

**Can I explain how human and physical
features impact life in Australia?**

Fast five

What continent is Australia in?

What is the capital city?

What is the population of Australia?

What is the highest point?

What currency is used in Australia?

Fast four - Answers

What continent is Australia in? - Adelaide

What is the capital city? - Canberra

What is the population of Australia? 24 million

What is the highest point? - Mount Kosciuszko

What currency is used in Australia? - Australia Dollars

Geographical Maps

Have a look at these maps and think about what key information it tells us about physical features, human features and settlements.

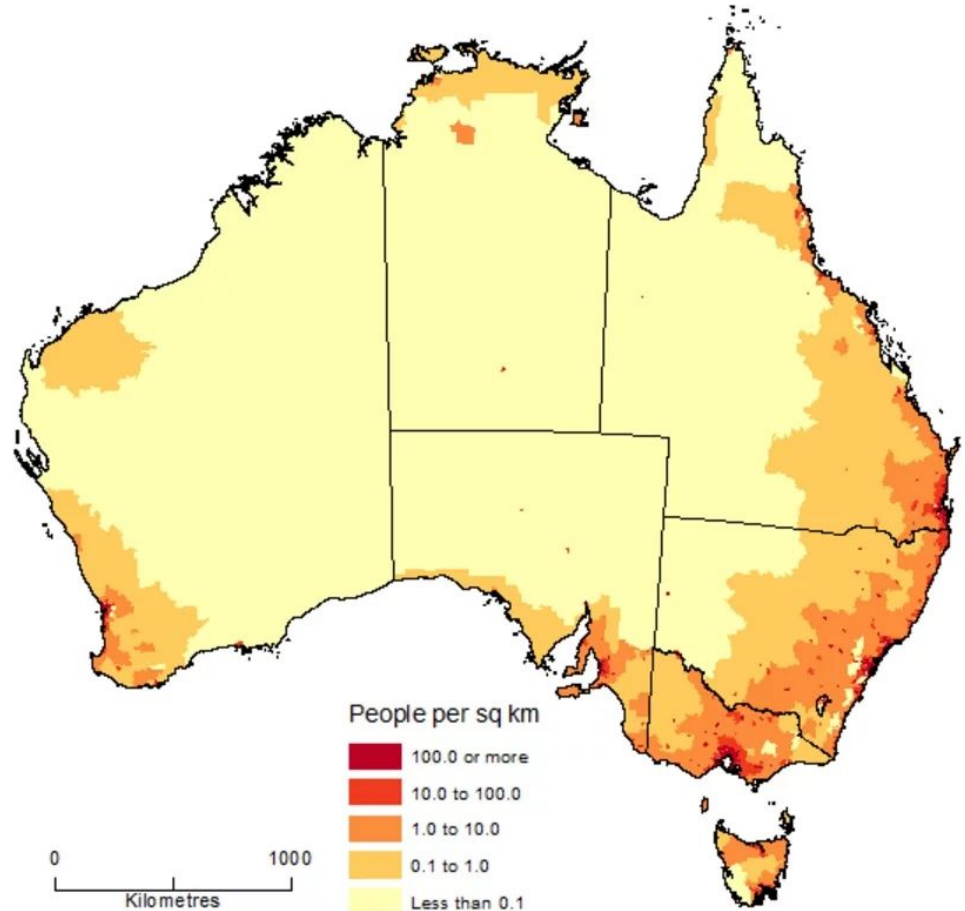
Human features - Aspects that will impact on humans, that are mainly man made, for example transport, shops.

Physical features - Aspects that discuss the land, water sources, climate.

Settlement - Where people live, therefore physical and human features all impact on whether people decided to live in a particular area.

Population Density

The light yellow that you see is the area of barren land in Australia which means it is almost uninhabitable therefore the population is less than 0.1 per sq KM. The red areas are the much more populated areas and this is where the coastline is.



Population

Although Australia is 32 times bigger than the UK, its population is 40 million less than the UK due to the fact that over 80% of Australia's land is uninhabitable.








Remoteness

Remote means how accessible the area is, very remote places are quite isolated from other communities and have limited if any transport links. As you can see the major cities have the most accessibility.

Accessibility Remoteness Index Australia 2006

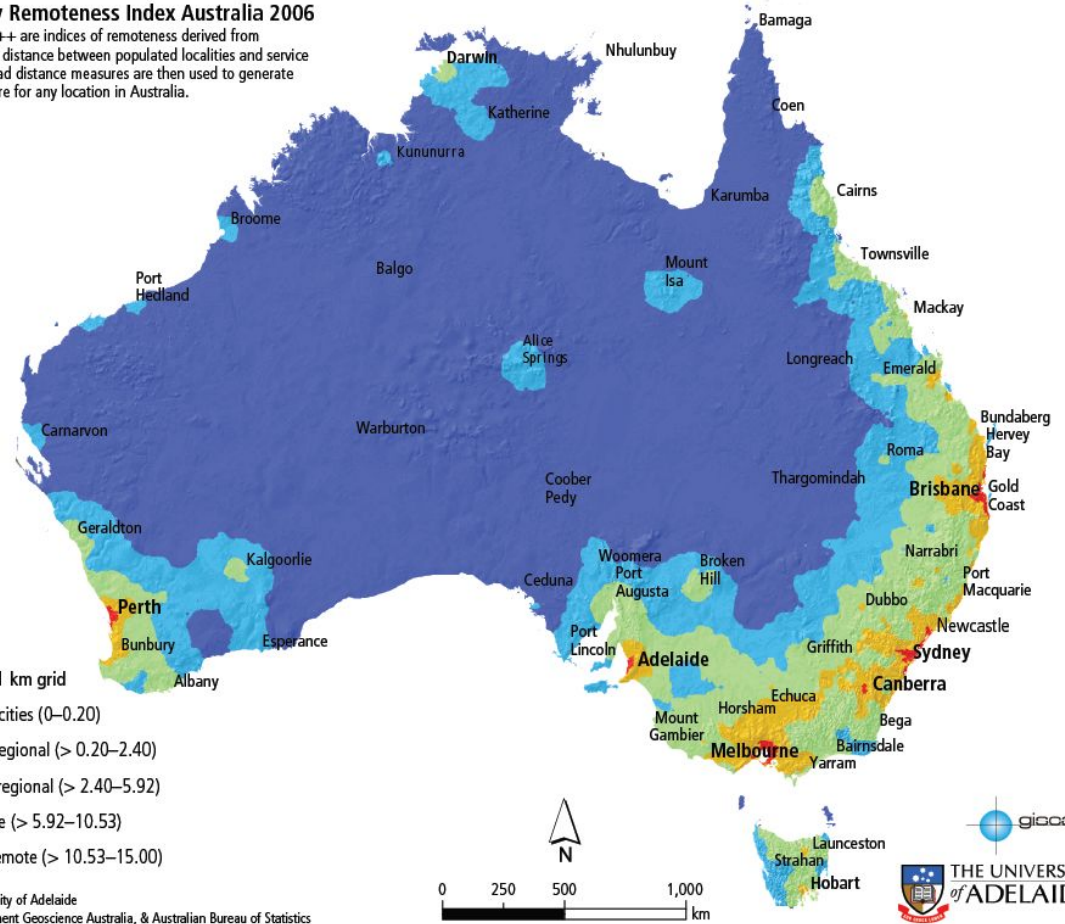
ARIA+ and ARIA++ are indices of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centres. These road distance measures are then used to generate a remoteness score for any location in Australia.

ARIA+ (2006) 1 km grid

-  Major cities (0–0.20)
-  Inner regional (> 0.20–2.40)
-  Outer regional (> 2.40–5.92)
-  Remote (> 5.92–10.53)
-  Very remote (> 10.53–15.00)

Data Sources:

GISCA, The University of Adelaide
Australian Government Geoscience Australia, & Australian Bureau of Statistics



Beaches

It is clear from looking at these maps that people are living close to the major beaches and these areas and the most densely populated.



Rivers

The blue lines show there are rivers and the lakes are labelled. For an area to be habitable it needs a good water source to be able to fertilise the land and grow crops. The centre of Australia has barely any water sources making it very difficult to live there.



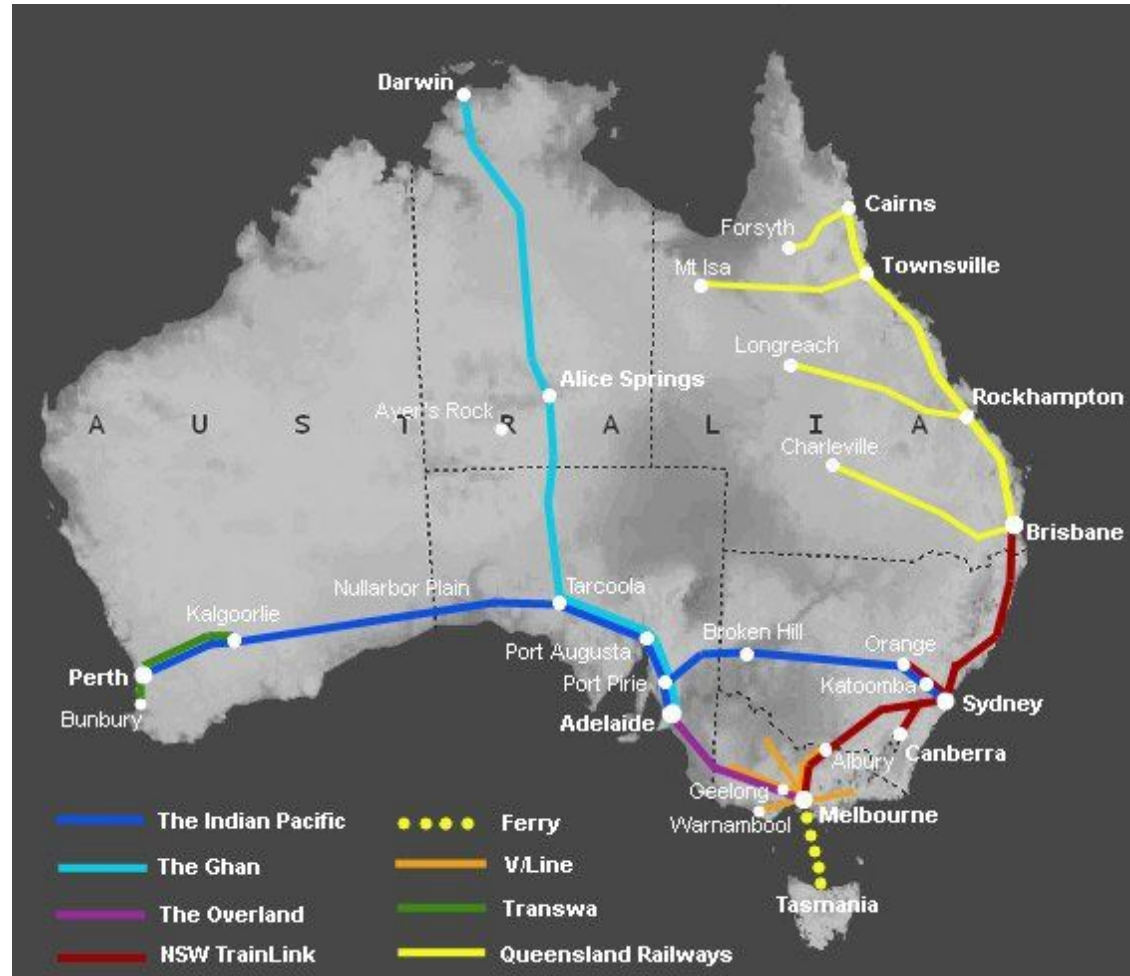
Climate

The areas that we know to be barren, experience very hot, dry weather and barely have a winter. Whereas the areas around the coastline (where the population is more dense) experience cooler weather. Which is much more easy to live in. This could be another reason why people live closer to the coastline.



Transport lines

As you can see through the barren land there is only one transport line which is the Ghan. Which means it has very limited assembly which could make employment more challenging. Whereas along the coastline there are multiple means of transport. Making it much more accessible.



Roads

The roads represent the same pattern. There are many more roads closer to the coastline and the roads become more sparse closer to the centre of Australia where there is a huge amount of barren land.



Settlements

What influences a settlement?

Can you separate your ideas into human and physical features?

Influences on Settlements

Human Features

- Transport links
- Access to shops
- Access to medical care
- Population size

Physical Features

- Fertile land
- Climate zone
- Water sources
- Harshness of local environment

Case Studies

Read the 3 case studies together looking at coastal, inner-city and rural/remote settlements.

Write down what is similar and what is different. How do human and physical factors influence the comparisons?

Case Study 1: **Kintore**, Northern Territory, Remote Area

The population size of this settlement is 454, of which 413 identify as aboriginals. Many moved back here in the 1980s as part of the outstation movement. The area has a government funded primary school, a shop, an airstrip, an independent health clinic, a women's centre, a high school and an arts centre. There is an extensive series of river systems in the Northern Territory. These rivers include: the Alligator Rivers and Victoria River. A new water plant has been built to effectively treat water used by the population. Twice a week, Kintore has access to the 'Bush Bus' service, which connects it to the 3rd largest town in the area (Alice Spring). The weather here is close to desert conditions, which means rainfall is low, summer can be very hot and winter can be warm.

Case Study 2: **Byron Bay**, New South Wales, Coastal Area

The population size of this settlement is 9,246. The area has a subtropical climate with warm summers and mild winters. It has a variety of bus connections linking it to Sydney and Brisbane, and it has a train service making connection with Byron. There are many schools for all age groups and a university. Byron Bay is very popular because of its beaches and weather, therefore, it is a tourist hotspot and has many shops and services.

Case Study 3: **Canberra**, Capital Territory, Inland City

The population size of this settlement is 410,301: this makes it the 8th largest city in Australia. The area has a temperate climate with mild summers and mild winters. The city is divided in two by Lake Burley Griffin. It has extensive road connections linking less populated parts of the city and opening the opportunity for future development. There are bus and train services running through the city and connecting it to other major cities. Canberra has 2 major universities and a variety of schools for all age groups. Because of good job opportunities, unemployment is low and income levels are higher than many other parts of Australia.