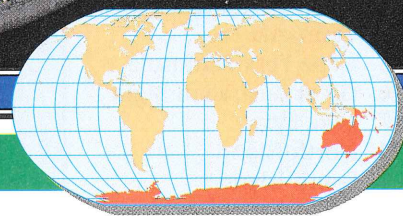


The Cultural Geography of Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica



CHAPTER FOCUS

Geographic Setting

Great distances and landform barriers separate many parts of the South Pacific culture region from one another. Geographic isolation has allowed very distinct cultures to develop.

▲ **Photograph:** Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia



Geographic Themes

Section 1 Population Patterns

MOVEMENT Modern travel and communication have decreased the South Pacific's isolation.

Section 2 History and Government

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION The development

of the South Pacific was guided by foreign powers struggling for control.

Section 3 Cultures and Lifestyles

PLACE Ways of life in the South Pacific reflect a vibrant blend of Western and traditional influences.

1 SECTION Population Patterns

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

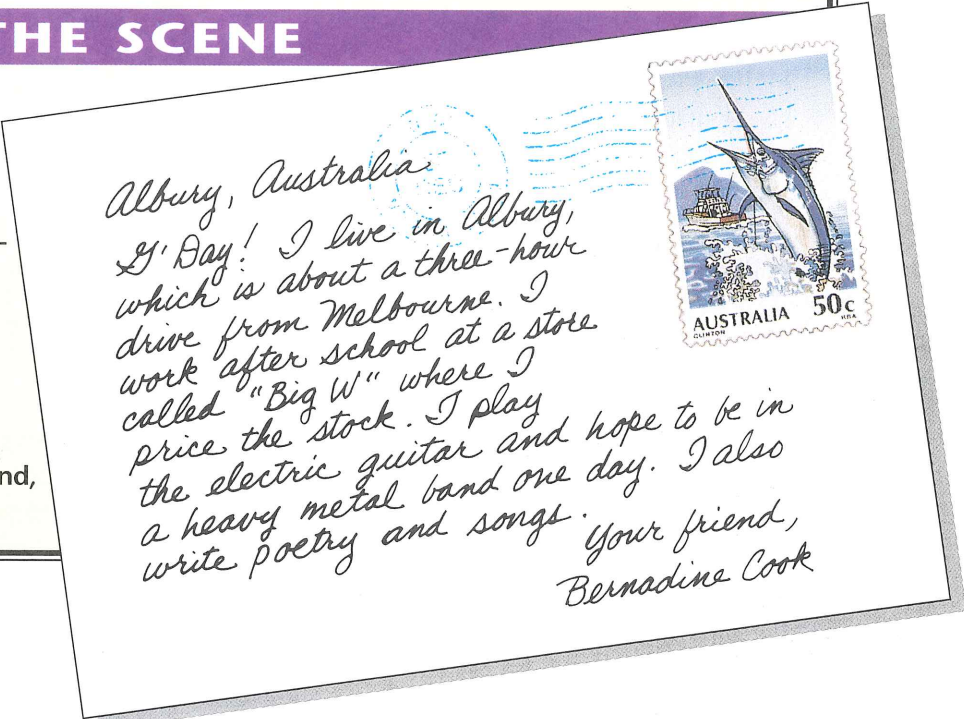
- the blend of peoples living in the South Pacific region.
- how sparsely and unevenly the population is distributed.

Key Term

- primate city

Identify and Locate

Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, Wellington



Albury, Australia
Hi Day! I live in Albury,
which is about a three-hour
drive from Melbourne. I
work after school at a store
called "Big W" where I
price the stock. I play
the electric guitar and hope to be in
a heavy metal band one day. I also
write poetry and songs.
Your friend,
Bernadine Cook

Bernadine Cook lives in southeastern Australia, one of the most densely populated areas in an otherwise sparsely settled country. Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica together make up the world's most sparsely populated culture region. Its 30 million inhabitants are unevenly distributed across the area.

REGION

Human Characteristics

Most Australians and New Zealanders trace their roots to Great Britain and its settlement of both countries in the late 1700s. In recent years government-sponsored immigration policies, especially in Australia, have encouraged immigration from other parts of the world. Many new Australians have roots

in southern and eastern Europe. Others have come from China, Southeast Asia, and various areas of the Pacific.

There are, however, peoples living in the South Pacific that settled in the region long before the arrival of European settlers. In Australia, these native people are called Aborigines from the Latin phrase *ab origine*, which means "from the beginning." During the early period of European settlement, the number of Aborigines declined sharply. Today their population is once again growing.

New Zealand's earliest inhabitants were the Maori (MOWR•ee). Like Australia's Aborigines, the Maori are now a minority in the lands they once dominated.

Over the centuries, as settlers and immigrants have arrived in the South Pacific from different parts of the world, they have added their unique social patterns, languages, and physical characteristics to those already in place. Now the region reflects a wide human

diversity. In Papua New Guinea, for example, more than 700 different languages and dialects are spoken. Throughout the other islands, there are people with Polynesian, Asian, Indonesian, European, and mixed heritages.

Population Distribution

The South Pacific's most heavily populated areas are found in the mild climate regions. The region's most sparsely populated places are its deserts and its polar climate regions. In some parts of the South Pacific, such as Australia's deserts and Antarctica, there is little or no permanent settlement.

Australia is the South Pacific's most heavily populated country, with about 18.7 million people. Almost all the country's major cities are found in coastal areas. Australian cities of more than 1 million people are all found along the country's coasts, in its mild climate zones. These cities include Sydney and Brisbane on the eastern coast and Melbourne and

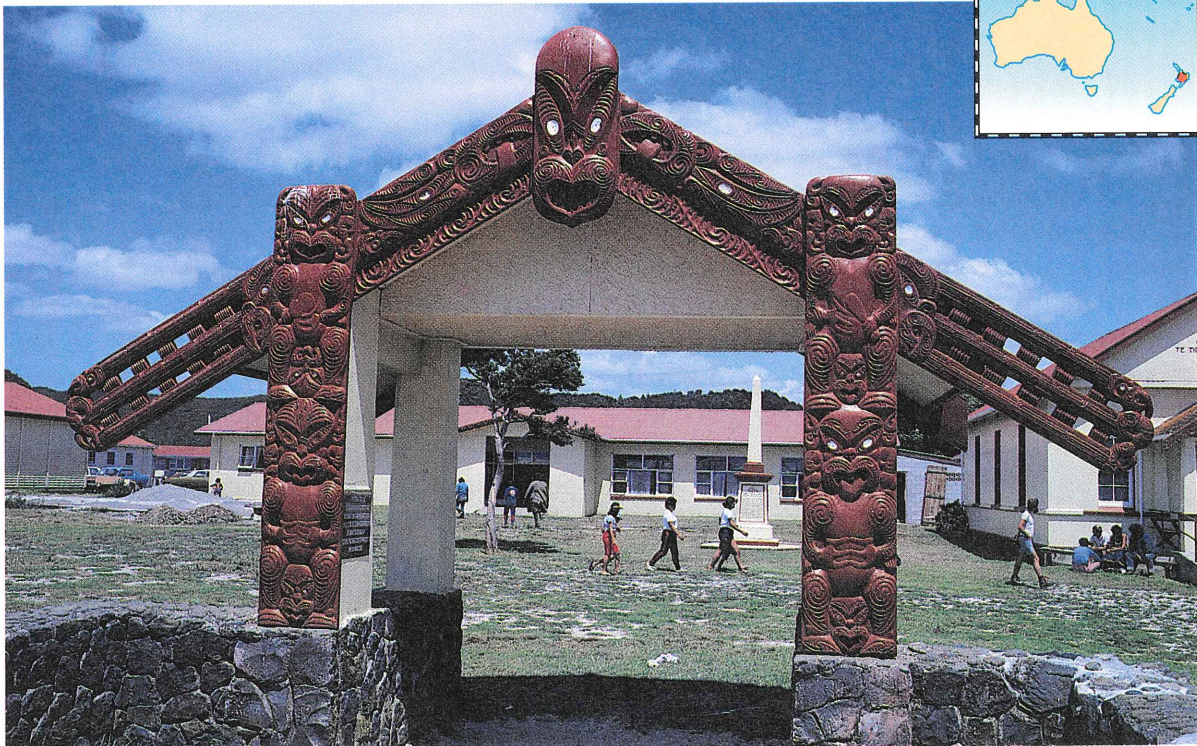
Adelaide on the southern coast. Perth is the major city along Australia's southwestern coast.

The largest cities in Oceania are the New Zealand ports of Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. Most island countries in Oceania have a single major city called a **primate city**. These cities are generally the capital and largest port of the country in which they are located.

PLACE

Population Density and Urbanization

Population density in the South Pacific varies greatly throughout the region. The Micronesian island of Nauru, for example, has a population density of more than 1,267 people per square mile (489 per sq. km). Antarctica, on the other hand, does not have a permanently settled population.

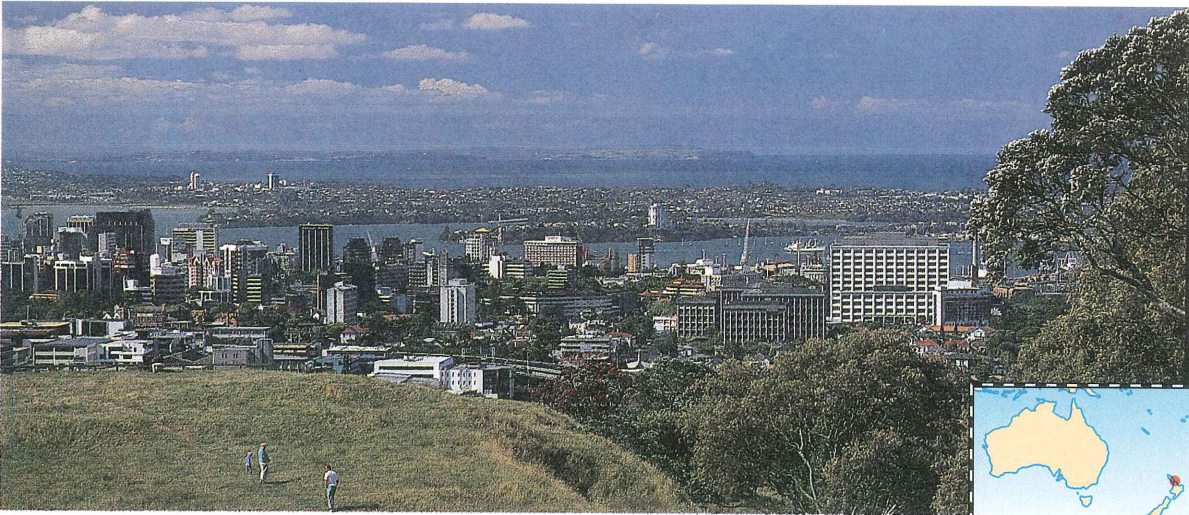


Geographic Themes

Region: New Zealand

The Maori were the first people to live in New Zealand. They came from Polynesian islands northeast of New Zealand. *Which group of people settled Australia before the arrival of Europeans?*





Geographic Themes

Place: Auckland, New Zealand

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city. Many of its residential areas consist of single-family houses. *What percent of New Zealanders live in urban areas?*

Population density figures for the South Pacific are often misleading because unfavorable climates, terrains, or soil conditions make large parts of the region uninhabitable. The South Pacific's density figures would be much higher if they were based on the amount of living land area only.

Australia and New Zealand are urbanized countries. About 85 percent of Australia's people live in cities or towns. About 85 percent of New Zealand's population also is urban. Other South Pacific countries are somewhat less urbanized.

Several factors account for the extensive urbanization in Australia, New Zealand, and other areas of the South Pacific. One factor is that much of the productive land supports grazing but not farming. Sheep need a great deal of land and leave little room for people. Today, as ranchers and farmers replace workers with machines, even fewer people are needed in the rural areas.

Another factor is that Pacific islanders, especially the young, are leaving their homes, where jobs and industry are scarce, and heading to the region's major cities in search of opportunity.

An additional factor is that communication and technology have made the South Pacific area accessible from anywhere in the

world. Businesses from around the world have been established in the region's cities—many of which are ports—to tap into its many resources. As the cities of the region have reacted to these different factors, they have blossomed into modern, multicultural urban centers.

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

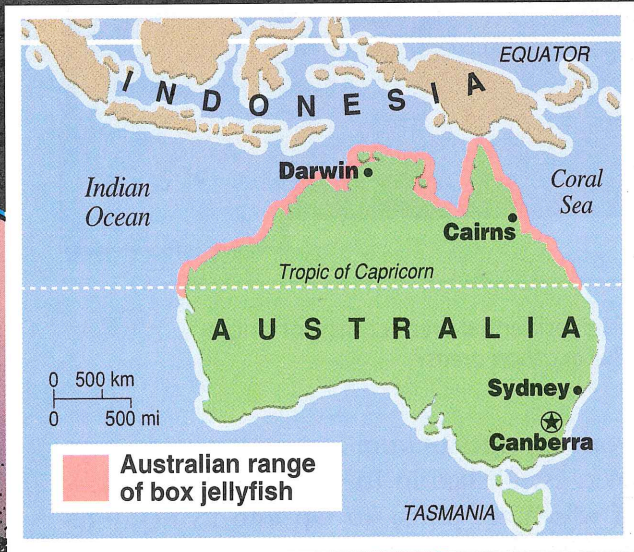
- 1. Define** primate city.
- 2. Locating Places** Where are the most sparsely populated parts of the South Pacific culture region?
- 3. Place** Why is the South Pacific unevenly populated?
- 4. Region** What are two reasons New Zealand and Australia have become highly urbanized?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Drawing Conclusions** Improved technology has greatly changed the relative location of Australia and New Zealand, bringing them closer to the world. How do you think this increased interaction might have affected the human diversity of the region?



What is the most poisonous animal?



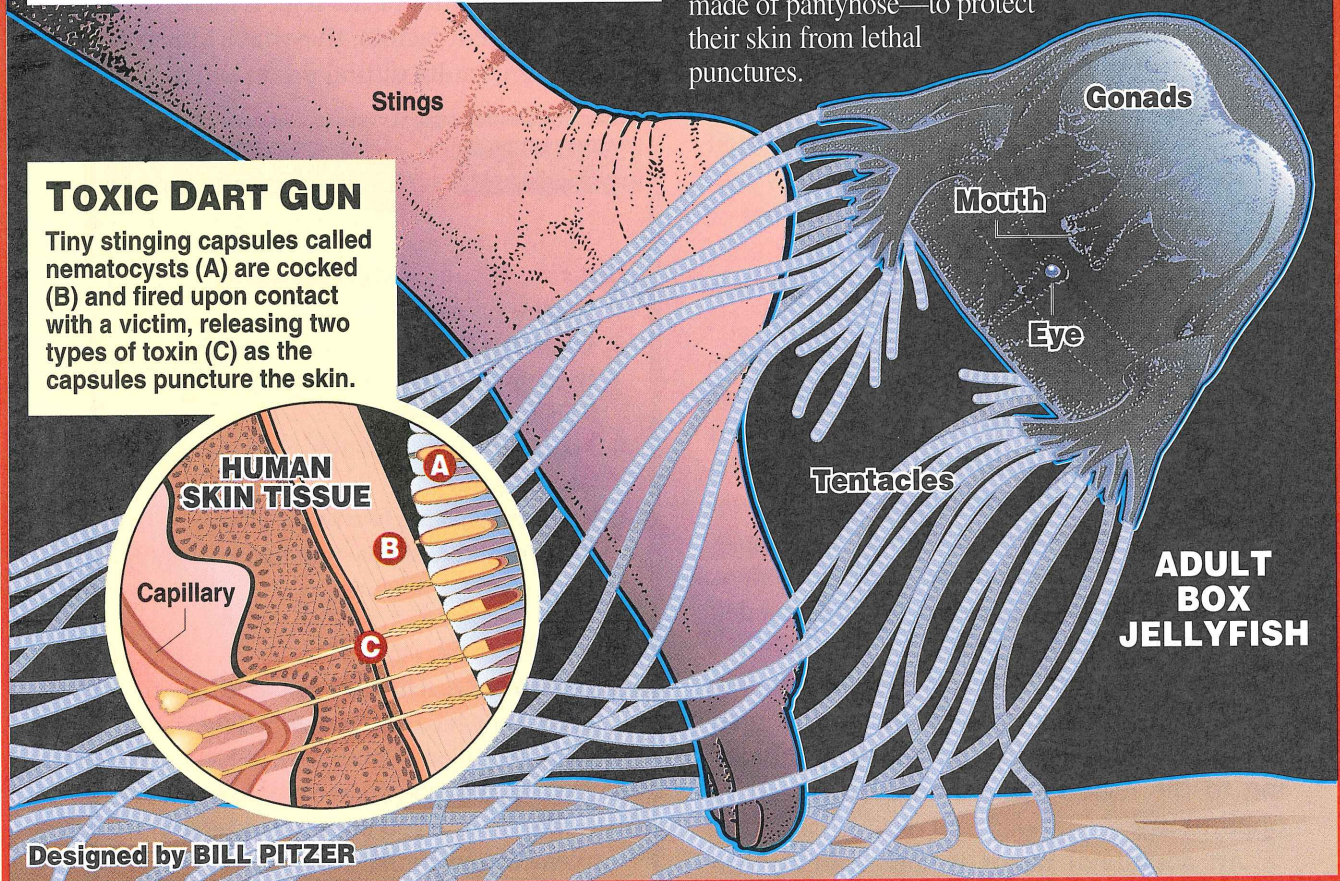
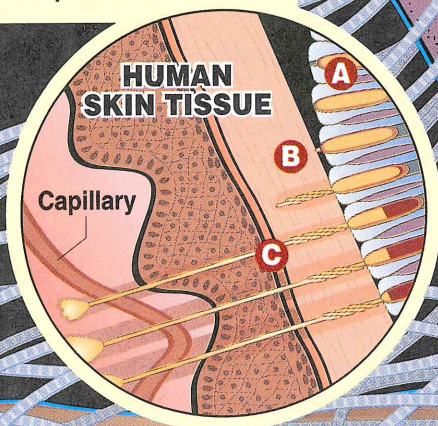
Source of the coastal waters of Australia, the infamous box jellyfish is the earth's most venomous animal. A single box jelly, also known as a marine stinger or sea wasp, carries enough venom to kill 60 people. Its victims can die in four minutes or less.

Over the past century, these ghostly assassins have killed at least 65 people. The pain of their sting is instantaneous and unbearable. Avoiding these creatures is difficult. Their bodies can be as big as basketballs, but are 95 percent water. Their deadly 15-foot (4.6-m) tails of nearly 60 thin tentacles are almost invisible.

Box jellyfish do not attack their prey. They react when something blunders into them. Not all contacts are fatal. It takes at least 10 feet (3 m) of tentacle to kill a human. Quick treatment with antivenom can save lives. Australian surfers wear "stinger suits"—often made of pantyhose—to protect their skin from lethal punctures.

TOXIC DART GUN

Tiny stinging capsules called **nematocysts (A)** are cocked (**B**) and fired upon contact with a victim, releasing two types of toxin (**C**) as the capsules puncture the skin.



Designed by **BILL PITZER**

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the earliest settlers in the South Pacific.
- the impact of European settlement in the region.
- how the governments in the region have changed over time.

Key Terms

- nomadic
- boomerang
- trust territory

Identify and Locate

Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea, Marquesas Islands, Guam, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Kiribati, Sydney Harbor, Nauru, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa, Society Islands

Throughout its history, the South Pacific culture region has been greatly affected by its location, its resources, and its climates. The native cultures that developed in the region were influenced very little by outsiders.

MOVEMENT

Early Peoples

Historians today are still uncertain about many aspects of the South Pacific region's earliest history. It is known that people were living in Australia and in parts of Melanesia more than 40,000 years ago.

Migrations

The ancestors of these early people probably reached the South Pacific from East Asia or from Southeast Asia. Some may have migrated over land bridges during the Ice Age, when ocean levels were far lower than they are today. Others probably used canoes and rafts to reach the South Pacific.

Not until about A.D. 300 did advances in shipbuilding and navigation enable people to reach and to settle the far islands of Melanesia and Micronesia. By about A.D. 1000, these excellent seafarers had also discovered and set-

tled almost all of Polynesia. Remote location and harsh climate prevented the discovery of Antarctica until about 1820.

Early Lifestyles

The early peoples who settled the coastal areas of the South Pacific region made their livings mainly by fishing. A fishing lifestyle, however, was not possible in the hot, dry Australian interior. Thus, the Aborigines followed a **nomadic** way of life, traveling from place to place, never establishing permanent settlements. For food, they hunted animals using a slightly curved stick called a **boomerang**, and gathered fruits or seeds. When these foods became scarce, they moved on to a new home.

Unlike the Australian Aborigines, the people who settled the inland parts of Papua New Guinea found much fertile land. These people were able to farm and raise livestock.

The earliest Micronesians developed trade with the distant islands of Melanesia and parts of Asia. The peoples who settled the islands of Polynesia also engaged in overseas trade as well as farming and fishing. The large Polynesian islands of New Zealand were first settled by the Polynesian Maori. They probably arrived as early as A.D. 750 from the Marquesas (mahr•KAY•zuhz) Islands, which lie northeast of New Zealand.

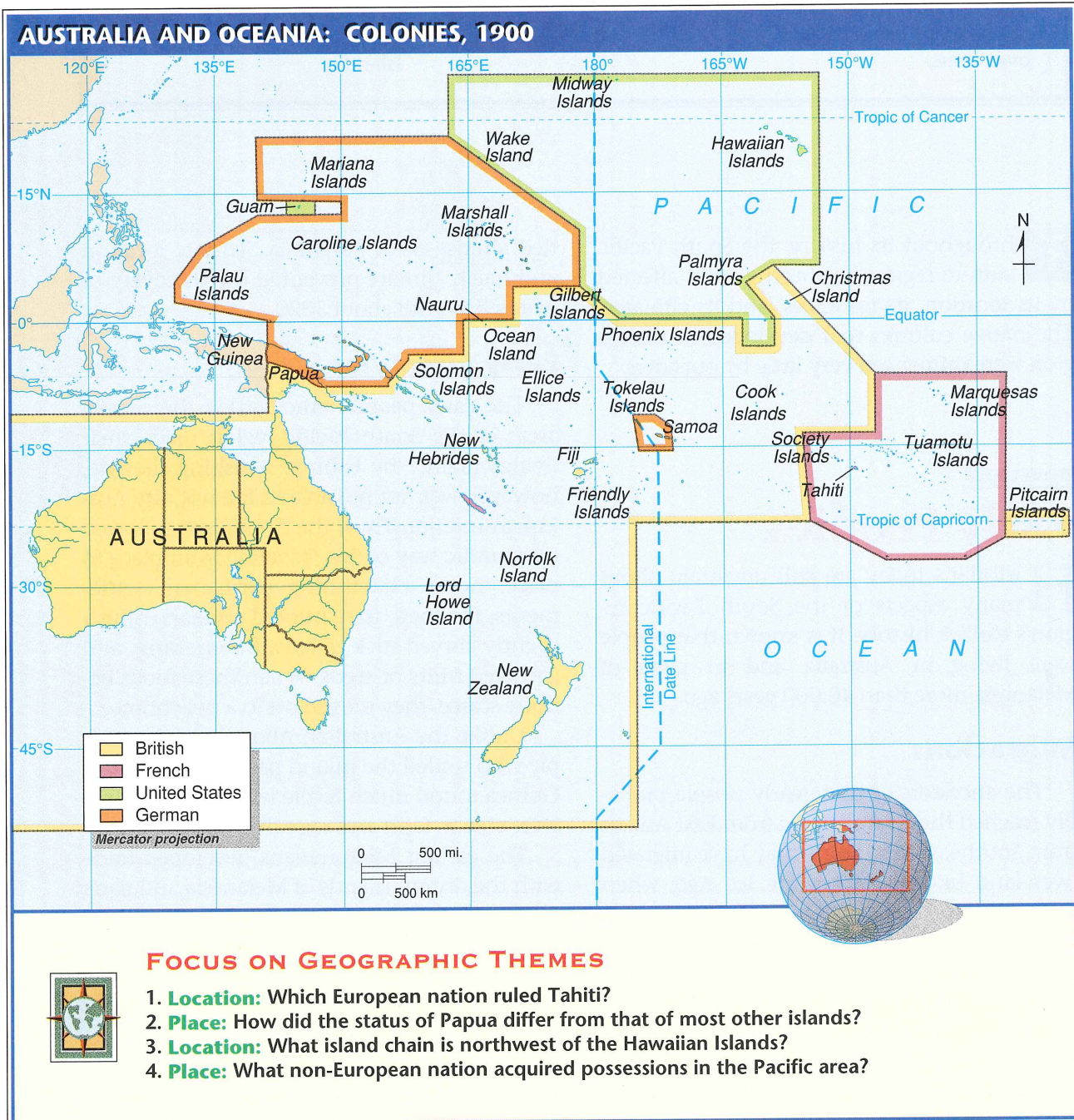
MOVEMENT

Europeans in the South Pacific

During the early 1500s, Spanish and Portuguese explorers became the first Europeans to reach the South Pacific. Within 250 years, Europeans had reached virtually all of the lands in the region.

Early Explorers

During the early and mid-1600s, Dutch navigators discovered Australia and New Zealand. The British sailor Captain James Cook explored and charted many of the more remote stretches of the South Pacific. Between 1768 and 1779, Cook explored the islands of Hawaii, claimed the east coast of Australia for Great Britain, and sailed completely around Antarctica.



Continuing European Interest

During the 1800s the British settled and colonized Australia and New Zealand. Initially the British used Australia as a safe and distant place to set up a colony for convicts. British colonists were attracted to New Zealand's rich soil and fine fishing. The British introduced sheep, cattle, and horses to the region, and raising livestock soon became a profitable business for many British colonists. The discovery of gold in Australia in the 1800s brought thousands of immigrants from the United Kingdom and aided the settlement of the continent.

Antarctica remained largely unexplored during these years. Serious exploration of the continent was not undertaken until the late 1800s. The South Pole was reached first, in 1911, by the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen. Large areas of Antarctica's interior remain unexplored today.

Much of Oceania was opened to European settlement by Christian missionaries. Western religious leaders worked to spread their beliefs throughout Oceania during the 1800s. By the end of the century, Christianity had become widespread among the native peoples of Oceania.

REGION

Struggle for Imperial Power

By the early 1900s, Australia and New Zealand had gained independence from the United Kingdom. Even though both nations had won the right to govern themselves, they maintained close ties with the United Kingdom and accepted the British king or queen as their chief of state. This was not the case, however, with many of the island peoples of Oceania.

Throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, Oceania was the scene of a struggle for imperial control. Many Western countries, including the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the United States, sought to establish naval bases in the South Pacific. In addition, these

countries hoped to extend their overseas trading interests and to find new sources of raw materials to be used in manufacturing.

In 1898, as a result of the American victory in the Spanish-American War, the United States gained control of many of Spain's island possessions in Micronesia. During this same period, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom expanded their holdings in the South Pacific.

The defeat of Germany in World War I led to a new balance of power in the South Pacific. Japan—an increasingly influential Asian and world leader—took over some of Germany's possessions in the region. The struggle for control began anew as the Japanese spread their power throughout the South Pacific. In December 1941, as World War II raged in Europe, the Japanese bombed the United States military bases at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Japanese soldiers also captured American, British, and French holdings in the South Pacific.

The region became the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting in World War II as the Allies moved from island to island in an effort to get within striking distance of Japan. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese and Allied soldiers fought savage battles in places such as Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. By the end of the war in 1945, the Japanese had been driven out of the islands by the United States and its allies.

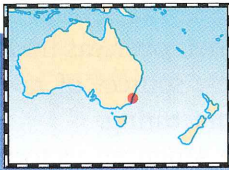
After World War II, the United Nations placed some parts of Oceania under temporary Western control. Areas of the islands of Micronesia, for example, became a **trust territory** under the United States. While some islands are now self-governing, the United States still helps manage the affairs of some island nations. Many developed nations compete for trade in the Pacific region and try to exert political and economic influence there.

REGION

Governments Today

The European powers that first colonized the South Pacific brought their forms of government to the lands. Some of the countries of the South Pacific region, such as Aus-





Geographic Themes

Place: Canberra, Australia

Australia's federal parliament building is located in Canberra, a modern capital that serves as an example of successful urban planning. *What type of government does Australia have?*

tralia and New Zealand, adopted these forms of government when they became independent. Thus, Australia and New Zealand, former British colonies, have parliamentary democracies based on the British form of government.

Some of the recently independent countries of the South Pacific region have developed democratic forms of government. Among these are Kiribati, Nauru, and Vanuatu. A few South Pacific nations, such as Tonga and Samoa, are monarchies.

Several South Pacific island groups, including American Samoa and the Northern Marianas, are governed by the United States. Other islands are territories of European nations. French claims in Polynesia, for example, include the Society Islands and the Marquesas Islands. Although various countries claim parts of Antarctica, the continent has no official government, because it has no permanent settlement.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

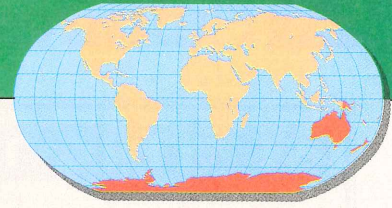
- 1. Define** nomadic, boomerang, trust territory.
- 2. Locating Places** Where did the ancestors of the earliest Australians and Melanesians originally live?
- 3. Movement** How did Christianity reach the South Pacific culture region?
- 4. Movement** What event greatly aided the settlement of the Australian continent?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Determining Cause and Effect** Why are the governments of Australia and New Zealand parliamentary democracies?



Geography and History



LIVING IN ANTARCTICA

As you read, examine how people are learning to live in Antarctica's hostile environment.

Location

Antarctica lies at the "bottom of the world," isolated by stormy seas. It is the highest, coldest, and driest of the continents. Temperatures rarely rise above freezing, and winds often reach hurricane strength.

Because it is so forbidding, Antarctica has had little human settlement. Its harsh environment, however, is also the earth's most unspoiled. This rigorous environment is proving an excellent site for scientific research.

Threatened Environment

Many environmentalists worry that the increasing number of people on the continent will damage the land's ecological systems and pollute its unspoiled environment.

Environmentalists charge scientists living there with dumping untreated sewage into the ocean. Garbage dumps have appeared near some research stations. Fishing fleets from Russia, Poland, Japan, and South Korea seek krill and other fish off the northern Antarctic shores during the continent's short summer. Tourists, mountaineers, boaters, and vacationers in increas-



A thick ice cap makes Antarctica the highest continent in terms of average elevation. Towering mountain peaks and glacier-filled valleys are prominent features of the Antarctic coastline. Glaciers and ice sheets often extend out over the ocean to form gigantic ice shelves. Large chunks of ice break off the shelves to form icebergs. Antarctica produces about five thousand large icebergs each year.

ing numbers also find Antarctica fascinating.

Many countries also want to open Antarctica for mining. Studies indicate that valuable deposits of oil, gold, and copper could exist in quantities large enough to make the expense of operations worthwhile.

Treaty Signed

In 1991, 26 countries signed the Madrid Protocol Treaty. It included a 50-year ban on mining and oil exploration. Mindful, too, of the habitat erosion already taking place on the fragile continent, the nations set Antarctica aside as a natural reserve dedicated to peace and science.

Environmentalists and scientists alike hope that the

treaty will help reverse any adverse effects that human habitation has caused. They also hope that, in 50 years, the world's nations will be sufficiently aware of ecological disaster and that the treaty will be extended, not repealed.

Checking for Understanding

1. Study the photo on this page. What elements contribute to Antarctica's harsh environment?

2. Human/Environment

Interaction What are the concerns of ecologists regarding Antarctica?



Cultures and Lifestyles

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the factors that have influenced culture in the South Pacific.
- the traditional and Western artforms of the region.
- the varied South Pacific lifestyles and standards of living.

Key Terms

- strine
- pidgin English
- subsistence farming
- fale

Identify and Locate

Easter Island, French Polynesia

The cultural traditions of the native peoples of the South Pacific have contributed much to the region's present-day lifestyles. Later immigrants have also had an impact on the region's lifestyles.

MOVEMENT

A Blend of Cultures

The cultural patterns found in the South Pacific today are a result of many different forces. Climate, natural resources, and landforms have strongly influenced life and culture in the region.

Culture and Environment

The movement of different peoples into the South Pacific region has contributed to shaping cultural patterns there. The earliest peoples of the region developed very distinct cultural traditions. In large part, these patterns grew out of lifestyles that were in harmony with the natural environment. Instead of working to change their environment, Aboriginal hunter-gatherers adapted to its demands. For Australia's Aborigines, this meant a lifestyle that worked with, rather than against, the harsh outback. It meant the development of an idea about their relationship to nature

that dominates their way of life. This idea, called Dreamtime, is explained by Aboriginal leader Silas Roberts:

— ◆ —

Aboriginals have a special connection with everything that is natural. . . . We see all things natural as part of us. All the things on earth we see as part human.

— ◆ —

The early fishing peoples of Melanesia also developed cultures and lifestyles that were closely bound to nature. The sea provided for many of their basic needs. Thus, they lived in small villages at the water's edge. The forms of social organization these people followed were generally based on a fishing way of life, and much of their folklore revolved around the sea.

The European Influence

As Europeans began to move into the South Pacific, the region's cultural patterns began to change. By the early 1900s, many parts of the South Pacific, such as Australia and New Zealand, had cultural patterns and lifestyles that were a mixture of traditional and European customs and beliefs.

Today many of the countries in the South Pacific are strongly Western in their lifestyles and forms of cultural expression. For example, a street scene in downtown Sydney, Australia's largest city, easily could be mistaken for a scene in a British city. Nevertheless, large parts of the South Pacific have maintained much of their traditional culture.

Religious Beliefs

The native peoples of the South Pacific followed many different religious beliefs before the Europeans arrived. When Western missionaries and settlers began moving into the region, however, they brought the ideas and values of Christianity. Although traditional religious beliefs continue to be followed in many parts of the area, Christianity is the most widely held religion in the region today.

PLACE

Languages

As the cultures of the South Pacific blended, their peoples faced the challenge of communicating with one another. Mountains, interior deserts, and isolated islands separated one group of people from another. As a result, people speak many different languages.

The most widely spoken languages in the region today are of the Indo-European language family. English is spoken throughout Australia and New Zealand. The English spo-



Geographic Themes

Region: Australia

Rugby, imported from the United Kingdom, is a popular sport in Australia. How have European influences affected the South Pacific area?

ken in Australia, known as **strine**, reflects the easygoing Australian culture.

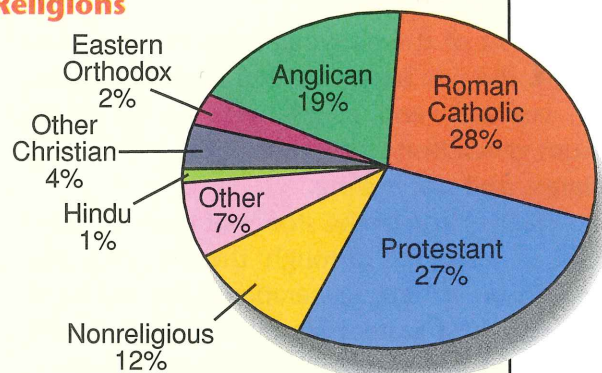
In Oceania, English is also common in areas that the United States and the United Kingdom have influenced. French is widespread in French Polynesia and in other areas of Oceania that remain under French control.

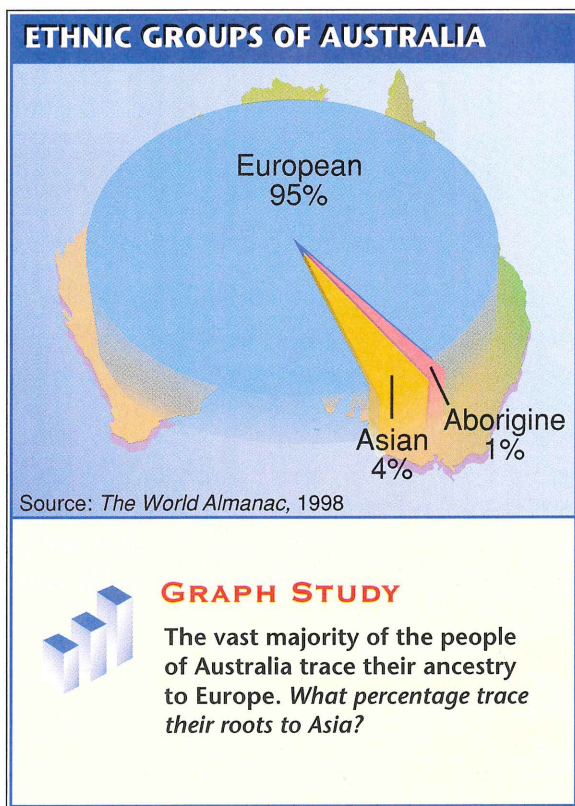
Most of the languages native to Oceania belong to the Malayo-Polynesian language family. The native language of the Australian

Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica: Religions

Roman Catholic	8,400,000
Protestant	8,200,000
Anglican	5,600,000
Eastern Orthodox	700,000
Other Christian	1,300,000
Hindu	400,000
Other	2,000,000
Nonreligious	3,400,000

Source: *The World Almanac*, 1998





Aborigines, however, belongs to its own separate family.

As trade and contact throughout the South Pacific have increased during recent times, the need for a commonly understood language has become greater. Thus, language forms based upon mixtures of native and European languages have gradually developed. One of these languages is **pidgin English**, a blend of English and native speech.

PLACE

The Arts

Most of the native peoples in the region did not have a written language. History, customs, and beliefs were passed down from generation to generation through music, dance, and storytelling.

Today some of the stories of these cultures can be observed through the art each has passed on to later generations. For example, the people of Easter Island in Polynesia carved huge and mysterious stone figures. While experts believe they may have had religious sig-

nificance, the stone carvings reflect the artistry of their creators.

In many South Pacific cultures, the arts still derive inspiration from these earlier times. A few Aborigines still paint on the bark of the stringybark tree. Other native artists, in New Zealand for example, are outstanding woodcarvers and woodworkers, creating beautifully carved masks and figurines. By continuing these traditional arts, the region's artists have maintained their heritage of powerful and lively art.

Western forms of art also thrive. In this region described as "a land for the soul to expand into," artists have focused on their individual experiences. Painters such as Arthur Streeton, Charles Conder, and Fred Williams captured their view of the stark Australian outback. In New Zealand, teacher Sylvia Ashton-Warner wrote of her experiences among the Maori people. Australian writer Patrick White received the 1973 Nobel prize in literature for his moving portrayal of life in Australia. The values of native cultures are revealed in the works of Aboriginal poet Kath Walker or Maori novelists such as Patricia Grace.

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

Lifestyles

Two general lifestyle patterns are found in the region. One pattern is largely traditional. The other reflects a European background.

Traditional Lifestyles

For many Pacific islanders, daily life is a struggle. Sometimes the soil is too poor to support much agriculture. On these islands, such as Vanuatu or Tonga, native people work at **subsistence farming**, growing only enough food for their own needs. These foods might be bananas, coconuts, or sweet potatoes. Where possible islanders raise chickens and pigs, and fish in the oceans around them. Others work in relatively low-paying jobs for either local or federal governments.



A typical traditional South Pacific home is very simple in design. On the island of Samoa, for example, the traditional type of home is called a *fale*. Its open sides allow cooling ocean breezes to circulate, and the thatched roof shields dwellers from the hot tropical sun. For privacy, blinds of coconut palm leaves can be lowered.

European Lifestyles

People in Australia and New Zealand, where the strongest European influences exist, live a very different life. Even those living in the Australian outback or working in isolated mining towns enjoy modern conveniences. Some may even commute thousands of miles to and from nearby cities, leading a dual existence that brings current trends and ideas into remote areas.

In the cities, life is typically modern with elegant shopping malls, large sports stadiums, and towering skyscrapers. Ethnic neighborhoods such as the Cabramatta district of Sydney lend an international flavor.

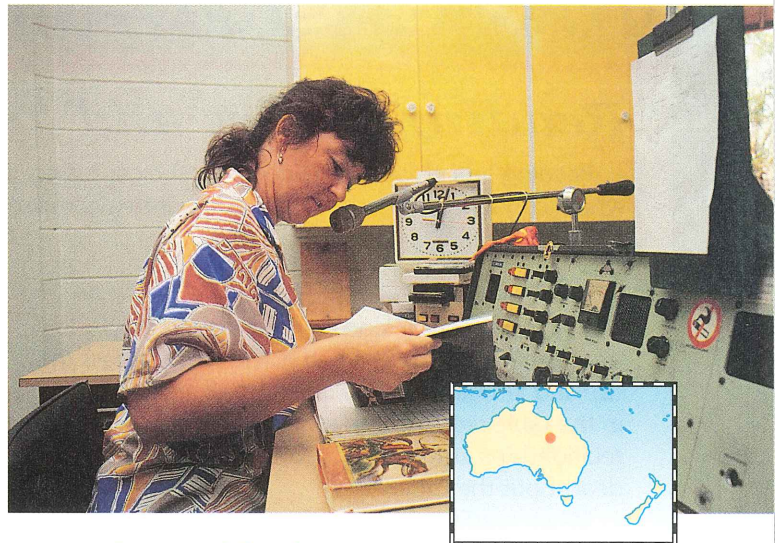
Both in cities and rural areas, Australians and New Zealanders dress in Western styles. Shorts and other casual clothes are popular because of the mild climate.

Health and Education

Many Pacific islanders are in poor health because of the difficulties of life and the remoteness of many islands. Fresh foods and meats are often scarce, and water and electricity are often unavailable. As a result, many of the people have chronic illnesses.

Lack of education may make it difficult for Pacific islanders to improve their lives. In many nations, despite help from wealthier Western countries, most people cannot read or write. Some nations have made great progress. On these islands, children regularly attend government or missionary schools, and literacy rates are much higher.

Geography also poses a challenge to health care and education in Australia. Modern technology, however, allows doctors to consult with patients through the use of 2-way radios or the Flying Doctor Service.



Geographic Themes

Region: Australia

Children in remote areas of Australia receive daily school lessons over "schools of the air." *How does modern technology aid health care in Australia?*

Modern technologies also help Australia's young people in the outback to receive an education. If an area does not have the 8 or 9 children necessary to start a school, students take classes by 2-way radio or through the mail with correspondence courses.

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** strine, pidgin English, subsistence farming, fale.
- 2. Locating Places** What is Australia's largest city?
- 3. Movement** What communications problems has geography created for the peoples of Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania?
- 4. Region** Why is the health of many Pacific Islanders poor?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Making Generalizations** In what ways have geographic factors worked to shape cultural development in the South Pacific region?



MAP & GRAPH SKILLS

Reading Tables and Analyzing Statistics

Reading lists of facts and figures can be confusing. Therefore, statistics are often organized into **tables**, which condense numerical information into a compact format.

REVIEWING THE SKILL

In a table, similar kinds of information are organized into columns and rows. Labels across the top and left-hand sides explain what the numbers in the table represent. Identifying patterns and relationships among the figures can reveal a great deal about the topic.


When reading tables and analyzing statistics, apply the following steps:

- Read headings and labels to determine the kinds of information included in the table.
- Look up unfamiliar terms.
- Identify similarities, differences, and other relationships among the data.
- Use the data to draw conclusions.

1. Which countries are compared in the table?
2. How do the countries rank according to total population? Population density?
3. Which country has the highest GDP per capita? The lowest GDP per capita?
4. What is the relationship between infant mortality and life expectancy? Between infant mortality and per capita GDP?
5. What is the relationship between urbanization and electricity consumption?

For additional practice in reading tables and analyzing statistics, see **Practicing Skills** on page 684 of the Chapter 33 Assessment.

PRACTICING THE SKILL

 Study the table and answer the following questions.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.

COMPARATIVE DATA (SELECTED NATIONS)

	Australia	Fiji	New Zealand	Papua New Guinea
Population	18,700,000	800,000	3,800,000	4,300,000
Population density (per square mile)	6/sq. mi.	114/sq. mi.	37/sq. mi.	25/sq. mi.
Annual population growth	0.7%	1.8%	0.8%	2.4%
Urbanization	85%	46%	85%	15%
GDP - US dollars	\$405,000,000,000	\$4,700,000,000	\$62,300,000,000	\$10,200,000,000
GDP per capita	\$22,100	\$6,100	\$18,300	\$2,400
Life Expectancy	78 years	63 years	72 years	56 years
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 births)	6/1000	17/1000	7/1000	77/1000
Population per physician	434	2,161	301	5,584
Literacy Rate	100%	92%	100%	72%
Electricity Consumption per capita (kw hours)	9,363	674	9,180	640

Sources: *The World Almanac*, 1998; The Population Reference Bureau, 1998

1

SECTION

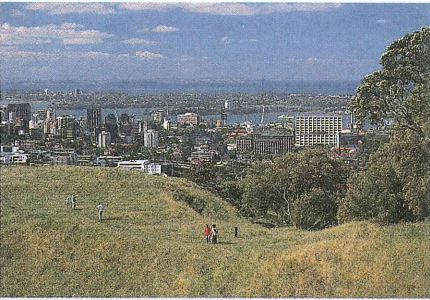
KEY TERMS

SUMMARY

Population Patterns

primate city (p. 670)

- Many different groups of people have settled in the South Pacific, creating a blend of peoples, cultures, and lifestyles.
- The population of the South Pacific is unevenly distributed because many areas cannot support life.



Auckland, New Zealand

2

SECTION

KEY TERMS

SUMMARY

History and Government

nomadic (p. 673)
boomerang (p. 673)
trust territory (p. 675)

- The first humans to settle the South Pacific probably came from Southeast Asia. Settlement then spread eastward.
- In the late 1700s, the British began settling Australia and then New Zealand.
- European nations and Japan struggled throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s for control of the Pacific islands.



Parliament buildings in Canberra, Australia

3

SECTION

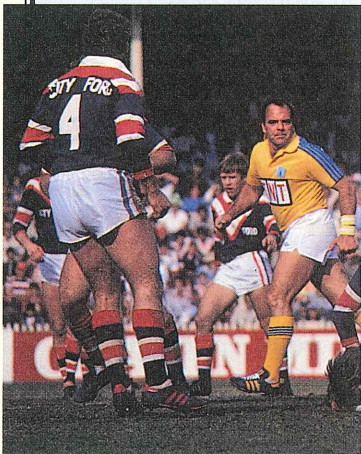
KEY TERMS

SUMMARY

Cultures and Lifestyles

strine (p. 679)
pidgin English (p. 680)
subsistence farming (p. 680)
fale (p. 681)

- European culture has become dominant in the South Pacific. Traditional cultural elements, however, continue to shape lifestyles in the region today.
- Settlement patterns in the South Pacific have been largely determined by climates and landforms. Cultural and economic backgrounds have also affected lifestyles and standards of health and education in the South Pacific.



Australian rugby match



Reviewing Key Terms

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- primate city (p. 670)
- nomadic (p. 673)
- boomerang (p. 673)
- strine (p. 679)
- pidgin English (p. 680)
- subsistence farming (p. 680)
- fales (p. 681)

SECTION 1

1. A _____ serves as its country's capital, port, and single major urban area.

SECTION 2

2. _____ people do not establish permanent settlements.
3. A _____ is used for hunting.

SECTION 3

4. _____ involves growing only enough food for one's own needs.
5. Australians speak _____.
6. _____ has made it easier for Pacific islanders to understand each other.
7. Many Pacific islanders live in homes called _____.

Reviewing Facts

SECTION 1

8. Who were the first settlers in Australia and New Zealand?
9. From what country can most Australians and New Zealanders trace their roots?

SECTION 2

10. How did the earliest settlers reach Australia?
11. Why were the first British people sent to settle Australia?

SECTION 3

12. What is the dominant religion in the South Pacific region?
13. In the past how did traditional South Pacific peoples pass their history to the next generation?

Critical Thinking

14. **Analyzing Information** Why are Australia and New Zealand largely urbanized?
15. **Identifying Central Issues** Why did European nations and Japan struggle to control Oceania in the 1800s and 1900s?
16. **Expressing Problems Clearly** How has geography affected health and education in Oceania?



Geographic Themes

17. **Place** Why do most people in Australia live in coastal cities?
18. **Movement** How did the discovery of gold affect the settlement of Australia?
19. **Human/Environment Interaction** How do Australia's Aborigines view their relationship to nature?



Practicing Skills

Reading Tables and Analyzing Statistics

Refer to the statistical table on page 682. Which country has the lowest standard of living? On what figures do you base this conclusion?

Using the Unit Atlas

- Refer to the cultural geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 648–649.
20. Where do most of Australia's people live?
 21. What major ethnic groups make up Oceania's population?

Projects

Individual Activity

The work of many writers and artists of the South Pacific culture region reflects their personal view of the region. Study the work of a writer or artist from the region (such as Kath Walker or Sydney Nolan) and explain in a brief oral report how the work captures the spirit of the South Pacific.

Cooperative Learning Activity

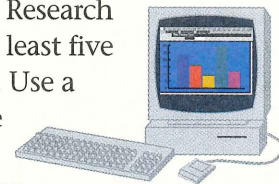
Working with a partner, create pairs of sister city locations from throughout the region. One student should choose cities that are heavily populated: the other, cities with sparse population. List two advantages and disadvantages to human settlement in your areas. Then work together to pair locations with compatible features.

Writing About Geography

Cause and Effect Imagine you are a time traveler who has traveled to the South Pacific islands before European settlement. Write a description of how European settlement has affected your island and its people. Be sure to identify the causes for any changes you discuss.

Technology Activity

Using a Spreadsheet Research the independence of at least five South Pacific countries. Use a spreadsheet to organize your information.



Include headings such as name of country, highlights of colonial history, year of independence, how independence was attained, current economy, and present form of government.



Locating Places

**PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY:
AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN OCEANIA**

Match the letters on the map with the places and physical features of Australia and western Oceania. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Papua New Guinea
2. Sydney
3. Auckland
4. Melbourne
5. Canberra
6. Perth
7. Brisbane
8. Adelaide
9. Wellington

