

Australian Animals

Locating Australia



Grades

4-6

Objective

Students will locate Australia on a world map and globe, learn where Australia is in relation to the world's oceans, continents, countries and hemispheres, and explore the relational size of Australia, making comparisons with other countries and continents.

What's Inside?

- Lesson Plan
- Comparing Continents Activity
- NOTE: Locating Australia PPT available in the CILC Makers Space

Source: Royal Geographic Society.

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Adapted for US classrooms by CILC.

Lesson plan

As an introduction to the module, pupils locate Australia on a world map. They learn where Australia is in relation to the world's oceans, continents, countries and hemispheres. Pupils explore the relational size of Australia, making comparisons with other countries and continents.

Key questions

- Where is Australia located on a world map?
- Is Australia a country or a continent?
- Which oceans surround the island Australia?
- How large is Australia?
- How does the size of Australia compare to other countries and continents?

Key Ideas

- Australia is both a country and a continent.
- It is in the Southern Hemisphere and is an island country, surrounded by the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- Australia is the sixth largest country in the world.
- Australia's size has both positive and negative impacts.

Subject content areas

- Locational knowledge: pupils locate Australia on a world map and globe. They locate Australia in relation to the US and its surrounding oceans and countries.
- Place knowledge: consider how the size of Australia might affect people's experience of Australia.
- Human and physical geography: pupils locate Australia and consider the land area of the country/continent. They compare this to the area of other countries and continents.
- Geographical skills: interpreting geographical data relating to the size of different continents and developing map skills by matching continent names to their location on a world map.

Materials:

- Print outs of Comparing Continents activity
- Colored pencils
- World Map
- Globe

Learning objective

To discover where Australia is located and compare its size to other countries and continents.

Starter

Use the Locating Australia PowerPoint presentation (see CILC Makers Space) to follow the sequence of the lesson.

Introduce the new geography topic 'Australia' to pupils. Highlight that Australia's size, location, changing population and huge range of different landscapes and physical features make it a fascinating country to study geographically.

Australia is located far from the United States. Point out the location of Australia on the class globe and world map. Make sure students have identified the oceans surrounding it.

Main Teaching

Australia is both a country and a continent. It is located in the Southern Hemisphere and surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Review the seven continents with the class and locate each continent on a large world map or using slide four of the Locating Australia PowerPoint presentation (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica and Australia).

Explain this lesson involves comparing the size (surface area) of Australia with other countries and continents. Ask pupils to look at the size of each continent on the map shown on slide five; remind them maps are drawn to scale which means we can compare the size of the continents accurately using a map. Students use post-it notes and write a continent name on each, they then order them from smallest to largest and save this for the main activity.

Highlight the size of Australia in relation to the size of the US using the information in the Locating Australia PowerPoint presentation.

Explain to pupils both the positives and negatives of Australia's size:

- The space is a great asset especially for growing crops and raising farm animals on a large scale.
- However, the distances in Australia make it expensive to deliver resources to people in isolated inland areas, particularly water during periods of drought.
- The inland isolated areas are depopulating (losing population), and people are moving to urban areas on the coast. This process of moving to urban areas from rural areas is called 'urbanization'.
- Many country towns are depopulating and this is leading to the closure of services which puts further pressure on the communities left in these areas.

NOTE: Similar depopulation of rural areas and ever-increasing urbanization have been occurring in the United States for many decades. Students may naturally want to talk about how they see that happening around them, especially if your school is located in a small town or rural area.

Main Activity

Before pupils complete the Comparing Continent Area activity, pose the question: **what information does the bar chart tell us about the size of each continent?** Discuss this as a whole class.

On Comparing Continent Area activity highlight that bar charts are a useful way of presenting geographical information as they show information very clearly. Also highlight that the areas of each continent are so large they are written in millions of square kilometers and rounded either up or down to the nearest million. If it is helpful, ask students to convert kilometers to miles.

Extension

Pupils complete page three of the Comparing Continent Area activity sheet and read the values on the bar chart to complete the table. Pupils can then move on to answer questions that encourage them to consider and analyze the geographical data shown.

Final Comprehension

Ask questions to assess pupils' understanding of Australia's size and location as compared with other countries and continents.

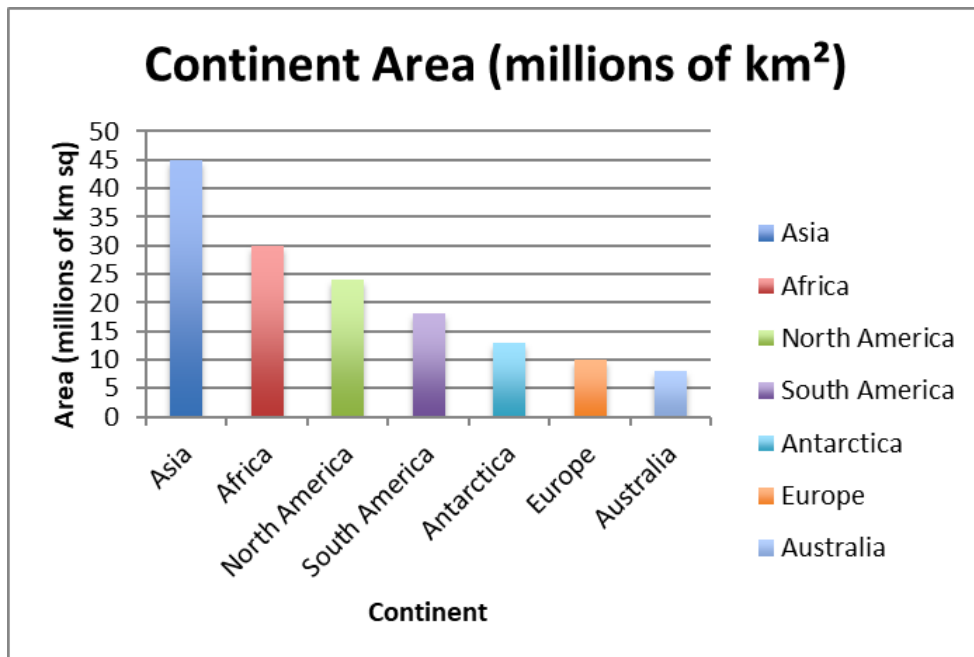
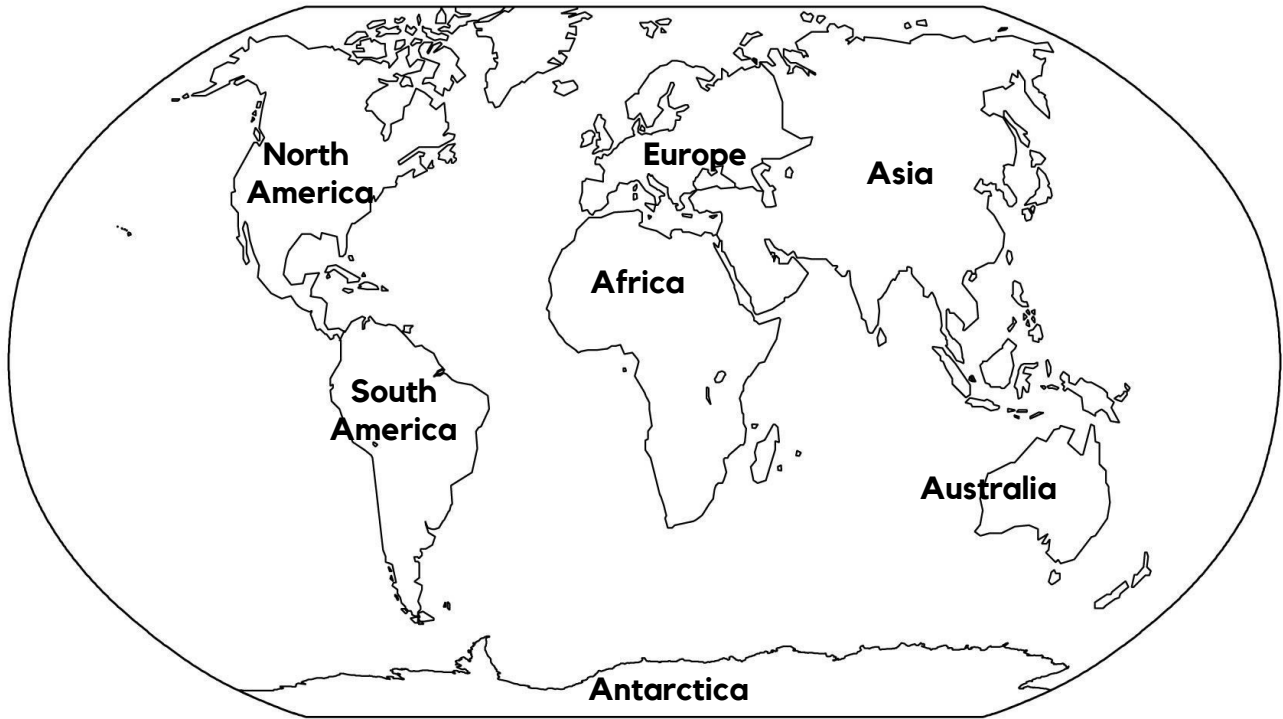
1. Which continent is the largest?
2. Which continent is the smallest?
3. Which continent is larger- Australia or Europe?
4. Is Australia in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere?



Name:Date:

COMPARING CONTINENTS

Color code the seven continents so they match the bar chart below.



Extension:

Read the values on the bar chart and complete the table below with the approximate size of each continent. Put the smallest continent at the top of the table and the largest at the bottom.

Continent	Rank 1-7	Approximate size (millions of km ²)

Questions:

Use the bar chart to answer the questions below.

Which two continents are most similar in size?

Asia is approximately twice the size of North America: true or false?

Which is the fourth largest continent?

Which is the second smallest continent?