

Tropical Ecology
Assignment #1
Introducing Australia

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. In four months, you will travel to Australia. Is Australia a continent, an island, or a country (or more than one of these)? _____ How big is it, compared to the United States? _____ Australia is surrounded by water, the _____ Ocean on the east and the _____ Ocean on the west.
2. Australia's name comes from the phrase "Terra australis incognita," one of the names originally given to it by Europeans. "Terra" means earth and "incognita" means unknown. What does "australis" mean?

3. Australia's coat of arms has two animals on it. What are they?
_____ and _____
4. The full official name of Australia is *Commonwealth of Australia*. It is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, an association of 53 sovereign states that mostly includes the United Kingdom and many of its former colonies. The Australian federation consists of six States and two Territories. What is the capital of Australia? _____ Which state will we visit? _____ What is the capital of that state? _____ It has a nickname - the _____ State.
5. When did humans arrive in Australia? _____ Where did those people probably come from? _____ When did Europeans first settle in Australia? _____ They first arrived at Botany Bay but soon moved north to Port Jackson. What was the purpose of that colony? _____ That colony grew to become Australia's largest city. Name that city. _____ Port Jackson is more commonly known by another name, _____ It has two famous landmarks, pictured on the next page. Name them.



Name: _____

Name: _____

6. The eastern coast of Australia was originally explored by British sailors on the ship Endeavour. They ran aground on the offshore reef. Hoping to find a navigable passage, they climbed to the top of Lizard Island and were able to see a break in the reef. When we are on Lizard Island, you will hike to that same point. Name the captain of the Endeavour _____

7. Almost 80% of the plants and animals in Australia are *endemic* to the continent. What does endemic mean? _____

One of the most interesting groups of animals in Australia is the marsupials. Marsupials are mammals but they have something that most North American mammals do not have. What?

_____ Name three marsupials:

_____ Not all mammals in Australia are marsupials. For

example, these wild dogs came to Australia about 5,000 years ago and are now common. Name them.



Name: _____

8. While we are in Australia, we will spend a lot of time on the world's largest coral reef. It is the largest structure on Earth built by living things. Name that reef:

_____. How long is it?

9. Today, 1 Australian Dollar = 0.76878 US Dollar. If you were in Australia and wanted to buy something that cost AU\$25, how much would that equal in US\$? _____

This assignment is due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27th.