



20 Facts about Australia

1. Australia was first known as New Holland because of explorations by Dutch explorers:
 - Willem Janszoon
 - Dirk Hartog
 - Abel Tasman and others.
2. Australia has been a nation with a single national government since 1 January 1901.
3. As of 2012, Australia is the most obese (clinically overweight) country in the world with a 26 percent obesity rate.
4. The largest cattle station in the world is Anna Creek Station in South Australia at over 34,000 square kilometres. It is even larger than Belgium.
5. Australia was the second country in the world to give women the right to vote in 1902 (the 1st was New Zealand).
6. Australia has the world's highest proportion of migrant settlers in a developed nation with over 25% of Australians born in another country.
7. Over 200 different languages and dialects are spoken in Australia including 45 Indigenous languages. The most common non-English spoken languages are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin.
8. The wattle was adopted as the national floral emblem in 1912.
9. Australia is the 6th largest country in the world after Russia, Canada, China, the United States and Brazil, occupying an entire continent of some 7.6 million square kilometres.
10. The 6 Australian states are:
 - New South Wales
 - Victoria
 - Tasmania
 - South Australia
 - Western Australia
 - Queensland
- and the 2 territories are:
 - Northern Territory and
 - The Australian Capital Territory (ACT).
11. The 3 states with the highest populations are:
 - New South Wales: 7.3 million
 - Victoria: 5.6 million
 - Queensland: 4.6 million



12. Australia currently has a population of almost 23 million people.
13. There are more than 40 million kangaroos in Australia now.
14. We have more sheep than kangaroos! There are about 140 million sheep.
15. Australia has the longest fence in the world. It is called the 'Dingo Fence' and is 5,531 kilometres long! The fence is only 1.8 meters tall with no gaps. It runs through the middle of Queensland and was built to protect the sheep from the dingoes.
16. The longest straight road in the world is in Western Australia. It is 148 kilometres long!
17. Goldfields were discovered in Victoria and New South Wales between 1851 and 1852. This discovery attracted thousands of people who came to Australia to try their luck at finding gold.
18. Amongst Australia's most prolific inventions are the half-car-half-truck utility vehicle, (known as a 'ute'), bionic ear, black box flight recorder, clothes line, notepad and stubby holder (used to keep beer cold).
19. Koalas sleep for 18 hours a day.
20. Australian town and suburb names include Humpybong, Woolloomooloo, Wangbangalang, No Where Else, End Of The World and Mount Buggery.