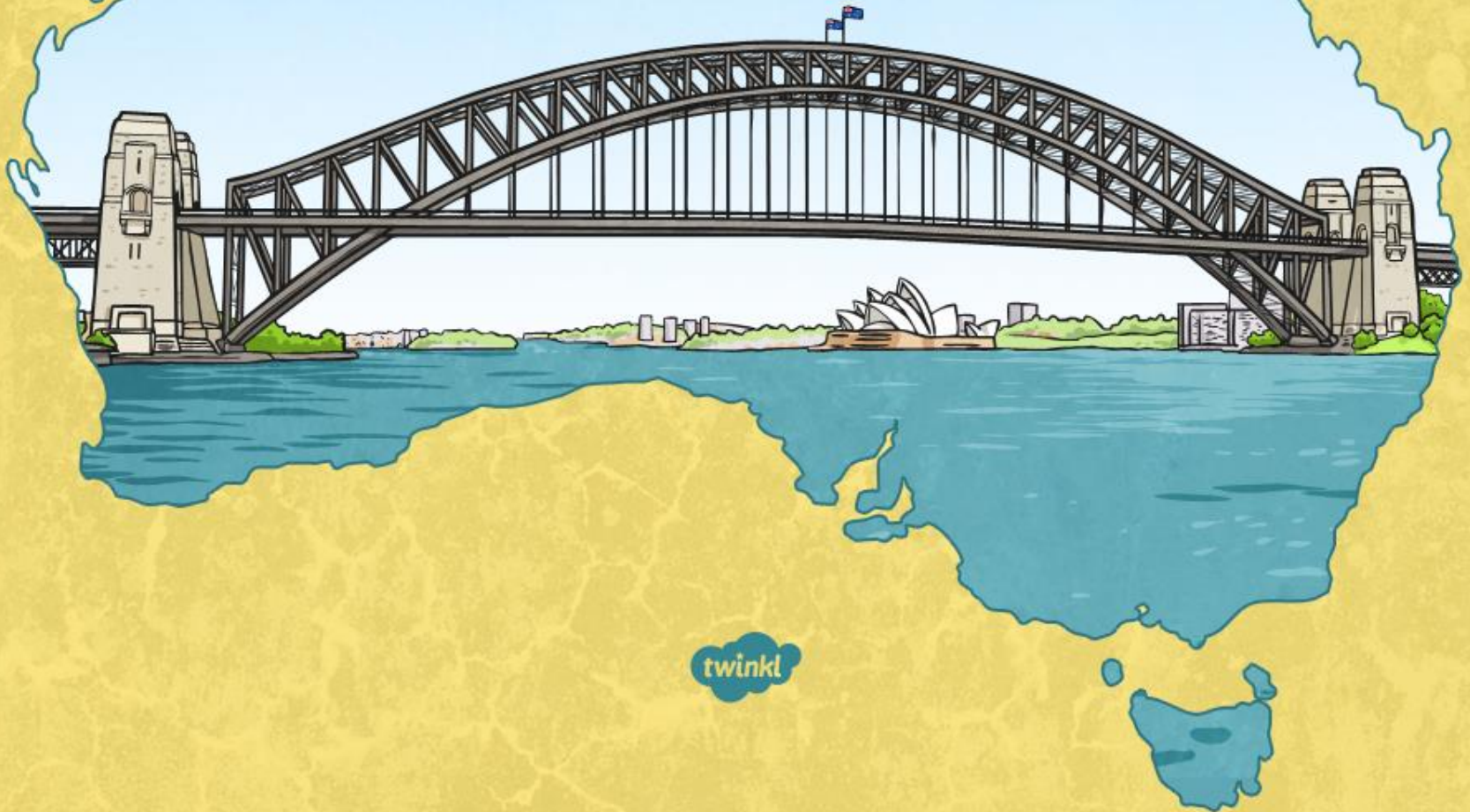


Australia



Australia

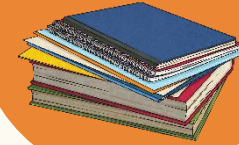
Culture



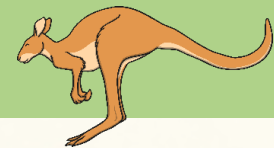
Food



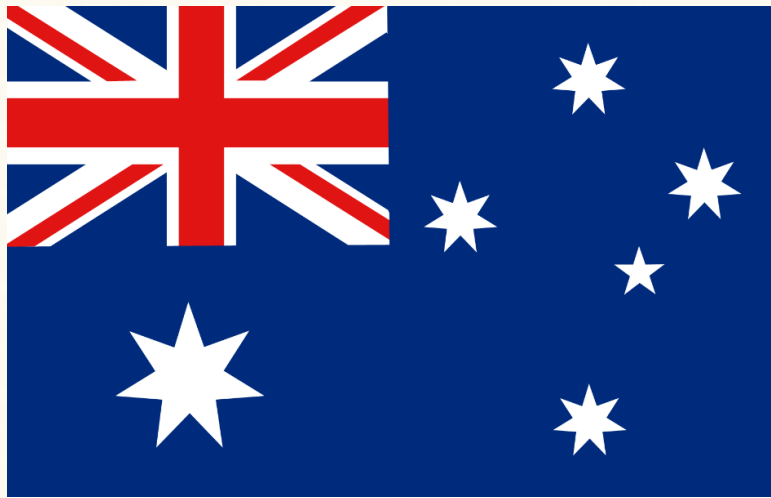
School



Click on the kangaroo to return to this menu



Culture



Australian Flag

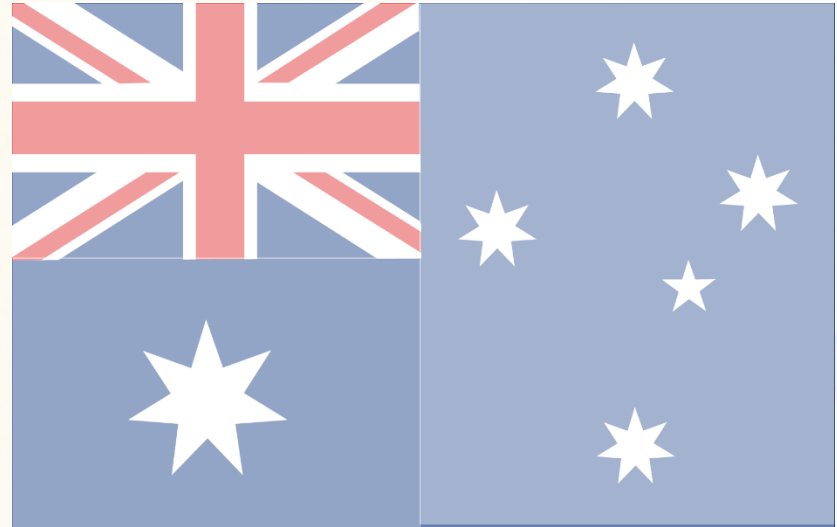
The Australian National Flag is Australia's national symbol. It was first flown in 1901 and has become a significant part of the Australian identity. The Australian National Flag is used at many significant events such as ANZAC Day, National Reconciliation Day, Olympic Games and at different services for community groups. It is also seen at federal and state parliaments.

The Australian National Flag has three elements on its blue background. The flag contains the Union Jack, the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross.

Australian Flag

The Union Jack in the upper left corner acknowledges the history of British settlement.

The white Commonwealth or Federation Star has seven points. These points represent the unity of the six states and the territories of Australia that occurred on 1st January 1901. This star can also be seen on the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.



The Southern Cross is shown on the right hand side of the flag. This constellation of five stars can only be seen from the southern hemisphere.

Aboriginal Flag

The Australian Aboriginal flag is very significant to Australia's culture. It shows the connection that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with this land. The flag is displayed at Aboriginal centres and is well recognised. It has special importance on days of particular significance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, such as NAIDOC Week and National Reconciliation Week.

The Australian Aboriginal flag features three different parts. First, the flag is divided up into two horizontal halves. The top half of the flag is black and the bottom half of the flag is red. Then, there is a yellow circle placed directly in the centre of the flag.

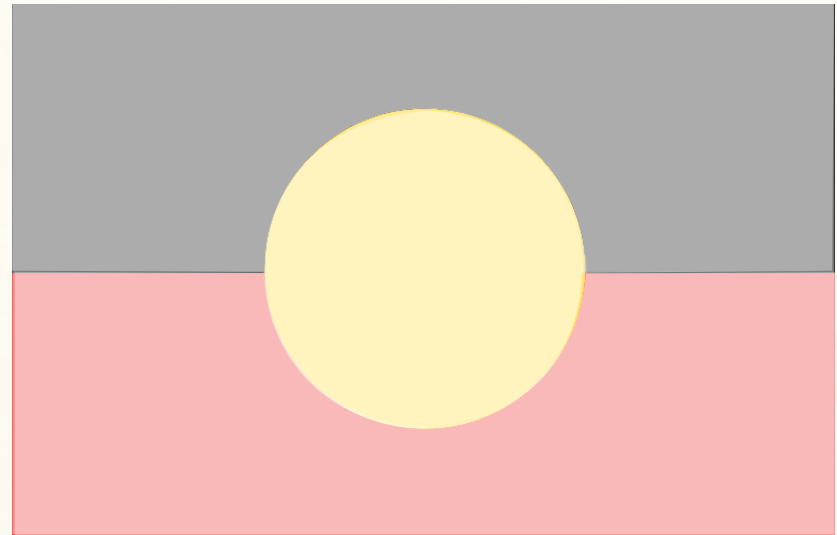


Aboriginal Flag

The black colour represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.

The yellow circle represents the sun. The sun is the giver of life and protector of the people and their land.

The red colour represents the earth. The red ochre (crumbly red rock) is used in ceremonies and is the Aboriginal peoples' spiritual relation to the land.



Commonwealth Coat of Arms



The Commonwealth Coat of Arms is the formal symbol of the Commonwealth of Australia that signifies Commonwealth authority and ownership.

Commonwealth Coat of Arms

The kangaroo and emu are the native animals that hold the shield with pride. The animals were chosen to symbolise a nation moving forward based on the belief that neither animal can move backwards easily.

A gold Commonwealth Star sits above the shield. Six points on the star represent the Australian states.

The seventh point represents the territories. The colours of the wreath of the crest are gold and blue and the border of the shield symbolises federation.

Australia's floral emblem, the golden wattle, surrounds the shield and supporters.



Commonwealth Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms contains a shield with six parts, each containing and representing the badge of a state.



New South Wales (1st quarter) - the Cross of St George containing an heraldic gold lion with three paws on the ground and the right forepaw being raised up.

Victoria (2nd quarter) - the Southern Cross with an imperial crown in normal colours placed above the top star.

Queensland (3rd quarter) - A blue Maltese Cross and Crown.

Commonwealth Coat of Arms



South Australia (4th quarter) - The Australian piping shrike perched on a twisted band of green and red.

Western Australia (5th quarter) - A black swan swimming.

Tasmania (6th quarter) - A red lion walking to the right with three paws on the ground with the right forepaw raised.

Floral Emblem

Australia's national flower is the golden wattle. It displays the national colours of green and gold. It was unofficially accepted as the national floral emblem to mark Federation in 1901. The wattle is able to withstand Australia's droughts, winds and bushfires. This resilience helps to represent the spirit of the Australian people.

Indigenous peoples of Australia soaked the gum of the wattle in water and process to make a sweet, toffee-like substance.

The tannin from the bark was also known for its antiseptic properties. The golden wattle has also been used as a symbol of remembrance and reflection on days of mourning.



Quick Facts about Australia's Culture

Australia is a multicultural country. People from around the world have migrated to Australia and have brought with them their own culture and a diverse range of wonderful food too.

Official Language: English
Population: 24,066,602
approximately
Currency: Dollar



Climate: Ranges from tropical to temperate. Most of Australia is dry land or desert.

Capital City

Canberra

States

New South Wales
Queensland
South Australia
Victoria
Western Australia
Tasmania

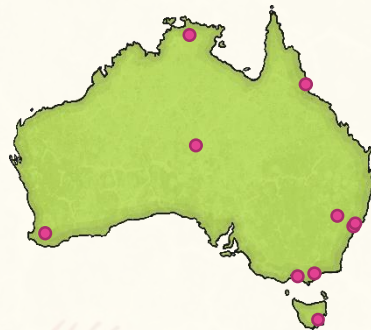
Main Cities

Sydney
Melbourne
Brisbane
Adelaide
Perth
Hobart
Darwin

Territories

Northern Territory
Australian Capital Territory

More Quick Facts about Australia's Culture



Some Famous Landmarks

Kakadu National Park

The Great Barrier Reef

The Three Sisters

Sydney Opera House

Sydney Harbour Bridge

Port Arthur

The Great Ocean Road

The Twelve Apostles

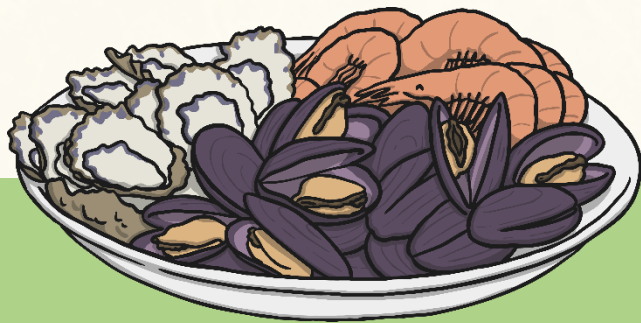
Wave Rock

Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Food

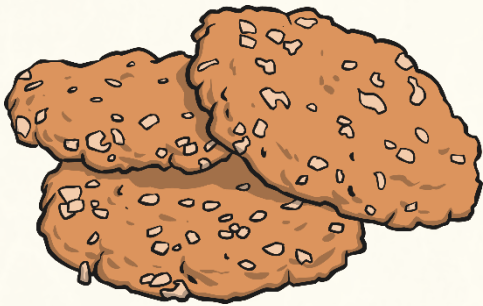
Australia has a rich variety of foods and drinks which have been adopted and adapted since colonisation. Due to Australia being a multicultural country, there are many new and foreign foods that have transformed the styles and ways Australian food is cooked and served.

In the early colonial days, there was a lot of originality and innovation in cooking. Indigenous Australians were known to use the plants and animals from the earth to fuel their bodies. Seafood, such as fish, turtle and oysters, native game, such as kangaroo and emu, and vegetables, as well as native fruits, berries and nuts were among these foods that they ate.

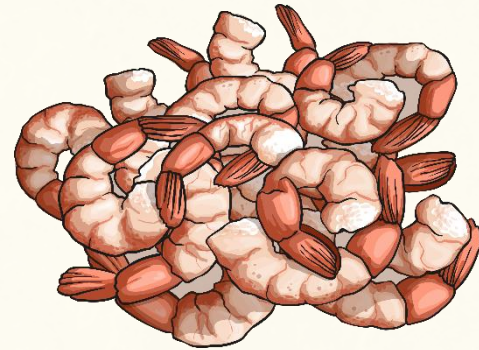


Food

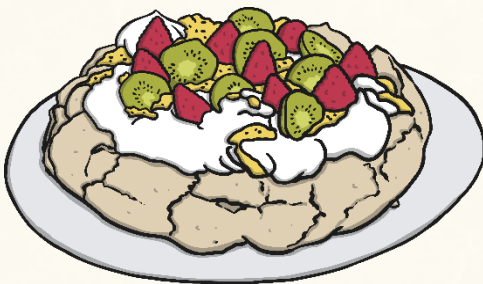
The following foods are the ones that Australians are very well known for:



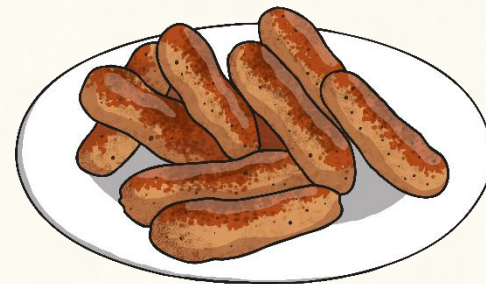
Anzac biscuits



Shrimp



Pavlova



Barbequed sausages



School

School education in Australia is compulsory between the ages of five-six and sixteen-seventeen. The Australian school year begins at the end of January and finishes in mid-December. The school year consists of four terms which usually contain between nine and eleven weeks each. The school system is 13 years long and is divided up into three sections.



Primary School: This runs for seven to eight years. It often starts at Kindergarten (Preparatory) through to Year 6.

Secondary School: This runs for four years. It starts in Year 7 and goes through to Year 10.

Senior Secondary School: This runs for two years. It starts in Year 11 and runs through to Year 12. This part of the education system is not compulsory for all individuals.

School

Tertiary education includes both higher education (which is completed at universities) and also vocational education and training (VET). This education is optional and not all students will choose to complete further studies after they have finished secondary and senior secondary schooling.

Australian schools help students to develop communication skills, self-discipline and respect for themselves, their peers and their world. Students are offered a broad curriculum in the key learning areas of English, mathematics, science, history, society and the environment, art, languages, technology, health and physical education, religion, music and sport.



School

How is this picture the same as the school you are used to?
What is different?



Things To Do

- Research how and when people migrated to Australia.
- Plan a trip to Australia. How long would you go for? What would you do every day? How much would it cost?
- Research some of the National Landmarks of Australia.
- Find and make an Australian recipe.
- Write a diary entry for a child in an Australian school. Think about what lessons you would have, what might be in your lunchbox and where your school might be.
- Find out what Bush Tucker is and which wild foods are safe to eat.
- Invent a new coat of arms for your country. Label the different parts of it, giving reasons for why they have been included.



