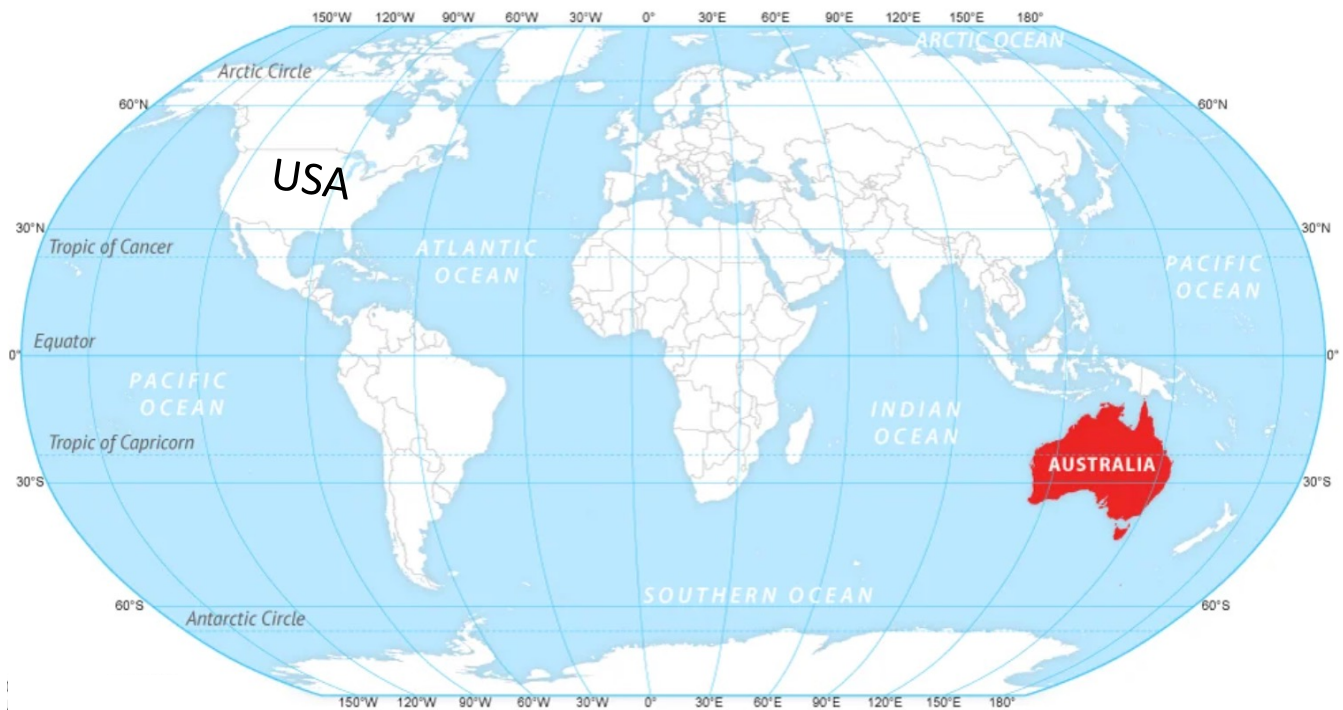


Christmas in Australia

Look at where Australia is!



Look at the flag of Australia. What colors do you see?



The most common language in Australia is English, just like us in the United States. We say, "Merry Christmas" the same way!

How do they celebrate Christmas in Australia?

Christmas "Downunder" is never white. That's because Christmas in Australia comes in the middle of summer. Since Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere, summer is from December 1 to the end of February! That means, it is summer and hot during Christmastime! Since children are usually on vacation during the summer, some people might even be camping on Christmas Day.



Kangaroos and Christmas in Sweden



Many Australians hang wreaths on their front doors and often people will also go around town singing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve. People also decorate their houses and gardens with Christmas Trees and Christmas lights. Some Australians also decorate their houses with bunches of 'Christmas Bush', a native Australian tree with small green leaves and cream-colored flowers. Many towns, cities and schools also hold their own Carols by Candlelight services, with local bands and choirs sometimes helping to perform the Christmas Carols and songs. When Santa gets to Australia, he is said to give his reindeers a rest and might use kangaroos instead for a while! He also changes his clothes for less 'hot' ones. Children often leave out carrots for Santa's reindeer and there might be some cake for Santa.

Make Australian Santa Puppets!



Color, print and cut out each figure. Glue a popsicle stick to the back to make puppets!

