

Year 5 Knowledge Organiser - Fragile Earth/The Land Down Under

Key Vocabulary

Characteristics — a special quality or appearance that makes an individual or a group different from others.

Human geography — focuses on where people live, what they do, and how they use the land.

Physical geography — The study of the physical features of the Earth, such as oceans, mountains, rivers, coastlines, forests and plant life.

Settlements—places where people live.

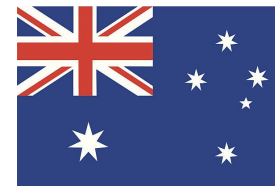
Outback—The parts of Australia that are far away from towns.

Bushfires—Fires that burn through areas of bushland.

Climate zones— Areas with specific patterns of weather.

Drought—when there is a lack of precipitation over an extended period of time, resulting in a water shortage.

Desert—a place where almost no rain falls. Some deserts are huge areas of sand or flat, stony ground, while others have rocky hills and mountains.



Australia facts

OFFICIAL NAME: Commonwealth of Australia

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Federal parliamentary democracy

CAPITAL: Canberra

POPULATION: 23, 856, 103

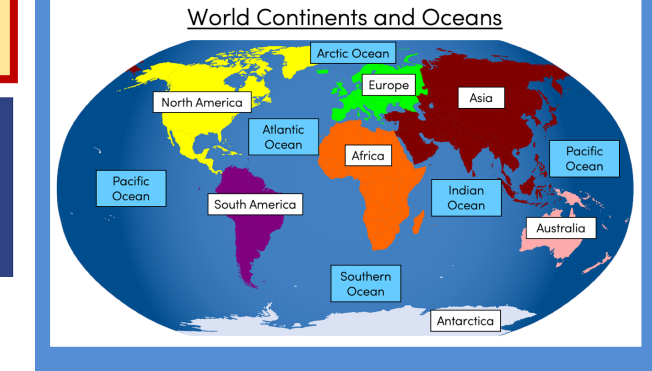
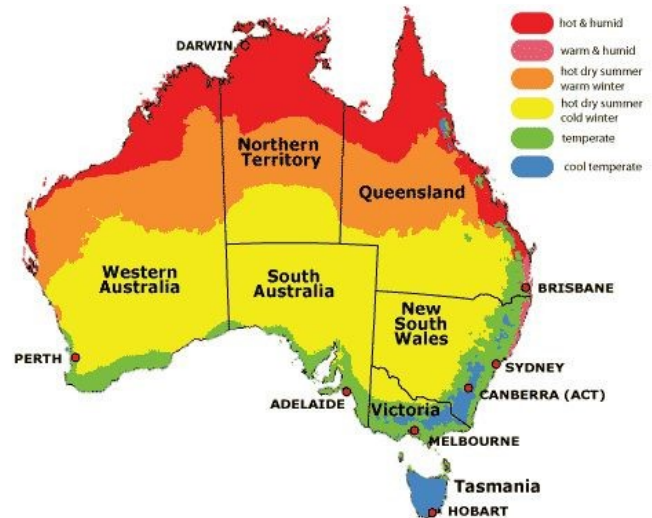
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English

MONEY: Australian dollar

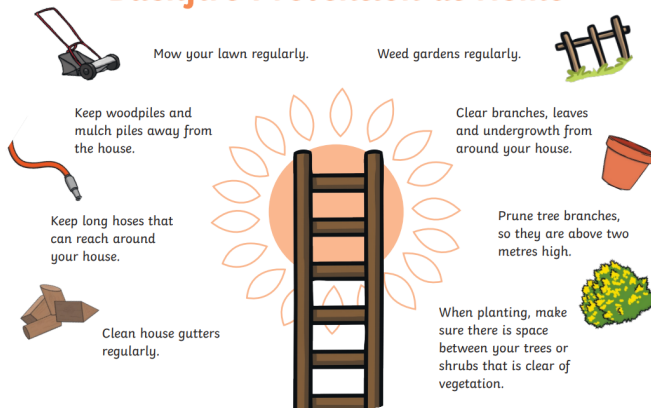
AREA: 7,692,024 square kilometres

MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES: Great Dividing Range, Macdonnell Ranges

MAJOR RIVERS: Murray-Darling, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan



Bushfire Prevention at Home



Bushfires

Bushfires are frequent occurrences in Australia because of the continent's generally hot and dry climate. The impact of bushfires can be extensive and devastating, with significant loss of lives and massive property damage. At the same time, however, fire is a natural and necessary part of the continent's climatic cycle and an important factor in shaping its landscape. The danger of fire heightens during periods of extreme temperatures and drought. Although bushfires are often considered natural disasters, more than 90 percent of them are started by people, either accidentally or deliberately. The most common natural cause is lightning.

The main factors that determine the size and severity of bushfires are the amount and type of fuel, weather conditions, and topography (physical features of the land). Fuel for a bushfire includes leaves and dead branches, undergrowth (grass and shrubs), trees, and other vegetation. Grass burns more quickly than trees, but trees make a fire more intense. Dry fuel ignites more easily and creates more intense fires than moist fuel. Buildings and other man-made materials can also provide fuel for a bushfire. Generally, the greater the quantity of fuel, the hotter and more intense the fire will be.