

**Down Under**  
Exercise Questions

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. Compared to other continents, Australia
  - a. is the smallest.
  - b. is the third oldest.
  - c. has the widest range of land elevations.
  - d. none of the above
  
2. Australia's animal population includes monotremes, which
  - a. have pouches where immature offspring develop.
  - b. lay eggs, but feed infants from mammary glands.
  - c. are reptiles that have hair.
  - d. all look like other animals, but bear their young differently.
  
3. Australia became isolated as a continent about \_\_\_\_\_ years ago.
  
4. The modern Australian society began
  - a. after James Cook claimed the land in the 1500s.
  - b. when shiploads of English convicts arrived in 1788.
  - c. with British settlers who came to farm the land.
  - d. with Australian independence in the late 1700s.
  
5. Mountains in Australia
  - a. have been greatly changed in the last 165 million years by volcanic activity.
  - b. run along the entire western side of the continent.
  - c. have been greatly worn down by weathering over time.
  - d. include Vinson Massif, about 7310 feet above sea level.
  
6. The Aborigines' idea of creation is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  
7. Australia's bodies of water
  - a. include salt-water lakes throughout the coastal regions.
  - b. often dry up completely.
  - c. include Lake Eyre on the island of Tasmania.
  - d. feature permanent rivers all along the western seaboard.
  
8. All but 6% of Australia is less than \_\_\_\_\_ above sea level.
  
9. The people of modern Australia
  - a. are very much like their English ancestors.
  - b. are a nomadic people who live by hunting and gathering.
  - c. descended from settlers from northern Asia.
  - d. include descendants of English prisoners, free British settlers, and nomads from southeast Asia.

**Down Under**  
Exercise Questions (continued)

10. The order of animals called marsupials
  - a. is limited only to Australia.
  - b. includes sixteen families found in South America.
  - c. has over 120 species on Australia.
  - d. are all plant-eaters.
11. The town of Marble Bar has recorded temperatures of 100° F or more for as many as \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive days.
12. The fossils of extinct plants found in the rocks of Australia
  - a. have also been found in Europe and North America.
  - b. are the oldest found on any of the continents.
  - c. provided early evidence of a supercontinent called Gondwana.
  - d. show that the continent has been isolated for 3½ billion years.
13. Australia's original human inhabitants
  - a. arrived 4,000 years ago.
  - b. came from Europe in rafts, or over land bridges.
  - c. raised crops along the temperate coastal regions.
  - d. practiced elaborate religious rituals celebrating their ideas of creation.
14. The official symbol of Australia is the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. A person arriving in Australia in 1875 probably was
  - a. a free British immigrant.
  - b. a convict.
  - c. a native of southeast Asia.
  - d. any of the above

TRUE/FALSE

1. The cores of all the continents are of about the same age.
2. The Red Kangaroo grows up to 6 feet tall and up to 200 pounds.
3. Australia's largest lake is only full about twice every century.
4. The first platypus stuffed and sent back to England was a fake.
5. The original British immigrants to Australia were offered land there instead of serving out their prison sentences.
6. The highest point in Australia is 7,310 feet above sea level.
7. Over two thirds of Australia receives less than 10 inches of rain per year.
8. The Tasmanian Devil is a monotreme.
9. The mountains called The Great Dividing Range run through the center of the continent.
10. Fossils found in Australia indicate it was once connected to India.