**Name: Date: Period:**

**Australia Study Guide**

**Geography**

* Be able to locate on a world/regional map: Ayers Rock, Great Victoria Desert, Coral Sea, and the Great Barrier Reef.
* Australia is a large semiarid, dry region with temperate climates in the southeastern coastal areas.
* A monolith is a visible tip of a huge rock that lies underground. Ayers Rock or Uluru (Aborigine name) is an example of a monolith.
* Few people live in the Great Victoria Desert because it is too hot and too dry.
* The Great Barrier Reef is located in the Coral Sea on the northeast coast of Australia.
* Most people live along the coastlines because there is a temperate climate and good rainfall.
* Natural resources are important to a country’s economy because it allows the country to trade their natural resources to other countries for goods that they want and need.
* Iron ore is a natural resource that is most important to Australia’s economy.
* China is an important trading partner for Australia.

**History**

* Thousands of years ago, Australians entered Australia from Asia.
* Captain James Cook named the first colony of Australia New South Wales.
* The British began to colonize Australia in the 18th century.
* Most of the early settlers were prisoners.
* Most of the early settlers were Christian, which lead to why most Australians practice Christianity.
* Aborigines invented a weapon called a boomerang.
* Aborigines were hunter-gathers. They were also nomadic.
* As the British explored and colonized Australia, the British had powerful weapons that gave them an advantage over the Aborigines.
* After British settlement of Australia, thousands of Aborigines died of small pox and other diseases.
* The Australian government restricted immigration after it became independent from Great Britain in 1901 because it felt the country had enough citizens from Asia and Africa.
* In the mid-19th century a gold rush occurred that killed Aborigines.
* Today Australia is a modern, independent country with close ties to Britain.

**Government**

* Australia is a federal government with a parliamentary democracy.
* In an oligarchy, a small group runs the government.
* In a democracy, citizens have the most power because they have the right to make laws in the country.
* The Commonwealth of Nations is an example of a confederation.
* Parliament has the most power in the Australian government.
* The Prime Minister of Australia administers laws made by the Commonwealth Parliament. He/She is also the leader of the political party with the most seats in parliament.
* The Governor-general represents the Queen in Australia.
* The legislative branch makes the laws in Australia.

**Economy**

* In market economies, supply and demand (consumers) decide what and how goods will be produced and prices.
* In a command economy, the government decides what and how goods will be produced and prices.
* In a traditional economy, traditions and habits of the past decide what and how goods will be produced and prices.
* 99% of Australians are literate. Since Australia has a high literacy rate, they have a high standard of living.
* Australians have to exchange currency in order to trade with other countries because businesses in other countries do not use Australian dollars.
* An entrepreneur is a person who takes time and money to start his/her own business.
* In Australia, laws are in place to protect the rights and property of people who want to start their own business. This allows Australia to have a strong market economy.
* When a country invests in the education and training of its citizens, the GDP will rise because the workers that are better educated can find ways to do their jobs better. This is an example of human capital.
* Physical capital is investing in factories or buildings. Investing in factories has helped Australia to have a high GDP.
* An example of specialization is a factory building one product and finding ways to build it better with less expense.
* Tariffs are taxes on imports.
* Quotas are a limit placed on imports.
* Embargo is a government order to stop trade completely.