

Skills and Culture

Aussies and Kiwis The Making of Australia and New Zealand



AUSTRALIA

When Captain Cook discovered Australia in 1770, it had a population of about one million native Australians, called 'Aborigines'. These were the descendants of the first people who probably reached Australia, from Asia, about 50,000 years ago. British migration started in 1788. The British government needed strong young men to work in the colonies and the prisons were full of them, so they sent **convicts** to Australia to farm and build roads and houses. 165,000 convicts, including women and children, sailed to Australia over the next eighty years. When they arrived in Australia, life was very hard – it was often as bad as prison! They worked long hours without any free time and there wasn't enough food because there weren't any farms to produce it! If the convicts **behaved** well, they could be free and start a new life – the first policemen were **freed** convicts!

Cheap land, good work opportunities and the discovery of gold in 1851 **attracted** a lot of British people to Australia. After World War II, Australia welcomed thousands of refugees and **skilled** workers from Europe.

Today, only 2.5% of the population are Aborigines. The rest of the population have their origins in over 200 different countries.



The Founding of Australia

NEW ZEALAND

The history of immigration to New Zealand is a different story. It started much later than in Australia because the first British immigrants didn't **reach** New Zealand until 1840. At that time the Maoris were the only inhabitants. They were also immigrants, who originally came from Polynesia. They made an **agreement** with the British, but when the first settlers arrived and took their land, the Maoris began a 12-year war. The war didn't stop the British emigration to New Zealand. By 1860, 100,000 British settlers were living on the South Island because the land was good for farming and there was gold there.

Like in Australia, war refugees and skilled workers from Europe arrived during the 1950s.

New Zealand today has a diverse population of 4.5 million people with origins from Europe, Asia and the Pacific Islands. 14.6% are Maoris.



Maori man





Playing didgeridoo

Reading

1 **WARM UP** Do you know any famous people from Australia or New Zealand?

2 **ES** Read and listen to the text and answer the questions.

Who discovered Australia? *Captain Cook.*

- How long have Aborigines lived in Australia?
- What was life like in Australia for the convicts?
- What happened in 1851?
- Where did the post-war immigrants come from?
- Why was there a war between the Maoris and the British?
- What was the result of the Maori War on British immigration?

Listening

3 **K** Listen to the conversation between Laura and Paul and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

Paul wants to go to Australia. *Laura wants to go there.*

- | | T | F |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 If it's summer in Europe, it's winter in Australia. | ☐ | ☒ |
| 2 If Laura goes to Australia, she won't go surfing. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 There are some volcanoes in New Zealand. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 There are a lot of floods now. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 Lara will go to New Zealand if she doesn't like the weather in Australia. | ☐ | ☐ |

Speaking

4 **K T** In pairs. Imagine you are planning a holiday in Australia. Student A imagines a lot of problems, but Student B is optimistic.

Student A: ask the questions using the prompts.

Student B: invent your answers.

A *What will you do if there's a water crisis?*

B *I'll use only a little water.*

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 there / be / water crisis ? | 4 you / see / boomerang / shop ? |
| 2 it / be / extremely hot ? | 5 you / meet / kangaroo / park ? |
| 3 you / not / like / surfing ? | 6 you / not like / Australia ? |

Writing

5 **ES** Write a reply to this message from your New Zealand e-pal.

I live in the city of Christchurch. It's on the South Island and it's near the coast. In the centre of the island, there are mountains, forests and lakes. What's your region like? What can you do there?

Listening strategies

Attenzione alle domande trabocchetto. Quando ascolti, spesso senti una parola o una frase simile alla risposta corretta, che, tuttavia, non è quella giusta. Per esempio, la frase potrebbe essere negativa invece che affermativa o il tempo verbale potrebbe essere diverso. Fa' molta attenzione durante l'ascolto per scegliere la risposta corretta.

Glossary

convicts detenuti

behaved si comportavano

freed liberati

attracted attirarono

skilled esperti

reach raggiungere

agreement accordo