AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY UNIT

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# Table of Contents

1. Research proposal ........................................................................................................ 3

2. Annotated Bibliography ................................................................................................. 5

3. Outline .......................................................................................................................... 8

4. Overall Physical Geography Australia ........................................................................ 12

5. Physical Geography of Australia .................................................................................. 30

6. Aboriginals .................................................................................................................... 42

7. Introduction into Cultural Geography ........................................................................... 59

8. Cultural Geography ...................................................................................................... 70

9. Bibliography ................................................................................................................ 83
Senior Project Research Proposal

Australian Geography Unit

My senior project is to create one week of high school geography curriculum. It will focus on Australia for four days and one day will touch on New Zealand. This region was one of the last areas of the globe to be found and used by the western world so they share a similar history. I spent a year studying as an exchange program in Australia and travelled to New Zealand. I was fortunate to learn about their culture and explore their beautiful landscapes. I found it interesting how educated Australians were about United States culture, history, and geography. Many American high school students know little about other countries and a unit about a place other than the US will help broaden their understanding world. This senior project is will touch on a little taught region of the world and hopefully engage and excite young Americans to travel and explore other cultures and geographies first hand.

One of the greatest challenges for teachers is determining what information to teach and what can be left out, as there are only so many hours of class to work with. This unit will provide a practical one week overview of Australia and will briefly touch on New Zealand. New Zealand is included because it is geographically and culturally similar to Australia, and if it is not included in a unit with Australia it is unlikely for it to be taught. For Californians ninth grade social science is dedicated towards geography. Fortunately the California Department of Education has not set up strict guidelines for what content should be taught during these 9th grade geography classes. This gives teachers wonderful freedom and room for creativity in their lesson plans. By spending one week on Australia and New Zealand it will allow teachers the opportunity to cover other areas of the world and spend significant time on the geography of the United States.

I will gather this information from a variety of sources through the Cal Poly Library and the online
resources through the library. The lesson plan will consist of a lecture portion, and then be followed by an activity. This variety of teaching styles will cater to students of all learning styles (audio, verbal, and kinesthetic) and be enjoyable and informative. The activities used will be from past teachers' ideas, along with some ideas of my own.
An Annotated Bibliography (MLA)


This book gives an outline of the physical geography in Australia and New Zealand. It has great maps about the plate tectonics and how Australia is a plate on a single plate and New Zealand was created by the collision of two plates. It also describes basic physical geography interactions which will give the students a background of the common features in this region. This book will be a great starting point for the section on physical geography.


This is an in depth book that looks at a variety of physical and cultural geography topics such as: use of land, types of farming, settlement patterns, the urban environment, industrial locations, and industrial systems. It contains maps and illustrations about vegetation, temperature, urban sprawl, and many other topics. This book will help to create in depth information about the Australian landscape. This understanding of the physical geography will help students understand the culture in Australia. Students will be able to better understand the differences between rural and urban life in Australia.


This is book is a overall history of Australia, but the last section of the book has a great section on the culture. Although the book is from the 1980s the culture described in the book can still be applied today. There is also a great section on the outback and a glimpse about how life in the outback is. There are fantastic pictures throughout the book to give the students a more vivid visual idea about the landscape and people in the country. This book will be a huge help as it covers a variety of topics in geography. It is not too complex for high school students and will keep them interested in the material.


This book is and extensive and covers a variety of topics. There are many repeated sections that I will take the work from other books, but this book does offer some unique fields that I have not found elsewhere, such as: social geography of Aboriginal Australia, climate and primary production, soils and vegetation, and fluvial landforms. This book has a great section about aboriginal culture and how they
were and are currently affected by the white majority. This book will provide me with answers to most of my questions whether they about physical or cultural geography.


This is a children’s book, but most American high school students have child size knowledge of Australia. This book will be a great introduction to the cultural unit on Australia. It gives insight into what a child in Australia does for pleasure and shows many of the hobbies of Australians that Americans are unfamiliar with. I plan on using this book as a jumping off point for a lesson, and have the students explore a topic from the book more in-depth on their own or in small groups. Later they will present their research to the class. I hope this book will help the students to imagine they are in Australia and notice some of the cultural differences between the US and Australia.


This is another children’s book and this book also contains great information with loads of pictures. In order to understand visuals are great and this book offers pictures on many aspects of Australia’s current and former society. Students will be able to identify with aspects of culture and see the differences, expanding their worldview.


This book has outlines of maps for the entire world along with worksheets. I plan on using this book in creating a map lesson to begin the unit. It will give the students a better understanding about where in the world the country is located. It will be helpful to familiarize the students with the capital cities and their respective locationsm, especially since Australia is one of the most urbanized countries in the world.


This book contains great information about Aborigines. It describes their life before European settlement and life since. It also contains valuable historical information that will give the students better understanding of the cultural environment of today. It is important to include the story of the Aboriginals in Australia to help comprehend their culture. Many of the current social issues revolve around the treatment and policies towards Aboriginals.

This is a highly detailed book about Australia giving in depth accounts about a variety of topics. I will use this book a great deal as it is more recent. I will use it for the content that cannot be found in other books and to check to make sure that the information that I am using is not outdated.


This article is an examination of the current geographic methods to collect data for economic behavior. It questions many of the current practices and proposes there are better methods in Australia to determine the socio-economic status for the population in a region. This article will force the students to think critically about how geography can be applied to real-life circumstances. Geography is not just interesting, it is also useful for organizations and governments to be able to keep the pulse on society. This article will help students see the need and importance of geographers.
Outline

This is for 9th grade Social Science students in California. The classroom will be set up where students will be assigned to sit in groups of four to allow for collaboration and groups for assignments.

**Lesson 1**

**Overall Physical Geography Australia**

Plate Tectonics

Slideshow of different regions

- Power point
- Collect images from internet
- A visual understanding of Australian features
- Include Great Barrier Reef and other famous landmarks

Map Activity

- To give students an idea of the spatial arrangement of Australia

Computer Activity

- With the remaining time, have students get in groups and browse various websites about Australia.
  - http://www.kidport.com/reflib/worldgeography/australia/australia.htm#Title
  - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Australia (emphasize that Wikipedia is a good place to start research, but not to site for papers)
  - http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Oceania_Geography.htm

**Lesson 2**

**Physical Geography of Australia**

Practice Capitol Quiz
- Not for points. An opportunity for students to rehearse states and capitols.

ACTIVITY- Desks will be grouped in fours. Students will go around the class with their group read the synopsis about a facet of Australian physical geography and then will be required to answer the questions that will be after the synopsis. Students will be given approximately 10 minutes at each station.

Students will learn about the following topics:

- Climate
- Settlement Patterns
- Soils
- Animal Life
- Vegetation
- The Eastern Uplands
- The Interior Lowlands
- The Western Plateau

Lesson 3

Aboriginals

LECTURE:

Life before European settlement

- Discuss the hunter gatherer lifestyle
- Look at how history portrays Aboriginals
- Discuss the conflict between Europeans and Aboriginals

Current Aboriginal Issues

- Similarities between Aboriginal and Native American issues
- White Australia Policy
- Stolen Generation
- Discuss how governments should handle these issues

Lesson 4
**Introduction into Cultural Geography**

Capitol quiz

Give a lecture about the people:

Slideshow and video of visual everyday Australian life

- Show Steve Irwin clips for the wild life as well as their accent and diction.
- Give students an idea of what it is life to be there

Give a brief introduction into the sports played in Australia, with YouTube clips.

- Aussie Rules Football (AFL)
- National Rugby League
- Cricket
- Surfing

Introduce students to the history and current economy. Give the students a visual example of the currency (Australian Dollar).

**Lesson 5**

**Cultural Geography**

Lecture:

- Show students the size of Australia and the population compared to the United States, Japan, and the U.K.
- Compare Australia and the U.S.A.

Activity: Students will be assigned into groups of 4 and create a poster about one of the following topics:

- Daily Life and Social Customs
- Education
- Religion
- Ethnic Groups
- Languages
- Literature
- Music, Theater, and Dance
- Sports and Recreation

Students will use the provided information about the topic, and consolidate this information into the material they find relevant and interesting. They will then present and describe their poster as a group to the class while having a mini party enjoying some traditional Australian food.

Australia party with traditional Australian Foods

- Lamingtons
- Tea
- Tim Tams
- Vegemite
- ANZAC Biscuits
Lesson Plan Title: **What is Australia made of, and what does Down Under look like?**

Concept / Topic To Teach: **Overall Physical Geography Australia**

Designed For: 9th grade social science classes.

General Goal(s): Students will have a better understanding of the many facets of physical geography of Australia.

Specific Objectives: Students will develop a foundation for knowledge in Australian landforms, the surrounding region, climate and vegetation.

Required Materials: Computers, maps for students, internet access, and projector for introduction slideshow with images about Australia.

Plan for Independent Practice: Students will be required to do the map activity and browse the websites with a page of notes about their findings.

Closure (Reflect Anticipatory Set): Last 5 minutes of class, students will share with the class interesting fact(s) they learned from their research.

Assessment Based on Objectives: The information learned today will be required for future assessment, and the map activity will be turned in and assessed.

Possible Connections to Other Subjects: The research done will help students in most subjects in the future.
Australia: An Overview

“Don’t worry about the world coming to an end today. It is already tomorrow in Australia.”

-Charles Shultz (Author of Peanuts)
Where is it?
Zoom in on Oceania:
Closer Look:
Australian Scenery
Great Barrier Reef
Do those images accurately portray Australia?
Key fact about Australia

- Australia is one of the most urbanized societies in the world.

- So, Australians see a whole lot more of this...
Flags of Australia
Plate Tectonics

Active Volcanoes, Plate Tectonics, and the "Ring of Fire"

Map showing the movement of tectonic plates around the world, highlighting the "Ring of Fire" which is a region of high volcanic and seismic activity. The map includes labels for major tectonic plates such as the Eurasian Plate, North American Plate, Cocos Plate, Nazca Plate, South American Plate, African Plate, Arabian Plate, and Indo-Australian Plate. The map also indicates the Aleutian Trench, Hawaiian "Hot Spot", Java Trench, and East Pacific Rise.
Landforms

- Western Plateau
- Lowland Basins
- Eastern Highlands
Map Activity

• Come pick a blank map from the front of the classroom, and an Atlas to share with one other person.
• You will be tested on this daily starting tomorrow (easy points!)
• Fill in all the states/territories (7) and their capitals (7)
• Also Label: Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean. Tasman Sea, Coral Sea, Arafura Sea, and Timor Sea.
Computer Activity

- Get into pairs and spend time looking on these websites:
  - http://www.kidport.com/reflib/worldgeography/australia/australia.htm#Title
  - http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Oceania_Geography.htm
- You are required to have 10 interesting facts each about Australia, It can be anything from these websites.
Discussion

- Please share one or two of your interesting Facts you learned about Australia... you might want to take notes on these, because they are fair game for the test.
Lesson Plan Title: **Physical Geography**

Concept / Topic To Teach: **Physical Geography aspects in Australia**

Designed For: 9th grade social science classes.

General Goal(s): Students will have deep understanding about several Australian Geography topics

Specific Objectives: Students will be able to critically read articles and mull out some of the main concepts. They will have to learn independently and work under time constraints.

Required Materials: Binder paper, pencil or pen.

Plan for Independent Practice: Students will be required to read the information and answer the questions if they miss the day.

Closure (Reflect Anticipatory Set): Students will need to study this information again for the exam.

Assessment Based on Objectives: The students will be assessed on their ability to work independently, without distracting others, and on the accuracy of their answers.

Possible Connections to Other Subjects: Working independently and reading articles will be a valuable skill for all subjects.
Physical Geography of Australia
What We Will Investigate

► Climate
► Settlement Patterns
► Soils
► Animal Life
► Vegetation
► The Eastern Uplands
► The Interior Lowlands
► The Western Plateau
Activity

► You have 10 minutes to go to each station, read the provided handout, and answer the questions.

► Although you are in traveling to each station with a group, please work individually.

► Please write down your answers on binder paper, and label the topic BEFORE the answers to the questions.
Climate
Settlement Patterns
Soils
Animal Life
Vegetation
The Eastern Uplands
The Interior Lowlands
The Western Plateau
Lesson Plan Title: Life before Australians: Aboriginal History

Concept / Topic To Teach: Aboriginal history

Designed For: 9th grade social science classes.

General Goal(s): Students will have an understanding of Aboriginal history.

Specific Objectives: Students will be able to critically think about how history is constructed. They will know the history of Aboriginals, how they were treated by European settlement, and how those treatment practices shape current Aboriginal issues.

Required Materials: Projector for Power point, computer, and students note taking materials

Plan for Independent Practice: Students will be required to read the information on the slides and the notes at the bottom of the slides.

Closure (Reflect Anticipatory Set): Students will be asked to share their opinions, questions, and concerns about the past and current treatment of Aboriginals.

Assessment Based on Objectives: The information learned today will be required for future assessment.

Possible Connections to Other Subjects: This critical thinking will be valuable in future history, political science, and other social science classes.
Life before Australians

Aboriginal History
History

- There is no single history of a land or the people who occupy it.
- Your view depends on your education, present circumstances, and beliefs.
- Two points of view...
  - Discovery
  - Invasion
- Which view do you think was taught in school?
What Do This Picture Say?
Aboriginal History

- Aboriginals arrived 50,000 years ago.
- How can this be confirmed?
- An Aboriginal viewpoint.
Groups and Languages

- In 1788 (British invasion): Aboriginal population ~ 750,000-3 million people
  - 650 Groups
  - 250 Languages (Map)
- What is a group?
- Population Density
- Languages
Creation

- Oral History
- Modes of Oral History
- Each group was unique.
- Ancestral Spirit
Dreamtime Stories

- The Crocodile Lake
- The Djanggau Sisters
Living off the Land

- Hunters and gatherers
- Planted small quantities
- Fire-stick farming
Tools and Weapons

- Digging sticks
- Clubs, spears, and boomerangs
- Canoes and rafts
Conflict

- Coastal and interior Aboriginals
- Open War
- Disease and starvation

Fig. 3: Australian Aborigines — War. [Calvert Collection, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.]
Government policies towards Aboriginals

- Overt discrimination
- Missions
- Protection Acts
White Australia Policy

This extract from the Australian Constitution 1900 shows Section 127 before it was repealed in 1967
Aspects of the White Australia Policy

- Voting
- Protection and Welfare Boards
- Stolen Generations
Stolen Generations

- Short Movie:
  - The background music is a didgeridoo, a common instrument used by Aboriginals.

- The story of Archie Roach
Aboriginals Today

- Population: 270,000
- Problems remain
- Racism still exists

Government intervention signs outside the Hidden Valley town camp
Rudd’s Apology

“Closing the Gap”
Lesson Plan Title: **Everyday Australian Life**

Concept / Topic To Teach: Daily life as an Australian.

Designed For: 9th grade social science classes.

General Goal(s): Students will have an understanding of life in Australia.

Specific Objectives: Students will be able to tell someone some important activities for an Australian, and they will be able to see the contrast between American and Australian cultures.

Required Materials: Projector for Power point, computer, internet access to show videos, and students note taking materials

Plan for Independent Practice: Students will be required to read the information on the slides and watch the videos.

Closure (Reflect Anticipatory Set): Students will be asked to share their opinions and questions, about Australia. They will be encouraged to research the information in their spare time.

Assessment Based on Objectives: The information learned today will be required for future assessment.

Possible Connections to Other Subjects: This will help students have a more global perspective which could benefit other classes.
Everyday Australian Life
Steve Irwin

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlDxZyweduvc
  - Notice his accent
  - Look at the variety of animals
Life in Melbourne

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZpKE NPaq80

- What did you find interesting?
Australian Accent

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--CzCeOjXfA&feature=related

- What did you notice?
Aussie Rules Football

Game time: 20 minute quarters

Game Highlights:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-PFRrJQtw
National Rugby League

Game time: 40 minute halves

NRL highlights:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lHgp9vP1Gg
Cricket:
- 11 players on defense
- Played on 360 degree field
- Game time: 5 days, one day or ~3 hours
- Batter has advantage
- Ball had 1 seam and is bounced before batter hits it.

Baseball:
- 9 players on defense
- Played on 90 degree field
- Game time ~3 hours
- Pitcher has more advantage
- Ball has 2 seams and is hit without bounces
Surfing
Economy

- Sheep era
- Mineral exploitation
- International dependence
- Current trends
Australian Currency
Lesson Plan Title: **Australian people**

**Concept / Topic To Teach:** The cultural geography of Australia.

**Designed For:** 9th grade social science classes.

**General Goal(s):** Students will have a deep understanding about a variety of topics about life in Australia.

**Specific Objectives:** Students will be able to communicate to the class through an oral presentation a facet of Australian culture, and they will be able to value and learn from the information given from the students in the class.

**Required Materials:** Projector for Power point, computer, poster boards, coloring pens or pencils, and students note taking materials.

**Plan for Independent Practice:** Students will be required to read the information on the slides and in the notes, and create their own mini poster on one of the topics.

**Closure (Reflect Anticipatory Set):** Students will present their topic to the class. The class will be allowed to ask the presenting group questions.

**Assessment Based on Objectives:** The information learned today will be required for future assessment. The students will earn points for their ability to work in a group and contribute to the finished poster.

**Possible Connections to Other Subjects:** This will help students have more confidence presenting in front of the class; and this is applicable in many subjects.
AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE
Size of the Country/Continent

USA ~ 300 million people
Japan ~ 127 million people
U.K. ~ 61 million people

Australia ~ 22 million people
## Compare Australia to America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official name: Commonwealth of Australia</td>
<td>Official name: United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form of government: federal parliamentary state (formally a constitutional monarchy) with two legislative houses (Senate [76]; House of Representatives [150])</td>
<td>Form of government: federal republic with two legislative houses (Senate [100]; House of Representatives [435])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of state: British Monarch represented by Governor-General</td>
<td>Head of state: President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of government: Prime Minister</td>
<td>Head of government: President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital: Canberra</td>
<td>Capital: Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official language: English</td>
<td>Official language: none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official religion: none</td>
<td>Official religion: none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary unit: Australian dollar ($A)</td>
<td>Monetary unit: dollar (U.S.$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total area (sq mi): 2,969,978</td>
<td>Total area (sq mi): 3,676,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total area (sq km): 7,692,208</td>
<td>Total area (sq km): 9,522,055</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Daily Life and Social Customs
Education
Religion

Australia: Religious Identification
2006 Census (%)

- Catholic, 25.6
- Church of England/Anglican, 18.7
- Religion Not Stated, 11.2
- No Religion, 18.7
- Inadequate Description/Not Further Described, 0.7
- Other Religion(b), 0.5
- Jews, 0.4
- Hinduism, 0.7
- Islam, 1.7
- Buddhist, 2.1
- Other Christian(a), 2.1
- Latter Day Saints, 0.3
- Church of Christ, 0.3
- Seventh Day Adventist, 0.3
- Protestant (Undefined/Other), 0.3
- Salvation Army, 0.3
- Jehovah’s Witness, 0.4
- Pentecostal, 1.1
- Lutheran, 1.3
- Baptist, 1.6
- Eastern Orthodox, 2.7
- Presbyterian & Reformed, 3.0
- Uniting Church, 5.7
Ethnic Groups
Languages

English is fun, learn more English!
Literature

PATRICK WHITE

The Cockatoos

© Mr Pickwick
Music, Theater, and Dance

[Images: AC/DC logo and a couple dancing]
Sports and Recreation
Poster Time!!!

- Your Task: Create a poster about one of the topics.
- Get in groups of 4 (2 groups will have 5 people)
- Come and collect the information about the topic.
- Consolidate this information into the material you find relevant and interesting.
- Use your creativity, and personal and class art supplies I encourage you to use.
- You are all intelligent students and will make a great poster!
Bibliography


