

Australia Shapes Life

Trace how physical features and location influence people's choices.

SS6G12 "Explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Australia."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one fact about location, climate, natural resources, and population distribution. Number the four facts 1 through 4, then circle words that explain an impact of each fact.

Why Australians Live Where They Do

- ① Australia is an island continent in the Southern Hemisphere, between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Its location places it near Southeast Asia and the islands of Oceania, so sea routes and air routes connect it with nearby trading partners. Yet long ocean distances separate Australia from Europe and the Americas. Many people and goods arrive by ship or plane. Coastal ports such as Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth help Australia trade minerals, farm products, and manufactured goods with other places.
- ② Climate affects where Australians can farm, travel, and live. The tropical north has a wet season and a dry season, and some areas face cyclones. Much of the center is hot and dry, with little rainfall. Water is scarce there, making large-scale farming and settlement harder. In the southeast and southwest, milder temperatures and more dependable rainfall support cities, crops, and grazing. Droughts, bushfires, floods, and heat waves can still disrupt homes, roads, farms, and water supplies.
- ③ Australia has valuable natural resources, including iron ore, coal, natural gas, gold, and uranium. Mining jobs and rail lines developed near some resource deposits, especially in Western Australia and Queensland. However, mines are often far from large cities, so workers, equipment, and minerals must travel long distances. Most Australians live in coastal cities, particularly in the east and southeast. These places have milder climates, more reliable water, and ports. The dry interior has few large settlements because water is limited and temperatures can be extreme.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does Australia's location affect the way people and goods move between Australia and other places?

2 Why is large-scale farming and settlement harder in much of central Australia?

3 What impact have mineral deposits had on some parts of Western Australia and Queensland?

4 Give two reasons most Australians live in coastal cities in the east and southeast.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences proposing a good place for a new Australian town. Include its location, climate or water supply, and a natural resource or transportation route, and explain how each factor would affect the town.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one fact about location, climate, natural resources, and population distribution. Number the four facts 1 through 4, then circle words that explain an impact of each fact. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Australia's location affect the way people and goods move between Australia and other places?	Its ocean location means many people and goods arrive by ship or plane, and coastal ports support trade with nearby partners.
2	Why is large-scale farming and settlement harder in much of central Australia?	The center is hot and dry, receives little rainfall, and has scarce water.
3	What impact have mineral deposits had on some parts of Western Australia and Queensland?	Mining jobs and rail lines developed near some mineral deposits.
4	Give two reasons most Australians live in coastal cities in the east and southeast.	Coastal cities have milder climates, more reliable water, and ports. Any two reasons are correct.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A new town would likely grow on Australia's southeast coast near a port. Its coastal location would make shipping people and goods easier. Milder weather and more reliable rainfall would support homes and farms. If a nearby iron ore deposit created jobs, a rail line could carry ore to the port.

Accept answers that accurately connect a factor to an effect described in the passage. For Part 3, accept different reasonable locations when the student explains location, climate or water, and resources or transportation clearly.