasts (对照): from rough deserts to huge grasses, big golden beaches and rich coral reefs (珊瑚礁) to tropical rainforests (热带雨林), mountains and cities.

Noosa is one of such places. It is at the northern end of Queensland's sub-tropical (亚热带的) sunshine coast, a small seaside town with a population of only about 35,000.

Hastings Street is the heart of the town and is Queensland's best known avenue with lots of shops, restaurants, bars and beachfront (靠海滨的) north-facing apartments.

Noosa is a reserved area (自然保护区) for birds and wildlife. Few Australians have seen a koala (树袋熊) in the wild but in Noosa they're not an uncommon sight. Noosa National Park is the most visited national park in Queensland and you can swim, surf (冲浪) and hike (远足) there all year round. Alexandria Bay is Noosa's nudist (裸体主义者的) beach — every year they hold the Nude Olympics there.

In Noosa you can get away from skyscrapers, dirt and noise. With no buildings higher than the trees, you can stay in quality and comfort, completely relax yourself and have a good time.

1. Of the following choices, _____ is not included when the author mentions the wonderful landscapes of Australia.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| A. high skyscrapers | B. tropical rainforests |
| C. mountains | D. huge grasses |
2. Hastings Street is best known for _____.

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| A. shops | B. bars |
| C. low buildings | D. both A and B |
3. Alexandria Bay is famous for _____.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| A. its Nude Olympics | B. its reserved area for birds and wildlife |
| C. sandy beaches | D. beachfront north-facing apartments |
4. In Noosa, people can get away from _____.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| A. quality and comfort | B. dirt and noise |
|------------------------|-------------------|



C. skyscrapers

D. both B and C

7

Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world, situated (位于) just north of Noosa. It owns many truly amazing natural wonders including beautiful rainforests, clean lakes, endless surf beaches, cliffs (悬崖) of colored sands, very clear streams and vast stretches of mangroves (红树林).

Fraser Island is 125km long and over 160,000 hectares (公顷) in area. It was formed during the ice age when the strong winds transported vast quantities of sand from New South Wales and put it down along the coast of Queensland.

In this fragile eco-system (脆弱的生态环境) the rainforest consists of many plants all growing in pure sand! There are some wonderful walking tracks through these areas to make it possible for visitors to appreciate its unique beauty.

Fraser Island is also home to over 200 kinds of birds along with a variety of wallabies (小袋鼠), snakes, possums (负鼠), turtles, flying foxes etc.

Listed as a world heritage site (世界文化遗产景点), Fraser Island is part of the largest coastal dune (沙丘) system and sand island in the world. As a precious part of Queensland's natural and cultural

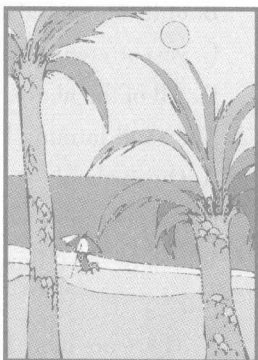
heritage, it is protected for all to appreciate, enjoy and respect.

1. Fraser Island is famous for _____.
 - A. beautiful rainforests
 - B. cliffs of colored sands
 - C. vast stretches of mangroves
 - D. All of the above.
2. The sand forming Fraser Island came from _____.
 - A. Queensland
 - B. New South Wales
 - C. the coastal dunes
 - D. Noosa
3. Which of the following about Fraser Island is NOT true?
 - A. There are more than 200 kinds of birds there.
 - B. The eco-system is fragile there.
 - C. It is not listed as a World Heritage site.
 - D. There are many plants growing in pure sand.
4. The animals living on Fraser Island include _____.
 - A. possums
 - B. flying foxes
 - C. wallabies
 - D. all of the above
5. Fraser Island is all of the following except _____.
 - A. part of the largest sand island in the world
 - B. part of the largest coastal dune system in the world
 - C. not properly protected
 - D. a world heritage site



8

The Gold Coast (黄金海岸) is famous for its excellent beaches and subtropical rainforests (亚热带雨林). It is located on the Eastern seaboard of Australia just 80km south of the city of Brisbane and is regarded as the tourist capital of Australia.



With 70 kilometers of uninterrupted (连续的) coastline, the Gold Coast beaches have something for the tourists whether as a family or single. This energetic region extends from Cabarita Beach in New South Wales north to Beenleigh and beautiful South Stradbroke Island. The golden sandy beaches are world famous for their beauty, cleanliness and fine surfing conditions. Millions of visitors come here each year from around the world. And Australians of all ages have come to the coast to enjoy a fun and relaxing holiday by the sea.

There is also the lovely Hinterland (腹地) for bush walking and sightseeing. Following the road inland from the Gold Coast's beaches, you will find a magical world before you: a world of tropical

rainforests, mountain villages, waterfalls and streams, the wildlife in their natural surroundings and other hidden treasures that are all part of the Gold Coast Hinterland — the green behind the gold. Much of the Hinterland area is National Park, allowing you to experience the natural beauty of the area first hand. Browse (浏览) through the various museums, art galleries and craft shops (工艺品店), and take time to dine in one of the many restaurants and comfortable tea houses. Hang gliding (悬挂式滑翔运动), rock climbing, bush-walking, horse-riding and hot-air balloon rides are just some of the more popular sports in the Hinterland.

1. The golden sandy beaches are famous for its _____.
A. surfing conditions B. cleanliness
C. both A and B D. hang gliding
2. The coastline of the Gold Coast is _____ km.
A. 70 B. 60 C. 22 D. 80
3. _____ is not one of the more popular sports in the Hinterland.
A. Hot-air balloon rides B. Bush-walking
C. Hang gliding D. Surfing
4. The Gold Coast is located south of the city of _____.
A. Cabarita B. Brisbane
C. Beenleigh D. Stradbroke
5. The Hinterland is a world of _____.
A. mountain villages B. waterfalls and streams
C. tropical rainforests D. All of the above.