

Oceania

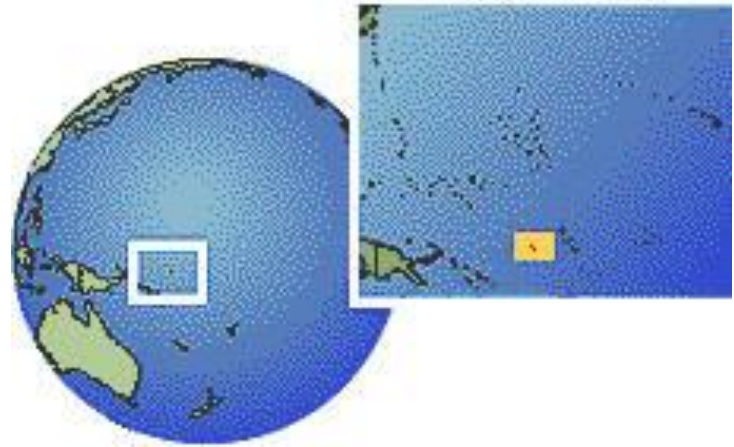


Remote and isolated



Most of the nations of Oceania are in the Pacific Ocean and remain very isolated.

Nations in the Region



- All, except Nauru, are island groups
- Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia
- Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa,
- Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

First Islanders



- Prehistoric people came from the mainland by land bridges, rafts and canoes
- Three geographic, cultural regions:
 - Micronesia—“tiny islands”
 - Melanesia—“black islands”
 - Polynesia—“many islands”

Culture of the Islands



Language and Religion

- Very linguistically diverse region includes 1,100 languages
- Christianity is the most widespread religion
- Some islanders practise traditional religions

The Arts

- Arts and crafts are sometimes sold to tourists
- Baskets and mats woven from palm leaves as well as carved wooden masks

Island Life



Traditional Life

- Polynesian villages were led by chiefs with warlike tribes alongside fishing and farming economies
- Micronesian villages were more peaceful and lived in extended family groups alongside fishing villages on coasts

Australia v New Zealand

Australia's Culture

- Most Australians are of British descent
- But many immigrate from places like Greece, Italy, Southeast Asia
- Over 20% are foreign born; 1% are Aboriginal
- Christianity is major religion; most people speak English
- Ancient Aborigines painted human, animal figures on rock walls
- Australian arts include painters like Russell Drysdale, novelists

New Zealand's Culture

- Mostly British, European descent; pakehas is Maori term for whites
- 15% of people are descended from Maori
- British, Maori cultural mix – English and Maori are official languages
- Christianity is main religion
- Maori art includes woodcarving and poetic legends

Modern Life

City and Country

- 85% of people live in cities and towns
- Australia's large cities have pollution, traffic problems
- New Zealand's cities are quiet, un-crowded, and pollution-free
- In both countries, ranchers live far from cities

Recreation

- Australia has tennis, rugby, soccer and Australian rules
- New Zealand has skiing and mountain climbing

Task: Now research a country of interest and create an information page.

Remember: Include as much interesting information as possible to engage the reader!