

Talk a Lot

Australia – Which states would you visit?

Student A

Ask and answer questions to complete the gaps, and find out information about four of Australia's six states. You're looking forward to having a holiday in Australia, but you only have time to visit two states. Which states would you visit, and in what order? Why?

	Queensland	Western Australia
Population / Area / Capital City		2.3 million / 2.6m km ² / Perth
Landscape / Climate		
Top Tourist Attractions	Gold Coast; Great Barrier Reef	
Famous People	Steve Irwin – crocodile hunter	Rolf Harris – artist and TV presenter
Historical Fact		in 1893 a gold rush began at Kalgoorlie
Website (for more information)	http://www.tq.com.au/	
Min. Temp. in June / December	11°C / 20°C	10°C / 16°C
Nickname / Time Zone		

	Tasmania	New South Wales
Population / Area / Capital City	502,600 / 90,758 km ² / Hobart	
Landscape / Climate		mountainous; coastal / arid; temperate
Top Tourist Attractions	Cataract Gorge; Port Arthur	Blue Mountains; Bondi Beach
Famous People		
Historical Fact	first settled 40,000 years ago	founded in 1788 as a British penal colony
Website (for more information)		
Min. Temp. in June / December		
Nickname / Time Zone	Apple Isle / UTC+10 AEST	Premier State / UTC+10 AEST

Note: AEST = Australian Eastern Standard Time; AWST = Australian Western Standard Time

Student B

Ask and answer questions to complete the gaps, and find out information about four of Australia's six states. You're looking forward to having a holiday in Australia, but you only have time to visit two states. Which states would you visit, and in what order? Why?

	Queensland	Western Australia
Population / Area / Capital City	4.4 million / 1.9m km ² / Brisbane	
Landscape / Climate	tropical; coastal / hot and sunny	desert; coastal / hot and dry
Top Tourist Attractions		surf the Indian Ocean; Penguin Island
Famous People		
Historical Fact	named after Queen Victoria	
Website (for more information)		http://www.westernaustralia.com
Min. Temp. in June / December		
Nickname / Time Zone	Sunshine State / UTC+10 AEST	Wildflower State / UTC+8 AWST

	Tasmania	New South Wales
Population / Area / Capital City		7.1 million / 809,444 km ² / Sydney
Landscape / Climate	rainforest; farmland / cool; wet	
Top Tourist Attractions		
Famous People	Errol Flynn – 1930s movie star	Toni Collette – award-winning actress
Historical Fact		
Website (for more information)	http://www.discovertasmania.com/	http://www.visitnsw.com/
Min. Temp. in June / December	5°C / 11°C	9°C / 17°C
Nickname / Time Zone		

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Australia

Information Exchange

Answers

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"Which states would you visit, and in what order? Why?" Answers will vary. When they have completed filling the gaps, students should discuss which states they would visit, and in what order. They should produce appropriate reasons for their choices – why they would choose one state rather than another, and why they have chosen the order that they have. For example: "I would explore Tasmania first, because I want to see the historic Port Arthur Penitentiary. After that I would need to relax and unwind, so I'd travel to Western Australia for surf, sand, and shopping..." Or... "I wouldn't visit Queensland, because I don't like tropical heat..." [etc.]

Sample Questions

What is the population of _____ ?
What is the area of _____ ?
What's the capital city of _____ ?
What kind of landscape does _____ have?
What's the climate like in _____ ?
Tell me some of the top tourist attractions in _____.
Have any famous people been born in _____ ?
Do any famous people come from _____ ?
Tell me a historical fact about _____.
Which website could I visit for more information about _____ ?
What is the minimum temperature in _____ in June [or December] ?
What is _____'s nickname?
What time zone is _____ in?

Sample Answers

The population of _____ is _____ people.
_____ kilometres squared.
The capital city of _____ is _____.
It can be _____.
You could visit _____.
Yes, _____, the _____, was born in _____.
Yes, _____ comes / came from _____.
Try _____.
It's _____ degrees Celsius.
_____ 's nickname is _____.
_____.

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Examples

What is the population of Queensland?
What's the climate like in Western Australia?
Do any famous people come from Tasmania?

The population of Queensland is 4.4 million people.
It can be hot and dry.
Yes, Errol Flynn, the 1930s movie star, came from Tasmania.

What is New South Wales's nickname?

New South Wales's nickname is the Premier State.

[etc.]

Extension: you could try to encourage some comparative/superlative questions and sentences too, for example:

Which is the largest state by area?
Which state has the smallest population?
Which state is warmer than New South Wales in summer (December)?

Western Australia is...
Tasmania has...
Queensland is...

[etc.]

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