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# Australia. Country upside down

ИНДИВИДУАЛЬНЫЙ ИТОГОВЫЙ ПРОЕКТ

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## Introduction

Australia is the youngest country located on the ancient continent of the world. Some call it "paradoxical", because everything is not the same as in the world. The country occupies the entire area of the continent, and does not border anyone. It has the smallest number of inhabitants. 1 sq km, there are 2.5 people. In uninhabited regions, the inhabitants are marsupial mammals. The coastal zones consist of the jungle. The capes at the southern end of the continent are home to penguins, seals that swim from Antarctica.

The peculiarity of the Green continent is its location. It seems to the Northern population that in the South "everything is the opposite". That's why the mainland is called "earth upside down". People on the mainland, of course, do not go upside down, but some things that seem normal to us, look different in this country. For example, the disk of the moon actually looks "upside down". Summer months are called winter months, and winter months are called summer months. Another interesting feature is that it is warmer to the North and colder to the South. The currents of the rivers wash away the left banks more strongly, and the sea ones twist clockwise. Here is such an amazing country " upside down»...

## **Justification**

I have chosen the project «The continent upside down» because I am interested in learning its wild life, the aborigines, some new and interesting facts.

## **Goals and Tasks**

The project goal is to make

To get the project goal I have

- 1) to make the plan
- 2) to find some information about the geography of Australia
  - location
  - landscape
- 3) to find information about flora and fauna
- 4) to find some information about Australian aborigines
- 5) to find interesting facts about Australia

## **Geographical location**

Geographical location of Australia. Australia (Commonwealth of Australia) occupies the continent of Australia, the island of Tasmania and a number of other Islands in the Indian, Pacific and southern oceans. To the North of Australia are East Timor, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, to the northeast — Vanuatu, New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands, to the Southeast-New Zealand.



## Landscapes

Australia is the lowest continent: on almost half of its surface, the average height does not exceed 300m. Since Australia is based on a platform, the terrain is dominated by different heights, mainly plains. Most of the continent is occupied by the West Australian plateau. Its surface is 300-500 m above sea level.

The Central lowland is the lowest part of the continent. Its height does not exceed 100 m, and in the center it is concave and lies 12 m below sea level.

Along the Eastern coast there is a Large Watershed ridge belonging to the folded region. These are old, destroyed mountains, divided into separate massifs. There are no active volcanoes, glaciers, or earthquakes in Australia.

The Australian Alps are the highest mountain range in the East Australian Mountains. It includes the highest peak of the continent – Kosciuszko (2230 m). The mountain was discovered in 1840 by the Polish Count Pavel Strzelecki, who named it in honor of his countryman and prominent figure- Tadeusz Kosciuszko. It is worth noting that traces of glaciation remain here all year round.

Mount Townsend (2209 m) is located next to Mount Kosciuszko. When Townsend was opened, it turned out that she was several meters taller than

Kosciuszko. But out of respect for the Polish figure, the mountains were simply renamed into each other. Thus, Mount Kosciuszko remained the highest mountain on the mainland.



### **Climate and Flora**

There are four climate zones in Australia: sub-Equatorial, tropical, subtropical, and temperate.

Australia has been separated from the rest of the world by oceans for more than 200 million years. Thanks to this, a large variety of plants and animals appeared. The fifth continent has a very specific vegetation and has about 22,000 plant species. Of these plant species, approximately 90 % are not found anywhere else. Fascinating flora in the rainforest. Eucalyptus and acacia trees belong to the Australian vegetation, there are about 600 species, found in many areas, even in the hot and dry Central Australia. There are three large zones in the plant world of Australia, divided as follows: Tropical zone the Tropical zone is located along the North coast to the middle of the East coast.

It falls in the monsoon climate and is densely planted with mostly deciduous trees. Ferns and palms thrive among ash trees, oaks, cedars, and birches.

The Temperate zone runs through the South-Eastern coastal plain and Tasmania and extends North along the East coast into the tropical zone. The temperate zone is famous for its many shrubs and low-growing plants. In the Australian Alps and mountain landscapes of Tasmania, mainly Alpine vegetation is found. There are stocks of pine trees along the East coast to Tasmania. The latter are in second place after eucalyptus trees in terms of their economic significance. BETWEEN DIGITAL Varieties of eucalyptus predominate in wooded areas, warm and well-watered South-Eastern and South-Western areas. Tasmania is known for its beech forests.

Dry zone the Dry zone is located throughout the middle, arid zone and in the West of the fifth continent. The vegetation here is adapted to the arid climate. These are mainly eucalyptus trees and acacia (500 species in total). There are two species of eucalyptus in Western Australia, the so-called Jarra and Karri Eucalyptus. The highlight of any trip to Australia is the special wildlife of the fifth continent. The peculiarity of animals is that they live either only in Australia, or in a zoo.

### **Eucalyptus - a tree of wonders**

And what other tree could have been born on the amazing land of the Green Continent? Eucalyptus trees are special in that they are able to adapt to the conditions of frequent fires in Australia (they quickly recover).



Eucalyptus trees are able to decontaminate the air, grow quickly and drain wetlands. In the humid eastern regions of Australia, you can see the royal eucalyptus. These are very tall trees: eucalyptus at the age of 350-400 years reaches a height of 100 meters.

Eucalyptus wood is very dense, heavy (sinks in water) and does not rot. Eucalyptus per day absorbs 320 liters of moisture from the soil and evaporates (for comparison, birch-40 liters).

In eucalyptus forests, it is always light, because the leaves of this tree turn parallel to the falling sun rays. This helps the tree to conserve moisture. In the eucalyptus forest, it is easy to breathe – the air is filled with the fresh smell of essential oils. And they are known to kill various harmful bacteria.

Australians also respect eucalyptus for its extraordinary love of life – frequent fires that occur in the dry climate of the country are not able to destroy green spaces. Eucalyptus trees crack in the fire, and after a few days, shoots begin to grow violently from the cracks.



Eucalyptus plants have a weapon against pests: their leaves contain a cocktail of odorous monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes and formylated phloroglucin derivatives. And, as it turned out, the proportion between the components of the odorous mixture in the tree is different in different branches and in different leaves, the tree had a genetic mosaic. That is, in different parts of it, different genes worked to produce a working mixture. So even if the insects almost completely destroyed the leaves, the tree still had the resources to continue photosynthesis, growth, and reproduction.

### Bottle Tree

There are also trees with thickened trunks, which accumulate a supply of moisture, represented by several species of the genus *Strocularia*, the so-called, "bottle trees".



These trees are native to Australia. The area of their distribution covers the entire central and northern parts of the continent.

The height of the bottle tree rarely exceeds 15 meters. In the soil, the trunk diameter is one and a half to two meters. The trunk begins to branch high above the ground. Externally, the tree trunk resembles a bottle or flask. The foliage

of the bottle tree is quite thickly strewn with a few branches. The leaf is small, only 8 centimeters in length.

But it is not the external similarity with the bottle that gave the name to the plant, the fact is that inside the trunk of the bottle tree there are two chambers. One of them (it is located closer to the root system) is filled with water, which the root absorbs during the rainy season. The second chamber (it is located above the first) is filled with juice, which in its consistency resembles a thick syrup. This sweet juice is quite edible and delicious. The plant uses the accumulated water in hot and dry periods.

The tropical savanna region of the Arnhem Land Peninsula is a geographical landmark of northern Australia, which determines the entire structure of the peninsula's ecosystems. Rivers flowing from the mountains to the coast are flooded during the summer monsoon, and have developed extensive floodplains in the sandstones.



Most of the peninsula is covered with moist savanna, combined with fragments of rain forests and shrubs on the ledges of the sandstone massif. The sandstone massif is home to highly endemic biota, including many rare plant species.

*Cordyline australis* is a New Zealand species of woody plant. It is endemic to New Zealand. It grows on rocky open slopes and damp plains. James Cook called it the "cabbage tree".

Young leaves are used for food. The juice of the plant has anti-infective properties.

Southern cordillina is characterized by a high content of carbohydrates and, after cooking, becomes suitable for food. For eight centuries, it has been an important source of food for the Maori.

### Mangroves, or mangrove forests



Where in the tropics the sea coasts are protected from the huge waves of the surf by nearby islands or coral reefs, or where rivers flow into the seas and oceans, one of the most distinctive plant formations of this zone develops - mangroves, mangroves, or mangroves. The descriptions of travelers, it is "growing in the sea of trees", which at high tide over the water rises only to the crown, and at low tide becomes visible and quirky, different in different species of these plants breathing roots.

Cape York's Iron Ridge National Park is known for its lush shrubby vegetation on sandy soils. There are quite a few species of insectivorous plants, one of them – nepenthes.

## Fauna

### Mammals

Australia is home to six of the ten most venomous snakes in the world. The most deadly is the Taipan. In addition to it, Australia is home to: tiger snake, brown snake, deadly Viper and copper snake. Because of the camouflage color, they are barely distinguishable.

### The kangaroo



The kangaroo is the National animal of Australia-the kangaroo. This is the most famous marsupial subspecies. It is found in Sydney, Tasmania, New Guinea and other coastal Islands in Australia.

### Parrots

Parrots are found in almost all areas of Australia. They are not found only on the coast of New South Wales and Tasmania. Only one-sixth of the parakeet species can be seen found in Australia



are Found in almost Australia. They are on the coast of New Tasmania. Only one-parakeet species can be seen



worldwide. The so-called lorikeets are very trusting. They eat bread right out of their hands. Cockatoos can be seen everywhere.

### Platypus



An unusual mammal is very similar to a beaver. There is something of the duck in it, as well as of the mole. Until the 18th century, everyone who had

never been to Australia did not believe in the existence of the platypus. The description of this beast was too outlandish. photo platypuses Platypuses are reputed to be excellent swimmers. They are able to lay eggs to hatch their young. On land, platypuses also feel good. There they feed their offspring with milk, so they are classified as mammals, not amphibians or reptiles.

### Crocodiles

A narrow-nosed crocodile (lat. *Crocodylus johnstoni*) - a reptile of the family of true crocodiles, lives in fresh water in the north of Australia. Originally named *Crocodylus*



*johnsoni*, that is, Johnson's Crocodile, due to an error in the spelling of the name of the discoverer (Robert Arthur Johnstone, 1843-1905). Although the error was corrected some time later, both names are found in the literature.

## Origin of animals names

"Kangaroo" comes from "kanguroo" or "gagurru" - the name of this animal in the Kuukuyimitiri language of the Aborigines at the time of its landing on the north-eastern coast of Australia in 1770.

"Koalas" in the Darak dialect (one of the Australian tribes), koalas were called gula, that is, "the one who does not drink water". This word was borrowed by the British colonialists, and over time it was transformed into the familiar "koala".

## Australian aborigines

Australian Aborigines (Indigenous Australians) — the native population of Australia, also sometimes called "Australian Bushmen", in linguistic and



racial relations are isolated from other peoples of the world. They speak Australian languages, a significant part - only in English and / or in various variants of pidgins. They live mainly in remote areas of Northern, North-

Western, North-Eastern and Central Australia, some of them in cities. Australian Aborigines have created one of the oldest continuous cultures in the world.

Racially, the Aborigines of Australia form a separate-actually Australian branch of the Australoid race.

The birth rate of Aboriginal people in Victoria in 1970 was 6.5 children per woman; the Tiwi Aborigines in northern Australia had a birth rate of 5.0 children per woman in 1960. Before the arrival of Europeans, the number of Australian Aborigines ranged from 300 to 700 thousand people in more than 500 tribes and more than 200 language groups, and by 1921 it had decreased to 60 thousand[6]. According to other sources, in 1788 the number of Australian Aborigines was about 750 thousand people, in 1911-only 31 thousand people[7]. Their number is 437 thousand. (2001, census), including 26.9 thousand people. in the Torres Strait Islands. Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait Islands and Papuans.

Today, most Aborigines rely on government and other charities. Traditional ways of life support (hunting, fishing and gathering, some of the Torres Strait Islanders — manual farming) are almost completely lost. Among them, traditional religions are still preserved.

## **Interesting facts about Australia**

1. The Australian continent was already inhabited by people before the arrival of the British, and the first aborigines appeared 50 thousand years ago.
2. This country is on the sixth place in terms of area (7 million km) and occupies an entire continent.
3. The country has a choice of more than 10 thousand beaches. It turns out that for almost 30 years, you can come to a new beach every day!
4. In Australia, there are about 200 thousand species of animals, and most of them are endemic, that is, those who live only in a limited range and are no longer found elsewhere on our planet.

5. In 1977, the famous and only tour of the ABBA group in Australia took place.
6. The territory of this continent contains 91% of the vegetation.
7. Australia exports camels to Saudi Arabia.
8. Near the mainland is the largest sandy island in the world - Fraser. Its area is 1,840 square kilometers of sand dunes.
9. More than 80% of the population lives in the coastal zone, not exceeding 100 km from the water.
10. Australia uses a special dialect of English called strine. In total, more than 300 languages are spoken on the mainland, and 45 of them are indigenous languages.
11. In this country, Burger King fast food restaurants are called Hungry Jack's. This was because a small cafe had already registered this name on the territory of Australia.
12. In 1967, the Prime Minister of Australia went to the beach and never returned. Two years after taking office, Harold Holt was reported missing. This has given rise to many conspiracy theories.
13. Australia is on the 193rd place (out of 195!) in the list of countries by population density. It has a population of 2.8 people per square kilometer. For comparison, in Monaco, there are 18 thousand people per square kilometer.
14. Australian Highway 1 is the longest national highway network in the world. Its total length is approximately 14.5 thousand kilometers.
15. In Victoria, only licensed electricians are allowed to change the light bulb.
16. The capital of Australia is the city of Canberra, which in 1913 was built specifically for this purpose.



This decision was made after the country's largest cities, Melbourne and Sydney, staged a real competition for the right to be considered the capital.

17. Wireless Internet around the world was presented by the Australian scientific agency. The discovery was made in 1998, and to this day, Australians intend to sue any company that uses Wi-fi without a license.

18. The top 10 deadliest snakes in the world live only in Australia. Moreover, in the ranking of the 25 most venomous snakes of the entire planet, there are 20 Australian ones.

19. The famous Burning Mountain near Sydney got its name because of the embers in the underground layer of sandstone. It is curious that the gorenje of coals does not stop already 6 thousand years.

20. Despite the fact that Australia is teeming with all sorts of spiders, the last time a person died from a bite of this arthropod was in 1981.

21. Before the British settlers arrived in Australia, there were more than 10 million koalas. Now there are about 43 thousand individuals in the wild.

22. The story of the origin of the name kangaroo is unconfirmed, simply put, a myth. Scientists do not rule out that James Cook could really ask the aborigines what the name of this animal is. According to legend, they did not understand his speech and answered him in their own dialect "I do not understand", which means "kangaroo".

23. One of the Australian rivers is called Never Never River (Never Never River).

24. In Western Australia, there is a pink salt lake called Hiller, and scientists have not decided what the cause of this phenomenon is.

The main version - pink color is given by algae of a special kind, although tests have not confirmed this fact.

25. In 1859, only 24 rabbits were imported to Australia. Within a decade, their population had increased to 2 million.

26. More than 80% of Australians are addicted to gambling. It is home to 20% of all slot machines in the world.

27. Every year, the Australian plate moves north by about 7 centimeters.

28. The very first Australian police force was formed from exemplary convicts in 1788.

29. In the small town of Coober Pedy, known as the world capital of opals, people live underground. Such an unusual way of life they had to choose because of sandstorms and constant heat.

30. Almost half of Australia's population (12 million) lives in three cities- Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

31. Australia Day is celebrated on January 26 - in 1788, the First fleet of the British Empire arrived on the mainland to establish a colony.

32. Australia is very fond of TV cooking shows. Once, the pre-election TV debate was moved to another time due to the finale of the MasterChef show.

33. The famous ugg boots were invented in Australia.

34. Australia is not called the sports capital of the world for nothing, because 70% of its residents participate in sports events at least once a week.

35. Surprisingly, despite the popularization of sports and healthy eating, 63% of Australians are still overweight.

36. The territory of Australia is 32 times larger than the United Kingdom and almost equal to the United States.

37. The population of kangaroos in Australia is twice the size of the population. There are 24 million people on the continent, and kangaroos - more than 57 million individuals!

38. The longest fence in the world is located in Australia. It stretches for 8.5 thousand kilometers. A fence separates a part of Australia from the one where Dingo dogs live.

39. The world's only albino whale lives, of course, off the coast of Australia. It was first spotted by a whale in 1991 and immediately got the name-Migalu. Now the whole world is watching the snow-white whale.

40. Australia is the second country in the world to give women the right to vote. This happened in 1902.

41. The richest woman in Australia is Gina Rinehart, whose fortune is estimated at \$ 28 billion.

42. Kangaroos and emus are national symbols of Australia, because they have an interesting feature-they can not "walk back". Like Australia, they are only moving forward!

43. There are 19 Australian sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List. These include the Great Barrier Reef, Fraser Island, Kakadu National Park and the Sydney Opera House.

44. The concept of the Sydney Opera House was designed by Dane Jorn Utzon, inspired by a slice of orange. The construction of the theater was delayed for 14 years, along with the estimated four.

45. Australia is the only continent without an active volcano.

46. The Great Barrier Reef is recognized as the world's largest living structure. It consists of 2,900 coral reefs and more than 900 islets formed from coral polyps, tiny microorganisms

47. A female kangaroo carries a baby for only 27-40 days, and at birth the length of the kangaroo is only a couple of centimeters.

48. Melbourne has the largest Greek community after Athens.

49. Australia has strict environmental controls-it is even forbidden to import soil on the sole of shoes. Especially closely inspected at the entrance to the unique territory of Tasmania, even from the continent.

50. Failure to attend the elections and refusal to participate in the census is punishable by a fine of 20 and 110 Australian dollars, respectively.



Australia is a country of contrasts and unique things that can only be found here. This amazing continent attracts tourists from all over the world thanks to its amazing atmosphere.

## **Conclusion**

Australia is a very unusual continent. It is situated so far from Russia, that for us it is a country upside down. Australia has amazing landscapes. It's the driest continent. That is why Australia's flora and fauna are unique. There are the rarest and most unusual animals in the world. The native population of Australia is as unique as itself. This continent is worth studying at the English lessons. This project can help pupils to learn more about Australia.

## **List of links and references**

<https://elenaruvel.com> - 50 interesting facts about Australia

<https://www.информашка.рф> - flora and fauna

<https://expertworldtravel.com/whats-australia-famous-for/>

[https://www.pinterest.ru/search/pins/?q=australia&rs=typed&term\\_meta\[\]=australia%7Ctyped](https://www.pinterest.ru/search/pins/?q=australia&rs=typed&term_meta[]=australia%7Ctyped) – pictures