Introduction

• The **absolute location** of a place describes its exact position on Earth
• Canberra (Capital) is in the Southern Hemisphere
• The **relative location** of a place describes where it is in relation to other places
**Essential Question**

How does a country’s location shape life within its borders?

**Graphic Organizer**

This map puts Australia at the center of the world. It is colored yellow to make it stand out. Notice where Australia is relative to the equator. Also notice how far it is from the other continents. Keep this map in mind as you try to answer the Essential Question.
1. How might you describe the location of Australia?

2. In your answer to Question 1, put an $A$ next to any examples of absolute location. Put an $R$ next to any examples of relative location.

3. What are some ways that Australia’s location might shape life in that country?

The World

![World Map](image)
• How is this map different from world maps you commonly see in textbooks or atlases?
The Geographic Setting

- Australia only country that is a continent
- Australis = southern; “Down Under”
- A lot of desert; only Antarctica more arid
- Diverse flora and fauna
How Australia Drifted “Down Under”

• **Continental drift theory** – continents are drifting as tectonic plates move
  – Alfred Wegener proposed Pangea (supercontinent)
From Koalas to Kookaburras

• Joseph Banks - botanist who discovered koalas and kookaburras
  – Native species – species that are naturally found in an area
  – 80% of Australia’s species are found nowhere else!
Australia’s Biodiversity

- Colonists introduced exotic species, animals or plants that brought in from somewhere else
- New species are competing
- Threatened species – likely to become endangered if not protected
Look at these photographs carefully.
- What interesting details do you see?
- What might these photographs tell you about British influences on life in Australia?
- How might location have played a role in how Britain has influenced life in Australia?
A Land Far from Great Britain

• Write a possible answer to this question: Great Britain has had an influence on life in Australia. How do you think Australia’s location may have played a role in this?

• Australia was the farthest colony to which the British government could send prisoners.

• It was their colony for more than 200 years and has been greatly influenced by British culture, government, and language.
Look at these images carefully.
- What interesting details do you see in the photograph? In the map?
- What aspect of life is shown in these images?
- How might location play a role in shaping this aspect of life in Australia?

Immigrants to Australia, July 2001 to June 2002

This map shows where most immigrants to Australia came from in a one-year period.
New Relationships with Near Neighbors

• Write a possible answer to this question: *How do you think Australia’s location plays a role in shaping who comes to live there?*

• *Australia’s close location to Asia and Africa helped to increase immigration from those continents.*

• *This, in turn, has created a plural society and sometimes tension between ethnic groups.*
Look at these photographs carefully.

- What are some similarities between them? What are some differences?
- What aspect of life is shown in these photographs?
- How might location play a role in shaping this aspect of life in Australia?
Australia’s Reversed Seasons

• Write a possible answer to these questions: How do you think Australia’s location plays a role in shaping its seasons? How might Australia benefit from its seasons?

• location in the Southern Hemisphere - seasons are reversed from those in the Northern Hemisphere.

• people from northern regions can vacation “Down Under” to escape winter where they live.

• Australians can grow crops during their summer to ship to northern countries still experiencing winter.
Look at this map carefully.

- What does this map tell us?
- What aspect of life is represented by this map?
- How might location play a role in shaping this aspect of life in Australia?
Australia’s Amazing Wildlife

• Write a possible answer to this question: *What role do you think Australia’s location has played in shaping the kinds of wildlife found there?*
• **Australia’s isolated location has resulted in unique wildlife.**
• **Plants and animals found nowhere else in the world have adapted to Australia’s sometimes harsh climate.**
• **many exotic species have been brought in that now endanger native species.**
Australians have the highest skin cancer rates in the world. Sid Seagull encourages people to “slip” on a shirt, “slop” on suntan lotion, and “slap” on a hat before going outdoors.

The Ozone Hole over Antarctica

Look at these images carefully.
- What interesting details do you see?
- What aspect of life is represented by these images?
- How might location play a role in shaping this aspect of life in Australia?
• Write a possible answer to this question: *How do you think Australia’s location impacts the effects of the sun on the people who live there?*

• *Australia’s location near the equator as well as near the ozone hole over Antarctica have resulted in the highest rate of skin cancer in the world.*

• *Because Australians enjoy outdoor activities, Australia has used its “slip, slop, slap” campaign to educate people about the dangers of the sun.*
Kyoto Protocol

• an agreement between the European nations, the U.S. and 37 industrialized nations about the reduction of greenhouse gases
Global Connections

• What do the areas with most of the threatened species have in common?
  – Hot spots are tropical regions, and islands
  – Since 2000 ½ of all extinctions have occurred on continents
Global Connections

• Which factors pose the greatest dangers to threatened species?
  – In the past, exotic species
  – Today, habitat loss
Global Connections

• How does relative location affect a species’ chances of survival?
  – Best chance = as far from humans as possible, i.e. the extremes