


The Commonwealth of Independent States or CIS (Russian: *Содружество Независимых Государств*) is a regional organisation whose participating countries are former Soviet Republics, formed during the breakup of the Soviet Union. The CIS is an association of states and it can not be compared to a federation, confederation or supranational union such as the European Union. It is more comparable to the Commonwealth of Nations.

Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, India, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Moldova, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.



5. Play the guessing game in pairs. Student A describes a country, speaking about their state system, head of state and head of government. Student B tries to guess the country. Change roles and play again.

LESSON 5. The land down under

Communicative area: speaking about Australia

Active grammar: articles with geographical names

Active vocabulary: diverse, indigenous, convict, a penal colony, the outback

1. a) Discuss with your partner: what are your associations with Australia? What does the title of the lesson mean? Why does Australia have such a name? Compare your answers with other pairs.

b) Make a list of the facts you know about Australia. Use the map on the endpapers to help you. Who has the longest list?

2. Match the words with their definitions below. Then, say which of them are associated with Australia for you.



species • emu • the outback • indigenous • refugee • convict • diverse • penal

7. The highest point of Australia is ...
 - a) Mountain Kosciuszko;
 - b) Queensland Mountain;
 - c) Uluru (Ayers Rock).
8. The first European discoverers of Australia were ...
 - a) Portuguese;
 - b) British;
 - c) Dutch.
9. Australia was developed at first as a British ...
 - a) penal colony;
 - b) colony for political refugees;
 - c) colony for the poor.
10. There are about ... species of the kangaroo ...
 - a) 40;
 - b) 50;
 - c) 10.
11. Australia leads the world in the production of ...
 - a) silk;
 - b) wool;
 - c) leather.
12. Australia was called “the land of ...” by one of the early navigators.
 - a) parrots;
 - b) venomous snakes;
 - c) marsupials².

¹ от слова flat [flæt] – ровный, плоский


² marsupial [mɑː'su:piəl] – сумчатое животное

b)   Listen to an educational radio programme about Australia and check your answers.

c)   Complete the extracts from the programme with the given figures. Listen again to check.

16th • 10 • 86 • 23 • 17.7 • 1.5

Of Australia's **1.** ... million inhabitants, about **2.** ... per cent were born elsewhere, and **3.** ... per cent are of aboriginal descent. Over **4.** ... per cent of Australia's people live in cities, yet only **5.** ... per cent of its area is cultivated. Australia enjoys one of the world's highest standards of living – it is the **6.** ... among the industrialised nations.

4. a)  Look at the underlined examples from the programme. Match them with the rules for the use of articles *a*, *an*, *the*. Some rules have more than one example.

1. Australia contains six states.

It is 2. the smallest and least populated of the inhabited continents.

3. ... Australia is an island continent and also 4. the only continent occupied by a single nation.

Originally, 5. the United Kingdom didn't see the benefits of Australia's exploration.

It lies south of 6. the equator, "below" many other countries on 7. the globe.

When 8. the Dutch explored 9. the area they named it "Nova Hollandicus" or "New Holland".

The Dutch are known to have explored the coastal regions in 10. the 1640s.

11. Isolation also allowed for the development of strange birds.

Transportation of 12. convicts to the eastern colonies was abolished in 1852.



- a) No article is used with uncountable nouns.
- b) *A* and *an* are used with singular countable nouns mentioned for the first time often modified by a descriptive adjective.
- c) *The* is used when it's clear who or what we are referring to.
- d) No article is used with countable nouns used in the plural.
- e) *The* is used with nouns modified by superlative adjectives.
- f) No article is used with names, including names of countries.
- g) *The* is used with names of countries which include the words *republic, kingdom, states, commonwealth*.
- h) *The* is used with nouns modified by words *same, very, only*.
- i) *The* is used with nationalities.
- j) *The* is used with things that are unique.
- k) *The* is used with decades.

b) Complete the sentences below with articles *a, an, the* where necessary.

The country is officially called 1. ... Commonwealth of Australia. Canberra is 2. ... capital of 3. ... country. It is roughly half way between 4. ... two largest cities Melbourne and Sydney.

Australia is **5.** ... driest continent on earth. **6.** ... geography of the country is extremely diverse, ranging from **7.** ... snow-capped mountains of the Australian Alps and Tasmania to **8.** ... large deserts, tropical and temperate forests.

Although Australia is **9.** ... small continent, it is **10.** ... sixth largest country in the world: only **11.** ... Russia, Canada, **12.** ... United States, China, and Brazil have larger areas. Australia leads the world in **13.** ... wool production and coal exports.

Among Australia's marsupials are **14.** ... grazing animals, tree climbers, amphibians, earth burrowers, and the counterparts of **15.** ... cats and dogs, and **16.** ... rats and mice.

5. Complete the following questions with the right auxiliary verb. Ask and answer the questions in pairs.

1. Who ... the first immigrants to the land down under? When ... they begin to arrive on the continent?
2. Who ... claimed Australia for Britain?
3. Why ... Australia named "the land down under"?
4. How many sentences with superlative adjectives about Australia ... you make?
5. What ... makes Australia a unique country?
6. What states ... the country consist of?
7. How high ... Australian mountains?
8. How ... the Australian population distributed on the continent?
9. What ... peculiar about Australian flora and fauna?

LESSON 6. Nation's pride

Communicative area: discussing a national holiday

Active grammar: Passive forms revision

Active vocabulary: to commemorate, to serve, service, mateship, glorious, national identity