

Australia is the sixth largest country in the world and the only one that covers a whole continent. The largest state, Western Australia, is about the same size as Western Europe. Despite its size, Australia has a small population at just over 23 million. Today, the indigenous or native people of Australia, the Aborigines, make up nearly 3% of the total population. The rest is a mix of many different cultures.

As well as being a big country, Australia is home to some of the world's biggest things: Uluru, the largest rock in the world; the Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system; and the saltwater crocodile, the world's biggest reptile. Not content with naturally occurring big things, the Australians have actually built a number of 'Big Things' themselves as tourist attractions, including the Big Banana, the Big Merino and, the biggest of all Australia's Big Things, Larry the Lobster.

A big welcome to Australia!

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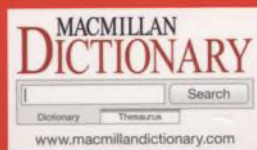
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Contents

<i>The Places In The Book</i>	4
<i>Welcome To Australia</i>	6
1 Climate, Landscape and People	8
2 The First People	17
3 Aboriginal Culture	23
4 Making Modern Australia	31
5 Nature and the Environment	40
6 Food Culture	48
7 The Arts	54
8 Sport	61
9 The Big Things of Australia	68
10 Talented Australians	75
<i>Points For Understanding</i>	82
<i>Glossary</i>	86
<i>Useful Phrases</i>	94
<i>Exercises</i>	95