

# Australian Wildlife

Australia has the most unusual assortment of animals and plants on Earth. Almost half of the world's population of marsupials are found only in Australia. Marsupials include koalas, kangaroos, wombats, possums, and bandicoots.

The landscape in Australia is very varied. There are more deserts in Australia than any other continent. Sometimes there is no rainfall in these areas for several years. More than half of Australia is covered by desert and many poisonous animals can be found there. Funnel web spiders are large and hairy. They are called this because they build funnel-shaped webs to catch their prey. Their bite is extremely poisonous.

Kangaroos have strong back legs and huge tails. There are around 50 different kinds of kangaroo in Australia, the red kangaroo is one of the largest and can grow to over 2 m in height.

Smaller members of the kangaroo family are called wallabies. The rednecked wallaby is also called the brusher because it prefers brush and scrubland areas rather than open countryside.

There are more than 2,000 wildlife reserves and national parks in Australia, which cover 80 million hectares (197 million acres).

## Questions

a) Name three kinds of marsupials.

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b) Why is the red necked wallaby also called the brusher?

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c) How did funnel-web spiders get their name?

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## Quick facts

Diet: Herbivore

Length: 71 to 119 cm

Group name: Mob or Colony

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# The Continent of Asia

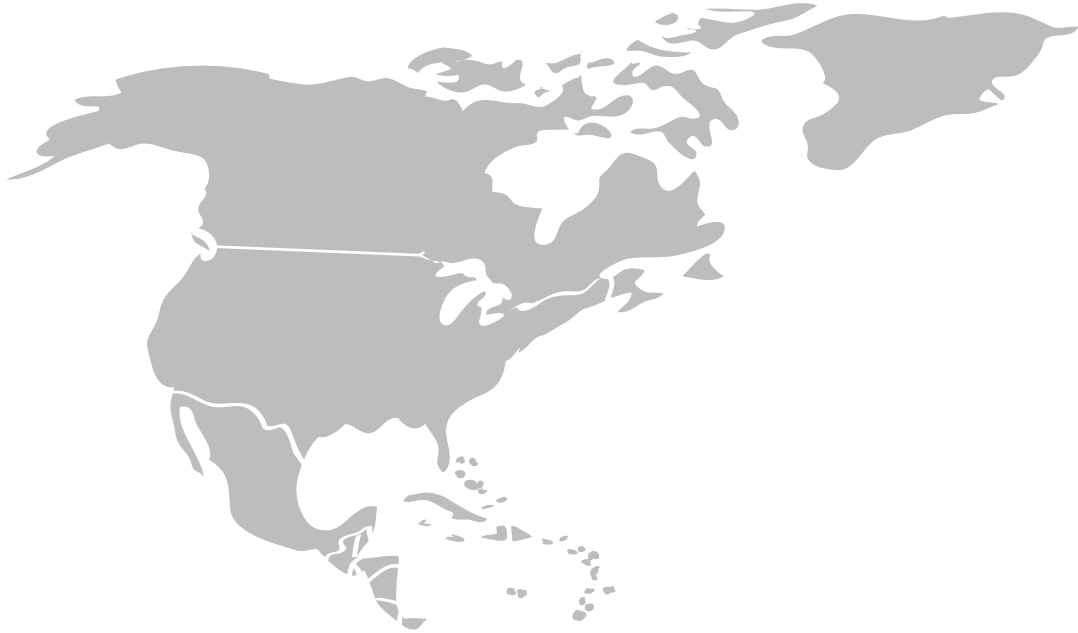


Asia is the largest continent of the seven. It contains 60 percent of the world's population making it the most populated. The climate varies with the Southern parts being mild to hot, while far northeastern areas such as Siberia are very cold and East Asia has a temperate climate. On the eastern border is the Pacific Ocean, along the southern border is the Indian Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean is along the northernmost border. Asia contains the world's largest country, Russia, and the most populated country, China.

1. Asia is the \_\_\_\_\_ largest continent.
2. It has \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the world population.
3. It has what type of climate(s)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name a fact about the continent. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# The Continent of North America



North America is the 3rd largest continent. It includes the countries of Canada, United States, Greenland, Mexico and some of the Latin American regions. It is home to 8 percent of the world's population. It is surrounded by the Arctic Ocean to the north, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. North America has five time zones and is the only continent with every type of climate. It has the largest fresh water lake in the world- Lake Superior.

1. North America is the \_\_\_\_\_ largest continent.

2. It has \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the world population.

3. It has what type of climate(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name a fact about the continent. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# The Continent of South America



South America is the 4th largest continent and is the southern portion of the larger American continent. It contains 6 percent of the world's population. The equator passes through the continent offering a tropical climate for much of the land. South America is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on the western border and the Atlantic Ocean on its east. It is made up of twelve countries. Brazil is its largest country in terms of both land mass and population. South America is home to the Andes Mountains which has the longest range of peaks in the world. It is also home to the Amazon River, which has the largest volume of water of any river in the world.

1. South America is the \_\_\_\_\_ largest continent.
2. It has \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the world population.
3. It has what type of climate(s)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name a fact about the continent. \_\_\_\_\_