

SERIES Continents Of The World
TITLE Australia
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BIC/CBMC YNM/D5N79

ABOUT THE SERIES

What is a continent, and are there seven or five? Some continents are surrounded by water, but others have borders with each other that are often difficult to define. Did you know that the continents can move? How does this happen and what does it mean for the future of the continent you live on? Find out all about Earth's continents, how they are similar and how they differ, as well as the effect people have had on the landscapes where they live.

ABOUT THE BOOK

The continent of Australia is not the same as the nation of Australia, which is only a part of the whole continent. The other parts of the continent include the island of New Guinea, as well as a number of smaller islands and the island state of Tasmania. In this book, travel across all these places, and on the way, find out about ancient rocks, erupting volcanoes and unique animals.



IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

COMPARING CONTINENTS

Using the books in the series, *Continents Of The World*, students can compare the continent of Australia with the others on Earth. In each of the seven books there are sections on landscapes, the way people live and wildlife. The images provide a quick and easy introduction to comparing these topics across continents, and the text contains details that will enable them to delve deeper into the way the continents differ.

CONTINENT VERSUS NATION

The widespread confusion about the difference between the continent and the nation of Australia is explained in this book. Students can find out about the tectonic plate basis of the Australian continent in a way that is interesting and accessible for young readers.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER

Water resources are important in both defining some continents, and in the development of the land by people living in those continents. In this book, students can find out about the important water sources in Australia and how people have used them.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES USING MAPS

USING MAPS

Using this simplified map of the world, ask students to colour in each continent in a different colour. Refer them to the world map on the endpapers of *Continents Of The World: AUSTRALIA* for a guide.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONTINENTS AND COUNTRIES

Using maps that show sea depths, (such as Google maps), find the parts of the nation of Australia that were once possibly dry land.

Discuss how modern Australia is now a separate, independent country, but was once joined to lands further north. Consider how the nation of Australia might have developed if it had never separated from New Guinea to the north.

ARE ALL CONTINENTS SURROUNDED BY WATER?

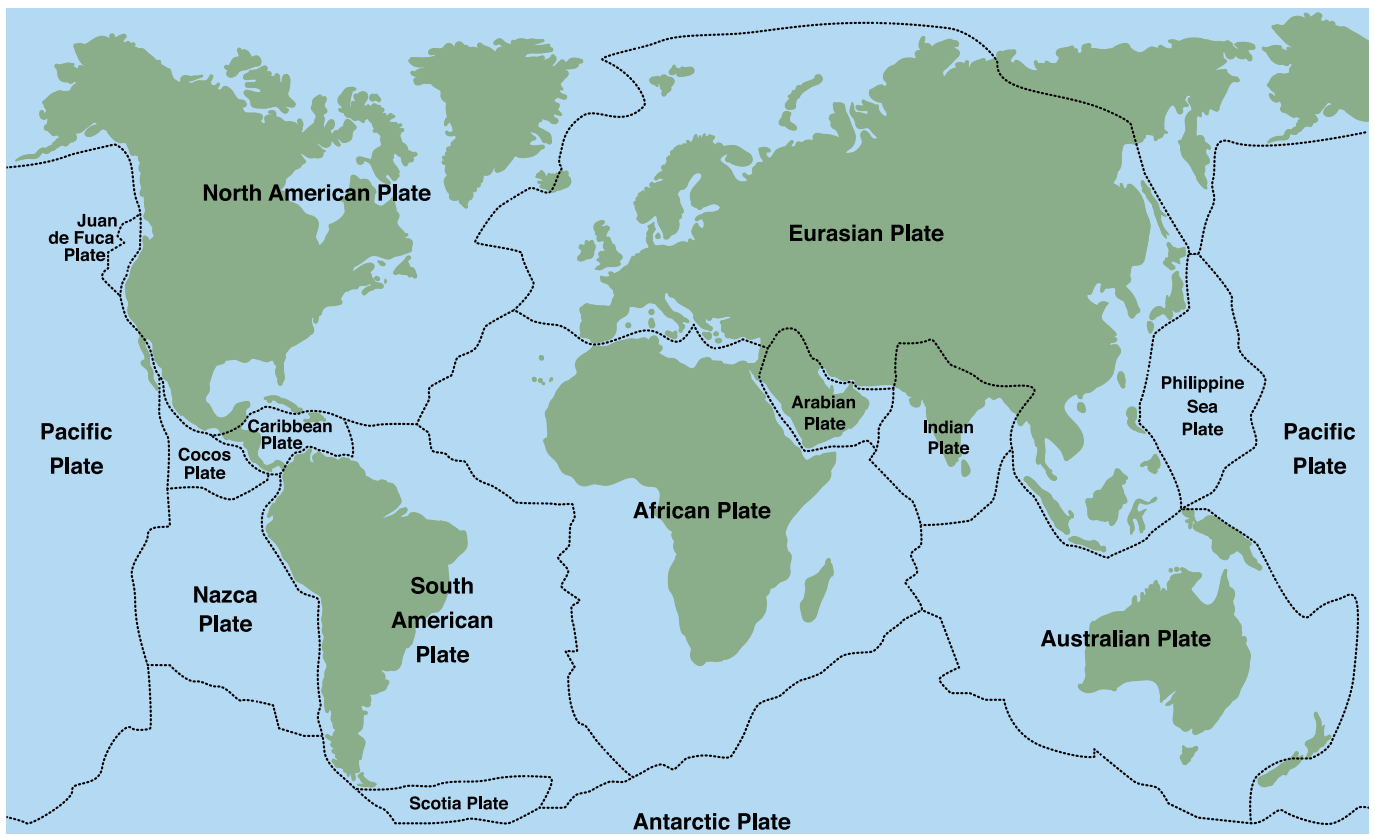
In answering this question, students can practice map-reading. They can locate those countries that have land borders with other continents and compare them with the Australian continent's borders.

Then, answer the question: do the Australian anthem words "girt by sea" describe both the Australian continent and the nation or not?

NEW GUINEA and NEW ZEALAND

Look at a satellite map of the whole island of New Guinea. Try to follow the sea depths around it that show it is part of the Australian continental landmass. The very dark blue lines in the ocean on Google satellite maps usually show where there is a tectonic plate boundary.

Some people think that New Zealand is a part of the Australian continent. After looking at the map below of the tectonic plate boundaries near New Zealand, think about whether New Zealand and Australia should be considered as one continent or not.





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