**Australian symbols**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Flag" /></th>
<th>Australia’s National Flag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>Australian Aboriginal Flag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ![Coat of Arms](image3.jpg) | Australian Coat of Arms  
(With the national animal, the kangaroo, and the national bird, the emu.) |
| ![Floral Emblem](image4.jpg) | Floral Emblem:  
Golden Wattle  
(Because of this flower, green and gold are the national colours of Australia and also the colours of the national sport teams.) |
| ![Gemstone](image5.jpg) | National gemstone: opal |

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rErvPnd-2E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rErvPnd-2E)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwziS2aE6Ww](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwziS2aE6Ww)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NocctjQaS5A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NocctjQaS5A)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjkrjYitgeA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjkrjYitgeA)

(The video also shows the people culture and some of the Australian history)

**National anthem:**  
- *Advance Australia Fair*  
**Other national songs:**  
- *God save the Queen* [or King] (the British anthem, because Australia is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations)  
- *Waltzing Matilda* (one of Australia’s best-known national songs)  
**Some other iconic Australian songs:**  
- *I am, you are, we are Australian*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ![Boomerang](image) | **Boomerang**  
The traditional weapon of the Aboriginals. It is special because it can return to its thrower. |
| ![Didgeridoo](image) | **Didgeridoo**  
The traditional musical instrument of the Aboriginals. It is a wind instrument made of wood.  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9g592I-p-dc&list=RDDC9w4KWEgJE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9g592I-p-dc&list=RDDC9w4KWEgJE) |
| ![Uluru](image) | **Uluru**  
Also called the Ayers Rock. It is in the centre of Australia. A symbolic place for the Aboriginals. |
| ![Australian Cork Hat](image) | **Australian cork hat**  
Cork hats were the Australian versions of cowboy hats. The corks were hung around the hat to keep the flies away from the person’s face. |
| ![Gday](image) | **G’day** is a famous Australian term. It means ‘Good day’.

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**Facts about Australia**

- Australia was originally a geographical part of the giant continent Gondwana, which broke apart over one hundred million years ago.
- The name Australia comes from Terra Australis- ‘the southern land’.
- Australia is nicknamed as the **Land Down Under**
- Australia is the world’s smallest continent.
- The Australian money is the Dollar.
- The main language in Australia is English, but there are over 80 other languages spoken.
- Australia has many big cities. More than 70 percent of the population lives in cities.
# Famous Buildings

**The Sydney Opera House** is one of the most famous 20th-century buildings in the world. It is in Sydney Harbour. The design is special: its roof has white shell-shaped parts, so the whole building looks like a sailboat. There are theatre, ballet, musical and opera performances in the building. It was designed by Jorn Utzon, a Danish architect. It took 16 years to build it. The Opera House was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1973.

**Sydney Harbour Bridge** is a steel bridge across Sydney Harbour. It’s nickname is „The Coathanger” because of its arch-based design. It is 134 metres tall. Trains, cars, people and cyclists can all cross the bridge.

**The Parliament House** is the meeting place of the Parliament of Australia. It is in Canberra, the capital of Australia. When it was built it was the world’s most expensive building. The design looks like two boomerangs if you look from the air. The office of the Prime Minister is here too.

**The Royal Exhibition Building** is in Melbourne. It was built to host the Melbourne International Exhibition in 1880-1881. later the first Parliament of Australia was here. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage.

**Q1** (meaning Queensland Number One) is a skyscraper. It is the tallest building in Australia. It’s 322 m tall.
The first inhabitants – The Aboriginals

The first people arrived to Australia by sea, about 50,000 years ago. They travelled by little boats from Asia during the Ice Age. The descendants of the first people of Australia are called the Aborigines. There were about 300 Aboriginal tribes and 250 languages. The Aborigines were hunters and gatherers. They had a special weapon called the boomerang. This is made of wood and it can return to the thrower.

Changing landscape

When the first humans arrived, Australia was covered by forests, but later the forests slowly disappeared and turned to grassland. Most of the Australian forests were destroyed by fires.

Australia, the British colony

In 1770 James Cook, an English explorer, landed in Australia and British settlers formed colonies in Australia. The first British ships with settlers arrived to Australia on 26, January, 1788. The Australians still celebrate this day as the „Australia Day“. The first colony was New South Wales.

New South Wales was a penal colony. It means that criminals were sent there as punishment. The prisoners’ life was hard in Australia because there weren’t cities, it was difficult to get food and they often died because of illnesses. But it was better than being hanged in England!

For a short time, the settlers lived peacefully with the Aboriginal people. But soon they started fighting for land.

The gold rush

In 1851, gold was discovered in some Australian colonies. Many immigrants went to Australia, especially form China and Western-Europe, to find gold and become rich.
Australia becomes a nation

In the 1800s there were six British colonies in Australia. On 1st January, 1901, the six colonies decided to join to become stronger. They formed the Commonwealth of Australia. Edmund Barton became the first Prime Minister of Australia.

First Melbourne was the capital city, but the Australians started to build a new capital: Canberra. Canberra became the capital of Australia in 1927.

Australia during the world wars

The First World War began in 1914. The Australian soldiers helped the British in Egypt and fought against the Turkish too. About 60,000 Australian men died in the First World War.

The 1920s, after the First World War, were really good years in Australia. There were new inventions, for example radios and cars and people started to go to cinemas in their free time. At the same time, the Aboriginals couldn’t follow their old traditions and they were forced to move from their lands into mission reserves.

In the 1920s the ‘modern women’ appeared. They went to work and had short hair, wore shorter skirts and smoked.

During the Second World War Australia once again joined Britain and they fought together against Germany. In 1942 the Japanese attacked Australia, but by the end of 1942 the Australians pushed back the Japanese army. Some 37,000 Australians died in the Second World War.

Post-War boom

After the Second World War many new factories were built and Australia became a rich country. They sold metals, wool, meat and wheat to other countries. A huge project, the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme, started in the 1950s, which collects snow from the mountains and transports the water to power stations.

2000 was an important year for Australia because Sydney hosted the Olympic Games.
**GEOGRAPHY of AUSTRALIA**

Australia is the part of the Commonwealth of Nations, Australia's head of state is Elizabeth II.

**Capital:** Canberra (Because Sydney and Melbourne argued which city should be the capital of Australia.)

**Population:** about 20,700,000 million

**States:**
- Western Australia
- Northern Territory
- Queensland
- South Australia
- New South Wales
- Victoria
- Tasmania
- Western Australia

**Geographical Lowest Point:** Lake Eyre -15 m

**Geographical Highest Point:** Mount Kosciuszko 2229 m

**Major cities:** Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, CANBERRA (capital)

**Geography:**

Australia consists of the mainland of Australia and Tasmania, which is an island.

Australia is on the Southern Hemisphere. Because of this, the winter season begins in June, and the summer season begins around Christmas time!

Its borders are the Pacific Ocean to the east, the Indian Ocean to the west, the Afarura Sea to the north, and the Southern Ocean to the south.

**Australia is the 6th largest country** in the world. The area of Australia is 7,682,300 square kilometres. (It’s 82 times bigger than Hungary)

Australia is the only country in the world that covers an entire continent. It is one of the largest countries on Earth.

More than one-third of Australia is desert. The Great Victoria Desert is the largest desert in the continent. Australia is the only continent that does not have an active volcano.

Running around the eastern edge of Australia is the Great Dividing Range. This is a 3,700-kilometer long mountain. It sends water down into Australia's most important rivers.

**Climate**

Australia is one of the driest continents on Earth. Climate varies because of the size of the continent.

The southern areas are more temperate with rainfall, great heat, flooding and drought.

Most Australian cities and farms are located in the south-west and south-east, close to the coast, where the climate is more comfortable. There are dense rainforests in the north-east. The famous Outback (the inland of Australia) contains the country's largest deserts where there are very hot temperatures, little water and almost no plants.

**Economy**

In Australia people make many **agricultural goods** (mezőgazdasági termékek) like wool, wheat, beef, fruit, and wine. The country is also rich in
minerals and metals and is the world's fourth largest producer of gold. Australia's major industries are mining and farming. In addition, Australia's climate and dramatic scenery have made tourism a major industry. Many surfers go to Australia because of the huge waves.

Natural wonders of Australia

PINNACLES
These limestone formations were created 30,000 years ago when the ocean left deposits of seashells on the shore. The Pinnacles rise several meters out of the sand in the desert.

TWELVE APOSTLES
Limestone formations that you can see from the Great Ocean Road, off the Victorian coast. Although the name is the Twelve Apostles, there now there are only eight stones. Their base erodes two centimetres a year.

ULURU
A sacred site to the Aboriginals, who ask people not to climb the sandstone rock. It's 348 meters high. It's famous for its different colours at sunrise and sunset.

GREAT BARRIER REEF
The only living thing on Earth which is visible from space, it was born 25 million years ago. The world’s largest reef system at 3,000 kilometers long. It has 400 different types of coral and 1,500 species of tropical fish. Beautiful, but pollution and increased tourism threaten its future.

BLUE MOUNTAINS
Mountain ranges where the eucalyptus oil from gum trees gives the panorama a bluish colour. It contains some of the world’s oldest species of plants. It has a limestone formation called The Three Sisters.

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK
It is the largest national park in Australia. It is part of the World Heritage, both for its environment and the Aboriginal culture. There are Aboriginal rock carvings in it. It’s also home to freshwater and saltwater crocodiles. 


KANGAROO ISLAND
The kangaroo island is a popular place for tourists because of its beautiful scenery and amazing wildlife. Kangaroos, koalas, wallabies, penguins, different birds, Australian sea lions and koalas live here.

THE DEVIL’S MARBLES
The Devils Marbles are known as Karlu Karlu in all Aboriginal languages. This is a sacred place to Aboriginals. It seems that the stones can fall at any moment but you can’t push them, no matter how hard you try.

SHARK BAY
The bay area is home to many animals: sea cows, dolphins, birds, reptiles, fish and of course sharks. This World Heritage Site also has ‘stromatolites’, ancient structures in shallow sandy pools that represent some of the earliest signs of life on Earth.
Pinnacles

The Twelve Apostles

The Giant’s Marbles

The Blue Mountains
(with the Three Sisters)

The Great Barrier Reef

Shark Bay
(stromatolites and sea cow)

The Kakadu National Park;
Aboriginal rock paintings

The kangaroo island

The Uluru/Ayers Rock
Political map of Australia
Geographical map of Australia
Australia is far from the other continents so the Australian animals developed in a very different way than the ones in Asia, Europe or America. Because of this, the Australian animals are very special and many of them live only in Australia – you can’t find them in other continents.

Almost all of Australia’s native mammals are marsupials. Marsupials give birth to their young and then carry them in a pouch near their belly until the infant is old enough to survive on its own.

Unfortunately many of the unique Australian animals are endangered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMBAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The wombat is a marsupial (erszényes) that digs burrows. They are about 1 metre long. An adult is about 25-35 kilograms. A wombat is covered with grey or brown fur, with a large head, a large nose and small ears. It has large claws for digging. Its body has a rounded appearance. The wombat is nocturnal, which means it is active at night. They are plant eaters: they eat grasses, roots and leaves. It stays in a burrow in daytime. It lives alone, except for a female with young. Babies live in their mother's pouch for 6 months. Wombats can live for more than 50 years.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KOALA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Although they are often called the koala &quot;bear,&quot; this cuddly animal is not a bear at all! It is a marsupial, or pouched mammal. After giving birth, a female koala carries her baby in her pouch for about six months. When the baby comes out of the pouch, it rides on its mother's back or on her belly until it is about 1 year old. Koalas live in eastern Australia, where they can find many eucalyptus trees to eat the leaves. They have sharp claws that help them stay on the trees all day long. During the day they usually sleep; they can sleep for up to 18 hours. At night they eat eucalyptus leaves.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>KANGAROO</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kangaroos have powerful hind legs, a long, strong tail, and small front legs. They’re the biggest of all marsupials, over 2 meters tall. Thanks to their large feet, kangaroos can jump 9 metres, and travel more than 48 kmh. Kangaroos use their strong tails for balance. They live in Eastern Australia. They live in small groups. Female kangaroos have a pouch on their bellies, to cradle baby kangaroos, called joeys. Newborn joeys are just 2.5 centimeters long at birth. After birth, joeys travel, through their mom’s thick fur, to the pouch where they are safe. At 10 months, the joey is big enough to leave the pouch.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASMANIAN DEVIL</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian devil is the world's largest carnivorous marsupial (ragadozó erszényes). It is the size of a dog. It has a muscular build, a large, wide head and a short, thick tail. The devil's fur is black with a little white on its chest. They have powerful long, sharp teeth. They are nocturnal, so they hunt and eat at night. Devils sometimes hunt, but they mainly live on the remains of dead animals. Tasmanian devils are only found in Tasmania today.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAUGHING KOOKABURRA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The laughing kookaburra lives in the eucalyptus forests of eastern Australia. Females weigh up to 455 grams and grow to 45 centimeters in length. They eat smaller animals and snakes. The laughing kookaburra is white, black and brown. It gets its name from its laughter-like call. Laughing kookaburras nest in tree holes. Females lay one to five eggs, which are tended by parents and elder siblings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PLATYPUS**

Platypuses are very special animals because they are mammals but they lay eggs. They live along the eastern coast of Australia. They are small, dark-brown furry mammals with a duck-like beak. Platypuses live in burrows that they dig into the banks of rivers. They are diving animals, and can stay under water for up to fifteen minutes. Unlike a duck's beak, the platypus' beak is not hard but flexible. Platypuses give birth by laying eggs. They keep their eggs in special nesting burrows. When it hatches, the baby platypus feeds on milk from its mother.

**EMU**

The emu is a large bird with hairy, grey feathers. Emus can’t fly. They are 160-180 cm tall and about 60 kilograms. The emu is the second largest bird in the world. Emus can be found in all areas of Australia, except for rainforests. They can also travel fast and far if they want to find water. Emus can run at speeds of up to 60 kilometres per hour. They eat leaves, grasses, fruits, native plants, and insects. Emus lay dark green eggs. The emu young are called chicks and they are brown and white.

**PLANTS**

Australia’s tallest trees are in Western Australia in the Valley of the Giants. Giant tuart, karri, and rich red jarrah, which live for up to 500 years, can be found here.

In Australia there are rainforests across the country. The Daintree Rainforest in north Queensland is the oldest tropical rainforest on Earth, dating back 135 million years. The cool temperate rainforest in Tasmania contains some of the oldest trees on the planet, including the rare Huon Pine. It is part of the World Heritage.

**EUCALYPTUS**

Eucalyptus trees are the symbolic plants of Australia. Over 75% of the tree population of Australia is made up of the eucalyptus trees. They are also known in Australia as the gum tree. They can grow to 125-160 metres. There are almost 600 species of eucalyptus in Australia. Eucalyptus can be found in every part of the continent. All eucalypts are evergreens. Eucalyptus leaves contain a type of oil which can be used for cleaning, deodorising, and in cough drops. In large quantities, the eucalyptus oil is poisonous, but some animals, like koalas or possums, are immune to it. The oil catches fire easily so it’s very difficult for Australian firefighters to put out forest fires. The leaves of the eucalyptus tree are bluish-green. The flowers may be white, cream, yellow, pink or red.
**BANKSIA**

Banksias are flowering shrubs and trees. They are native in Australia. They were named after the English botanist, Jospeh Banks, who was the first European who collected examples of the different types of these plants. Banksias live on the coasts of Australia. They have spiky leaves. The flower heads are made up of hundreds (sometimes thousands) of tiny flowers. The colour of the flower heads can be yellow, orange or red. They flower over autumn and winter. The fruits of banksias are hard and woody and they look like cones (but they are not real cones). The fruits protect the seeds from animals and from fire. The fruits usually open when they have been burnt or completely dried out.

**GOLDEN WATTLE**

Golden Wattle is Australia's flower emblem. It grows to a size of a small tree, usually to 2-8 meters. It blooms in spring, which begins in September in Australia, with large fluffy, yellow, sweet smelling flower heads. The Golden Wattle flower head is ball-shaped and is made up of many tiny flowers. The tiny Golden Wattle flowers have five very small petals, almost hidden by the long stamens. The Golden Wattle flowers are bright yellow. The mature trees do not have true leaves but have long, sickle-shaped phyllodes. These are shiny and dark green.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hugh Jackman is an Australian actor and producer who is involved in film, musical theatre, and television. He has won a Golden Globe award.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Cage is an Australian musician, songwriter, author, screenwriter, composer and film actor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Thorpe, nicknamed the Thorpedo, is a swimmer who specialises in freestyle. He has won five Olympic gold medals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Irwin, also called ‘The Crocodile Hunter’, was an wildlife expert and a television personality. He died while he was making a documentary; he was killed by a stringray.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Florey was an Australian scientist who got a Noble Prize for inventing penicillin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Kidman is an Australian actress and singer. She won two Golden Globe Awards. One of her most famous films was Batman Forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Freeman is an Australian sprinter. She became the Olympic champion for the women’s 400 m at the 2000 Summer Olympics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kylie Minogue is an Australian singer, recording artist, songwriter and actress. She lives in London now.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Holidays and Traditions in Australia

The Australians celebrate some of the same holidays as we do in Europe, such as Christmas, Easter, and New Year’s Day, plus some special Australian holidays, such as Australia Day and Anzac Day.

In Australia, December, January and February are summer months, so Christmas is in the middle of summer! Children are on summer holiday, which is from the beginning of December until January 26th, so families might go camping or go to the beach for Christmas. Popular things to do on Christmas are playing cricket, going swimming, or having a backyard BBQ. Because it is so hot, Santa puts on shorts or a bathing costume. He lets his reindeer rest, and travels around Australia with six kangaroos, also known as “six white boomers.” Children leave cool drinks for him on Christmas Eve. This is when he comes and leaves presents for the family to open on Christmas day.

Australians decorate for Christmas similar to the Europeans, using lights, wreaths, and Christmas trees. Because it is summer, they also decorate with a lot of flowers, and love to use the Christmas Bush. It has white flowers that turn red in December.

On Boxing Day, on December 26th, families relax together and go to the beach.

Australia Day is on January 26th. Australia Day is Australia’s “birthday,” and celebrates when the first British ships came to Australia in 1788. On this day, people dress up in Aussie colours (blue, white and red,) paint their faces, and get temporary tattoos of the Australian Flag. They hang the Australian flag on their houses. Australia Day is a family holiday, with outdoor music, BBQs, sports, festivals, and fireworks. People eat traditional Australian food on this day, such as lamingtons, (made of bananas, chocolate, and coconut,) pavlos, (a dessert made of cream, strawberries, and kiwis,) and koala shaped biscuits.

Anzac Day is celebrated on April 25th. It is a day to remember soldiers who fought in wars. People wear red poppies pinned to their clothes and eat Anzac biscuits, a hard flat biscuit that soldiers used to eat. They go to ceremonies to remember the soldiers.

While Australian holidays may be like ours, how they are celebrated can be very different.
Locals eat fried rice, Chinese food, and Mediterranean cuisine, but these dishes don't really belong to Australia. They're part of multicultural Australia.

**Witchetty grubs**

The most traditional food is the grub. This is a large, white, wood-eating larva. Aboriginal Australians have been eating it for thousands of years.

**Anzac biscuits**

The Anzac biscuit was made by wives during the war and sent to soldiers, because the basic ingredients (oats, flour, sugar, coconut, butter, bicarbonate of soda and water) were able to keep for a long time, even on long boat journeys.

**Emu**

Emu is an Australian bird. Would you eat it? They're healthier than they look. It’s virtually fat-free. It is fried or served cold or as a pizza topping.

**Damper**

This iconic, cheap Australian food originally was the simplest of recipes. The bread is made from wheat flour, water and salt, and then baked. People drink tea or rum with it.

**Lamingtons**

The lamington is the “National Cake of Australia.” This square-shaped sponge cake is covered with chocolate and coconut.

**Pavlova**

Australians invented the dish in honor of Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova when she visited Australasia in the 1920s. Pavlova is a popular dessert that has a crisp crust and a soft, light inside. It's often decorated with whipped cream and fresh fruit.

**Grilled kangaroo**

Why not eat the national animal? Kangaroo goes well with garlic, pepper, rosemary and fruits such as plum and orange.

And no, Australians don’t eat deep-fried koalas.

**Barramundi**

Barramundi is perhaps the most Australian of all fish. It's served in restaurants across the country. The name of this fish comes from the Aboriginal language. It means: ‘fish with large scales’.
Sport in Australia

In general
Sport is important for the Australians. There are many sport teams. Men, women, children, disabled and Aboriginal people play sport in Australia.

"Aussie Aussie Aussie, Oi Oi Oi" is a cheer often performed at Australian sport events. The fans always sing this song. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrjZi7WIgOw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrjZi7WIgOw)

Rugby League

Rugby league football is one of the most popular sports in Australia. People started to play it in 1907. The elite club competition is the National Rugby League (NRL). It is a sport of the working people. The national Rugby League team has a nickname: Kangaroos. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtHj7hByn5Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtHj7hByn5Q)

Above you can see the fields of the Rugby League (1.) and the Rugby Union (2.) game.

Rugby Union

The Australian Rugby Union (ARU) comes from English public schools. The nickname of the national rugby union team is Wallabies.

Cricket

Cricket is one of the most popular sports in Australia. Cricket is often known as Australia’s national sport. Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played between two teams of 11 players. The equipment of the game: 2 bats, a cricket ball, wickets and gloves, helmets.
Tennis

Australia is famous for the Australian Open, which is the first of the four Grand Slam tennis events of the year. It takes place in Melbourne every year. Lleyton Hewitt is a well-known tennis player from Australia. He was only 20 years old when he became number one in professional tennis playing.

Swimming

There are some well-known swimmers in Australia. Ian Thorpe’s nickname is “Thorpedo” because he is the fastest in men’s freestyle swimming. He has five Olympic Gold medals. He is well known for his huge feet!
The Aussie fans call Susie O’Neill “Madame Butterfly” by Aussie fans because she was very good at butterfly swimming. She won a gold medal at the Olympics and the world championship.
Cathy Freeman, the aboriginal star, became a star in Australia when she won the 400 meters at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Formula 1 Grand Prix

The Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix is the first round of the car-racing Championship which takes place in Australia every year. In the last years it was held in Melbourne, in Albert Park. The most popular Australian racing driver is Mark Webber who raced with Red Bull Racing Team.

Olympic Games

Australia has hosted the Olympics twice, in 1956 in Melbourne and in 2000 in Sydney. These were the first Games hosted in the southern hemisphere.