



evropský
sociální
fond v ČR



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

HISTORY

Australia was discovered by **Captain James Cook** in 1770. He landed in Botany Bay (today's Sydney) and explored the eastern coast. The Dutch sailor **Abel Tasman** discovered Tasmania. The first Europeans who arrived in Australia were mostly **convicts** although later in the 19th century many settlers from different continents came here to search for gold. The country was proclaimed a part of Commonwealth in 1901. Since 1945 more than 3 million Europeans have entered the country.

PEOPLE

Population is around 20,090,500. It is a great mixture of various nationalities nowadays, mainly **European** descendants (British and Irish), **Asian** (Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Malaysian), people from the countries of **Middle East** and the **Indian** subcontinent (Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey) and Aborigines.

Aborigines are the original inhabitants of Australia. They have their special culture and hundreds of dialects. Many of them died in the 18th century while protecting their land against white (mostly British) settlers. Out of all inhabitants of Australia they now only make up about 2.7% of the population here.

ECONOMY

Only 9% of land is arable, Australia is an important exporter of **beef, lamb, wool, milk and wheat**. Other agricultural items are **barley, sugar, wine, fruit and vegetables**. Eucalyptus and pine timber is also exported.

The main industries are **iron, steel, textiles, electrical equipment, chemicals, cars, aircraft, shipbuilding and machinery**. The country is rich in minerals and raw materials such as **coal, oil, natural gas, iron ore, gold, lead and zinc**.

Australia imports industrial machinery, electrical appliances and telecommunication equipment.



Currency is the Australian **dollar \$** = 100 cents (1 AU\$ = 16,5 CZK in 2010).

CITIES

The capital of Australia is **CANBERRA**. Its name is thought to mean "meeting place" from Aboriginal "*Kamberra*" and it has around 400,000 people. The largest city of the country is Sydney with a population of approximately 4.4 million inhabitants. You can find many well-known buildings such as the iconic **Sydney Opera House** or the **Harbour Bridge** here. Generally, most of the Australian population live in urban areas – big cities such as **Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane** or **Adelaide** are important commercial and cultural centres.



Sydney Opera House



Sydney Harbour



Tasmanian devil



Uluru

GOVERNMENT

Australia is a constitutional monarchy but in practice a **parliamentary democracy**. The formal head of state is the Queen Elizabeth II., the Queen of the United Kingdom; in practice the Governor General performs all functions. The head of Government is the **Prime Minister** (Kevin Rudd since 2007). **The Parliament** has 2 Houses – **the House of representatives and the Senate**.

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

The country is divided into **6 states**: Western Australia, Southern Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and **2 territories**: Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory



VOCABULARY

platypus = ptakopysk, hemisphere = polokoule, draught = sucho, surface = povrch, mountain range = pohoří, lowland = nížina, grassland = travnaté plochy, savannah = step, huge = obrovský, evergreen = stále zelené, downafall = hustý déšť, mild = mírný, fauna = zvířena, dingo = divoký pes, kangaroo = klokan, explore = objevit, coast = pobřeží, convict = trestanec, settler = osadník, inhabitant = obyvatel, iron ore = železná ruda, barley = ječmen, wheat = pšenice, pine timber = borovicové dřevo, zinc = zinek, lead = olovo, approximately = přibližně

4.Fill in the gaps:

- a) Australia is located between the two oceans, the P.....and the I.....
- b) The Commonwealth of Australia consists of..... (number) states and territories.
- c) The highest mountain of the country is Mt K.....
- d) The Darling and the Murray are r.....
- e) The native inhabitants of Australia are called the A.....
- f) J explored the country in 1770.
- g)C..... is the capital while S..... is the largest city in Australia.
- h) T..... devil is an animal that cannot be found anywhere else.
- i) Typical plant of the country is e.....