

# Geography Level 6

## Chapter 2 — Australia in a connected world

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# The continents of the world: geography, major countries and links to Australia

**What we are learning** — Victorian Curriculum 2.0, Geography, Levels 5 and 6 band: **VC2HG6K06**  
Tasks in this section also link to elaborations **VC2HG6K06.E01**, **VC2HG6K06.E02** and **VC2HG6K06.E03**, and to the inquiry skills you will build in Chapter 3 (flow maps and BOLTSS in Section 3C).

**Words we define before we use them.** *Continent* — one of the great divisions of the world's land; in this book we use the **seven-continent model** (Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe and Oceania). That model is a definition geographers *agreed on*: they chose it as a useful way to divide the land, and other models exist — some people count Europe and Asia as one continent called Eurasia, so they use a six-continent model. Both models describe the same Earth; they just draw the lines in different ways. In this book, every question is answerable on the seven-continent model. *Interconnection* — one of geography's seven big ideas: the ways places are linked to each other, so that what happens in one place affects others. *Export* — something sold to another country. *Import* — something bought from another country. *Migration* — people moving to live in a new country. *Census* — an official count of every person in a country, with details like where each person was born. *Population density* — how crowded a place is: the number of people per square kilometre, found by dividing the population by the area. *Bearing* — the compass direction you would face to look straight at a place. *Aid* — money, equipment and expertise one country gives to help another.

**What we assume you already know** (from earlier years, so we use it rather than re-teach it): the names and rough positions of the continents and oceans; the equator, the tropics and the hemispheres; compass directions; and the main climate types. We also use the seven concepts of geography — **place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change** — as our lenses all the way through.

## Theory

### Part 1 — The seven continents at a glance (space, environment)

The world's land comes in seven great pieces. They are very different in size, in the number of people they hold, and in what their land is like. The reference table below holds the numbers we will use all through this section.

**The seven continents at a glance**

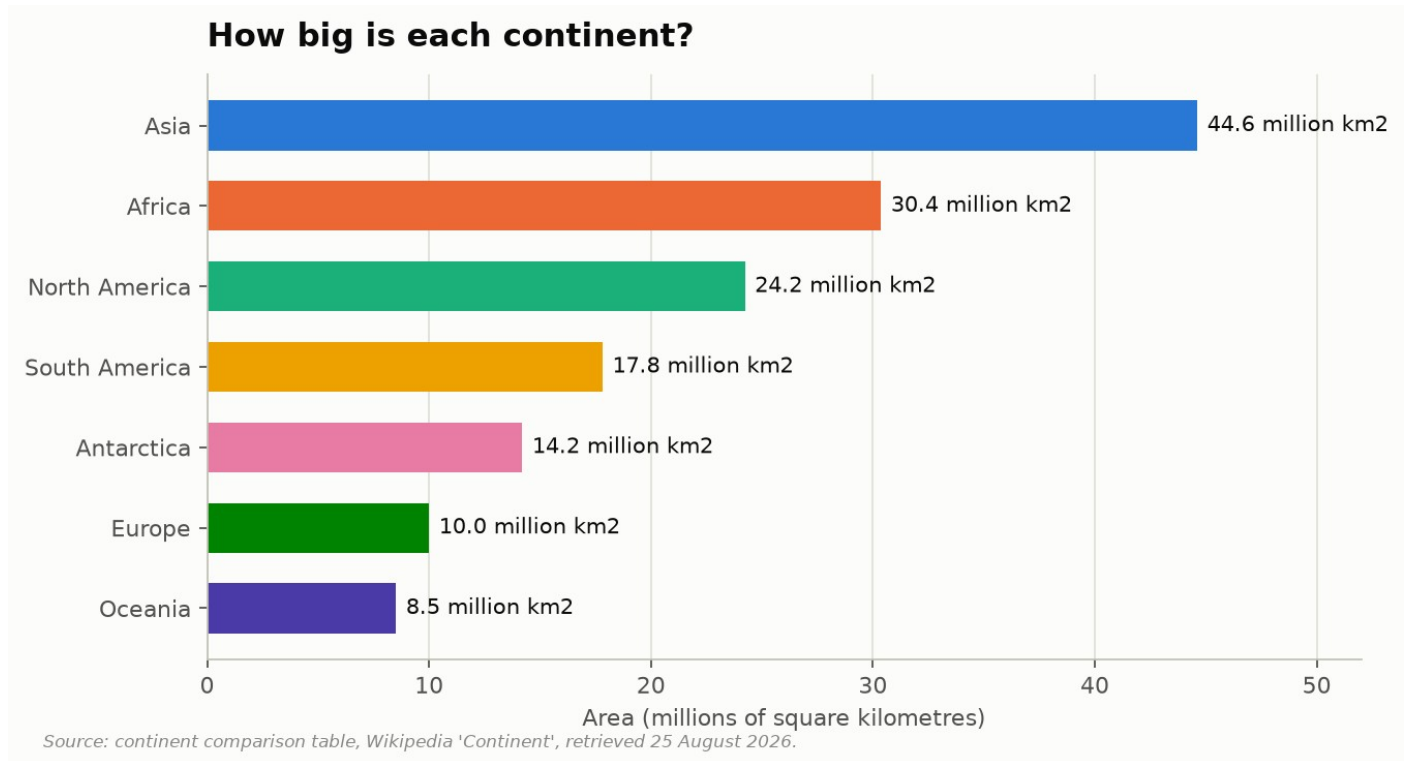
| Continent     | Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Population (2021) | Per km <sup>2</sup> | Major rivers (examples) | Major countries (examples)          |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Asia          | 44,614,000              | 4,694,576,167     | 105.2               | Yangtze, Ganges, Mekong | China, India, Indonesia, Japan      |
| Africa        | 30,365,000              | 1,393,676,444     | 45.9                | Nile, Congo, Zambezi    | Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Kenya |
| North America | 24,230,000              | 595,783,465       | 24.6                | Mississippi, Mackenzie  | Canada, United States, Mexico       |
| South America | 17,814,000              | 434,254,119       | 24.4                | Amazon, Parana          | Brazil, Argentina, Colombia         |
| Antarctica    | 14,200,000              | 0                 | 0.0                 | None (ice sheet)        | No countries - research stations    |
| Europe        | 10,000,000              | 745,173,774       | 74.5                | Danube, Rhine, Volga    | Germany, UK, France, Italy          |
| Oceania       | 8,510,926               | 44,491,724        | 5.2                 | Murray-Darling          | Australia, NZ, PNG, Fiji            |

Source: areas and population from the continent comparison table, Wikipedia 'Continent' (population: United Nations 2021 estimates), retrieved 25 August 2026. People per km<sup>2</sup> calculated from these figures.

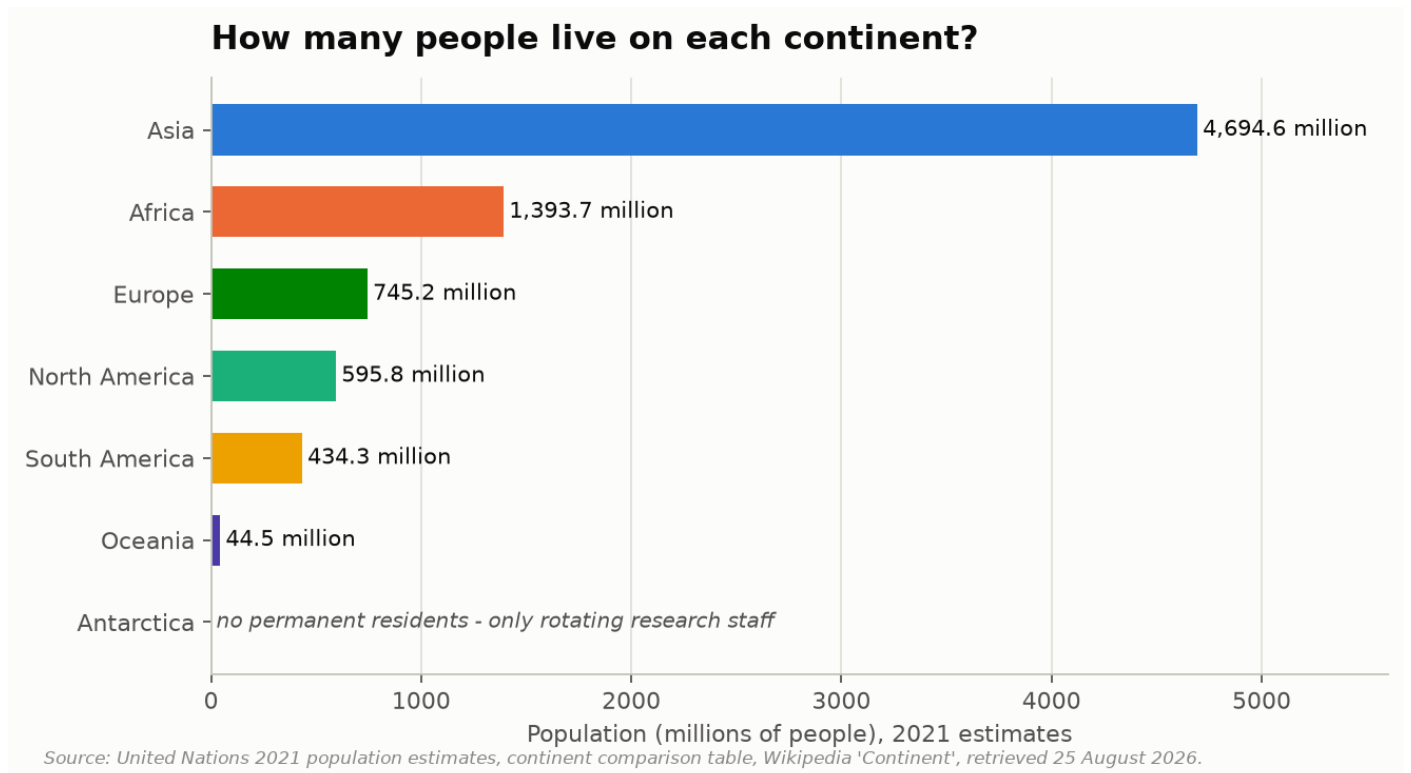
*A table listing the seven continents with their area in square kilometres, their 2021 population, their calculated population density, example major rivers and example major countries.*

Three things to notice in the table:

- **Asia is the giant** — the biggest continent by area and by far the most crowded with people. More than half of the world's people live there.
- **Antarctica is the odd one out** — bigger than Europe or Oceania, yet with no permanent residents, no countries and no cities. Only scientists on rotating shifts live there, at research stations such as Australia's Casey and Mawson stations.
- **Oceania is our home continent** — Australia covers most of it, together with New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific island nations.

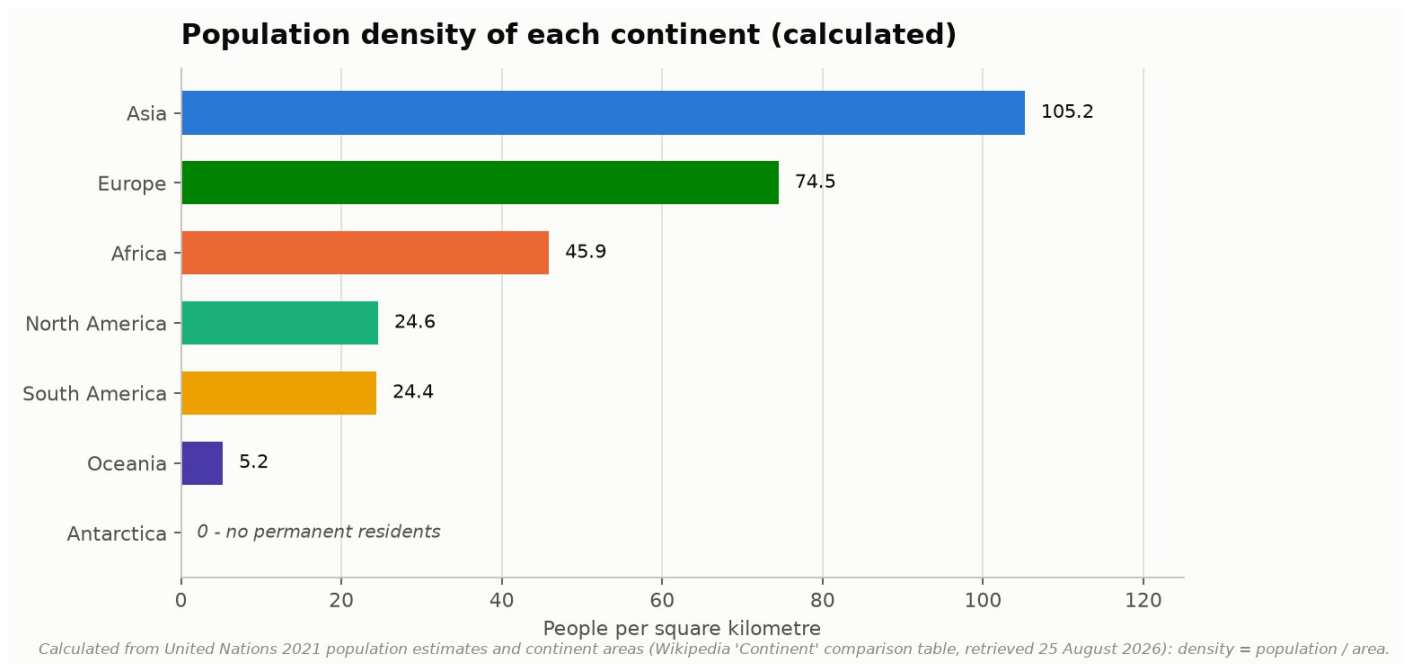


A horizontal bar chart showing the area of each of the seven continents in millions of square kilometres, from Asia at about 44.6 million down to Oceania at about 8.5 million.



A horizontal bar chart showing the 2021 population of each continent in millions of people, from Asia at about 4,695 million down to Oceania at about 44 million, with Antarctica shown as having no permanent residents.

Area alone does not tell you what a continent is like. **Population density** (people per square kilometre) joins the two facts together: divide the population by the area. Asia's 4,694,576,167 people spread over 44,614,000 km<sup>2</sup> gives about **105 people per km<sup>2</sup>**, while Oceania's 44,491,724 people over 8,510,926 km<sup>2</sup> gives only about **5 people per km<sup>2</sup>** — one reason Australia feels so empty compared with the crowded cities of Asia.



*A horizontal bar chart of calculated population density for each continent in people per square kilometre, with Asia highest at about 105 and Oceania about 5, and Antarctica zero.*

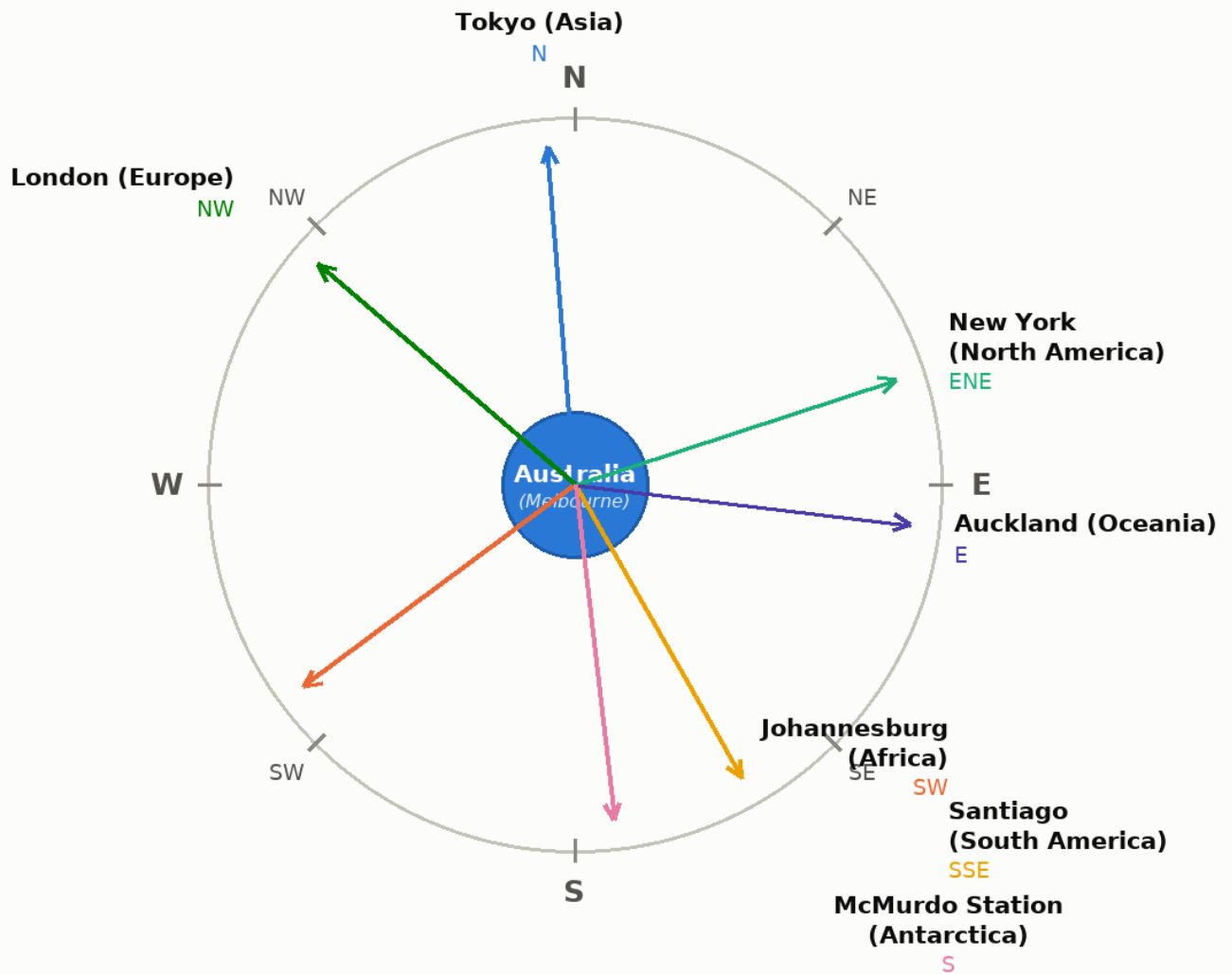
**Physical characteristics.** Every continent has its great rivers, its climates and its vegetation. Asia's Yangtze and Ganges, Africa's Nile and Congo, South America's Amazon and Europe's Danube are among the biggest rivers on Earth; Australia's Murray–Darling is the longest river system in our own continent. Climates range from the ice sheet of Antarctica, through the deserts of Africa and Australia, to the tropical rainforests of South America and South-East Asia. When you explore a continent on a globe, a wall map or a digital tool such as Google Earth, the things to look for are exactly these: major rivers, climates, vegetation, and how crowded the land is.

**Human characteristics.** The continents also differ in their countries, languages and religions. Africa has more countries than any other continent — over fifty — while South America has only twelve, and Antarctica has no countries at all. The world's most spoken first language, Mandarin Chinese, is an Asian language; English, Spanish, Arabic, Hindi and Russian are each spoken by hundreds of millions of people across particular continents. The great religions — Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism — each have hundreds of millions of followers, and their holiest places sit in particular continents: for example, Buddhism began in Asia, and Islam's holiest city, Mecca, is in Saudi Arabia, Asia.

## **Part 2 — Where are the major countries, in relation to Australia? (space, place)**

Knowing a country means knowing **where it sits in the world** — and **where it sits in relation to us**. Two tools describe a location relative to Australia: a **bearing** (the compass direction you face from here) and a **distance** (how far away, in a straight line over the curved Earth).

## Which way do you face? Directions from Melbourne



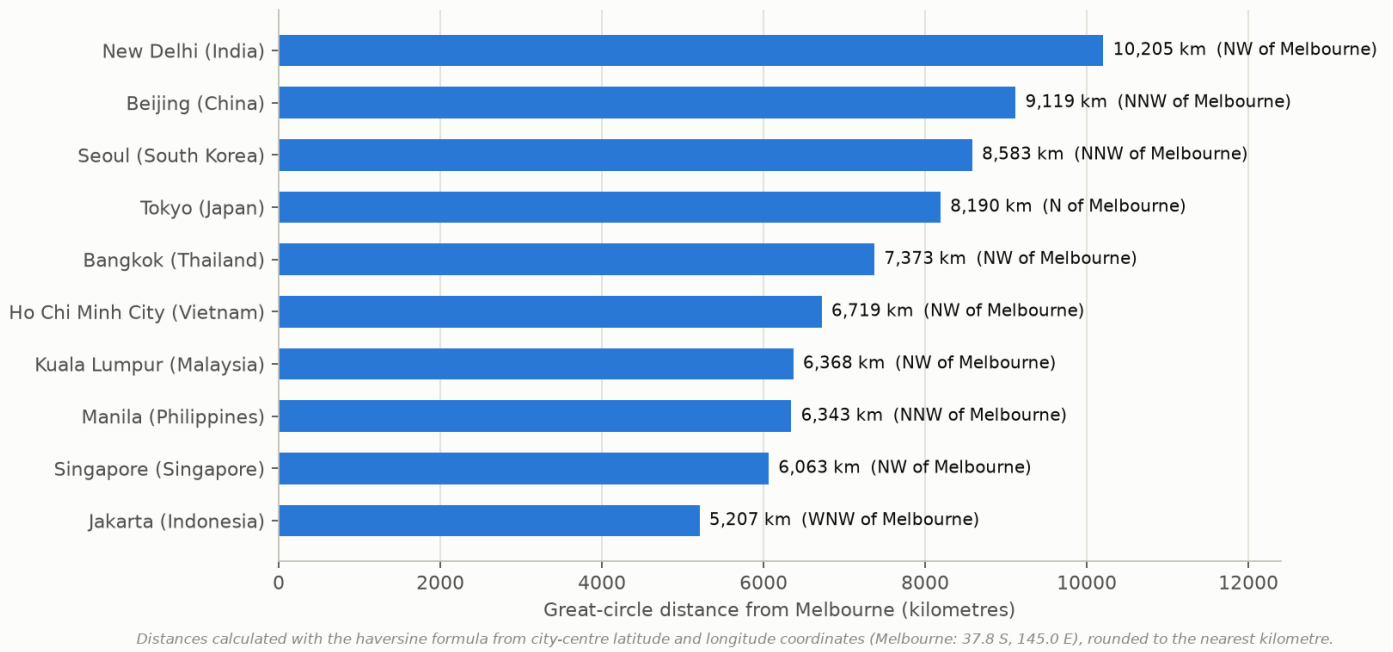
Initial great-circle bearings from Melbourne (37.8 S, 145.0 E), snapped to the nearest 16-point compass direction.

A compass diagram with Australia and Melbourne at the centre and arrows pointing to one city on each other continent: Tokyo north, Auckland east, Santiago south-south-east, McMurdo Station south, Johannesburg southwest, London north-west and New York east-north-east.

Look at the pattern. To find **Asia** we face roughly north and north-west; **Europe** and **Africa** lie to the west and north-west; the **Americas** lie across the Pacific — New York to the east-north-east, Santiago to the south-south-east; and icy **Antarctica** lies almost due south. Australia really is the “far south” of Asia — a fact that shapes who we connect with, as Part 3 shows.

Our nearest continent is Asia. The distances below are straight-line distances from Melbourne to ten major Asian cities, measured along a great circle — the shortest path over the curve of the Earth — and calculated from the cities’ coordinates.

### How far is Asia? Distance from Melbourne to major Asian cities



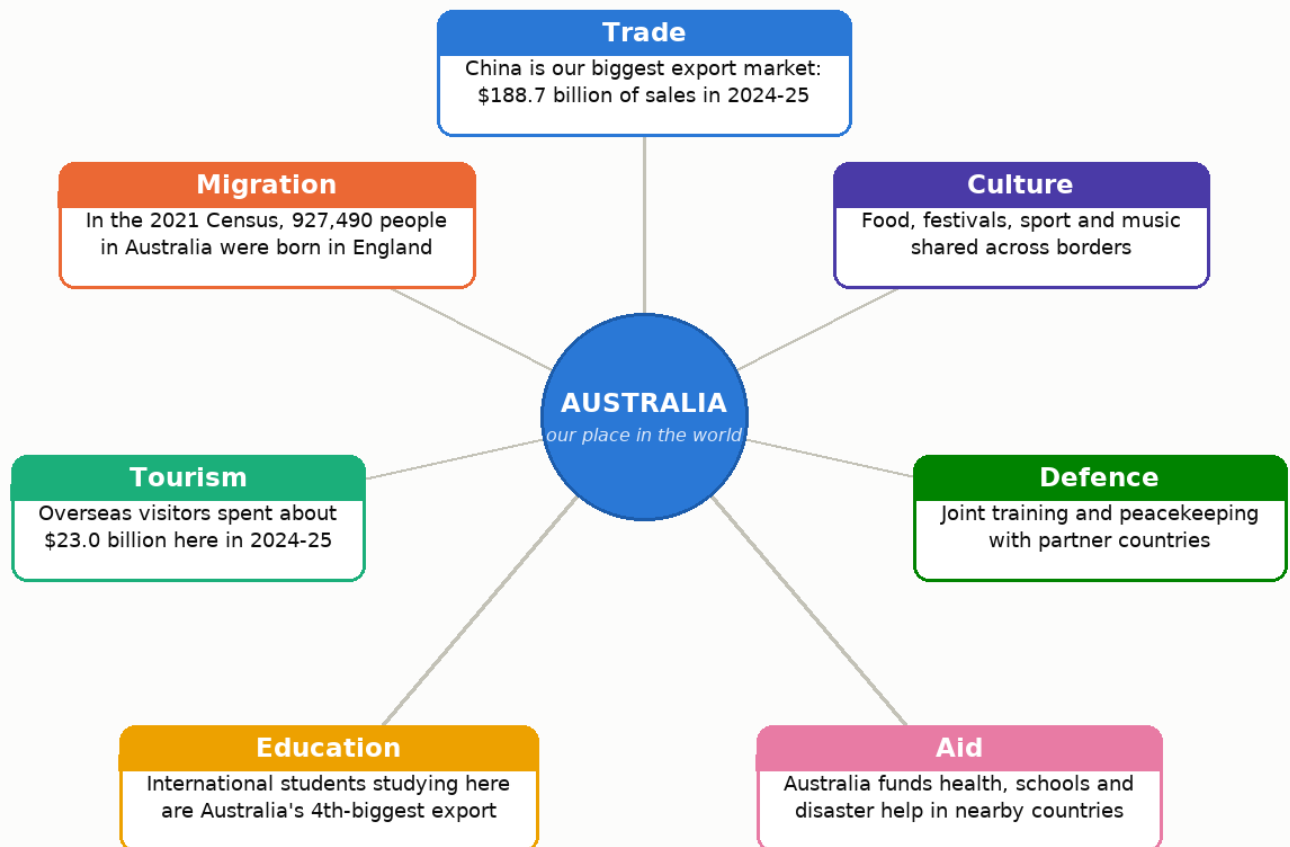
*A horizontal bar chart of straight-line distances from Melbourne to ten major Asian cities, from Jakarta at about 5,207 kilometres up to New Delhi at about 10,205 kilometres, each labelled with its compass direction from Melbourne.*

Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, is the closest major Asian city to Melbourne at about 5,207 km — closer than Tokyo (about 8,190 km) or Beijing (about 9,119 km). Compare that with London at about 16,900 km from Melbourne: Asia is on our doorstep, Europe is a very long haul. This is one reason Australia's strongest connections run to the north.

### **Part 3 — Australia's connections with the world (interconnection, change)**

No country lives alone. Australia is joined to other countries by **seven kinds of interconnection**: trade, migration, tourism, education, aid, defence and culture. Each one is a two-way street — people, money, goods and ideas move both ways, and they change the places at both ends (*change* at work).

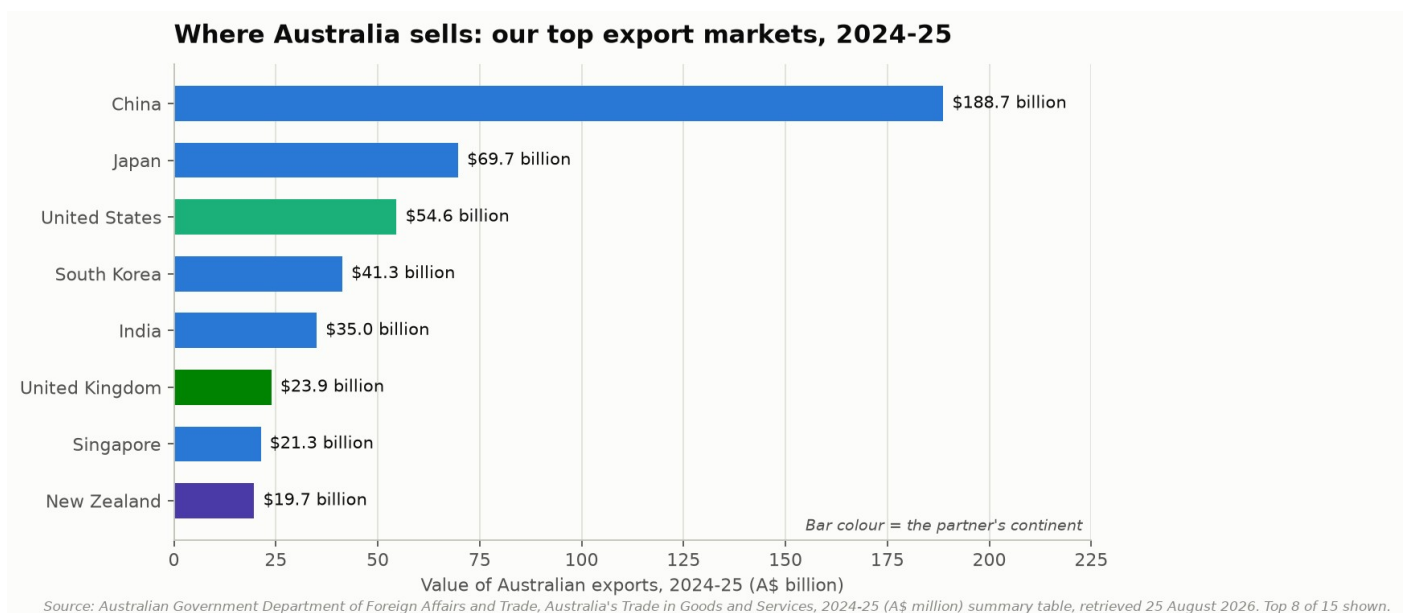
## Seven kinds of connections between Australia and the world



Examples use DFAT trade figures (2024-25) and the ABS 2021 Census; both sources retrieved 25 August 2026.

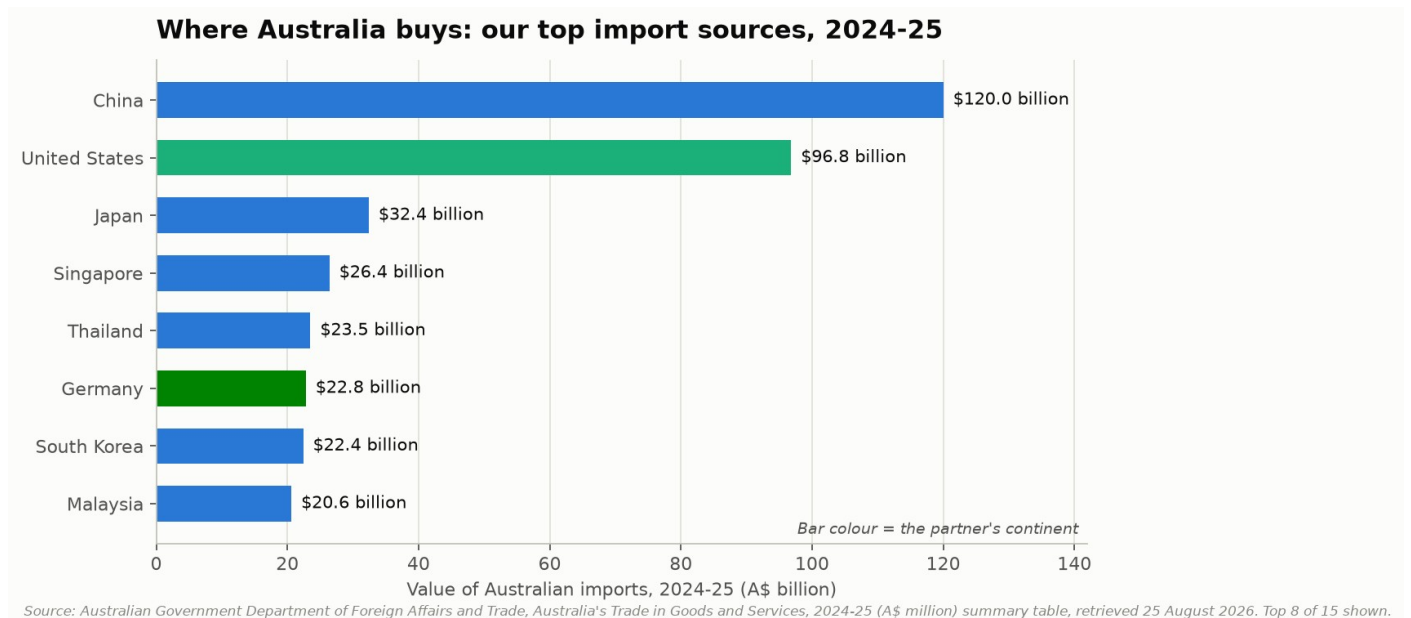
A labelled hub diagram with Australia at the centre joined to seven boxes: trade, migration, tourism, education, aid, defence and culture, each with one real example.

**Trade — the biggest thread.** In 2024–25 Australia sold \$646.6 billion of goods and services to the world and bought \$629.9 billion back. The charts below show *who* we traded with.

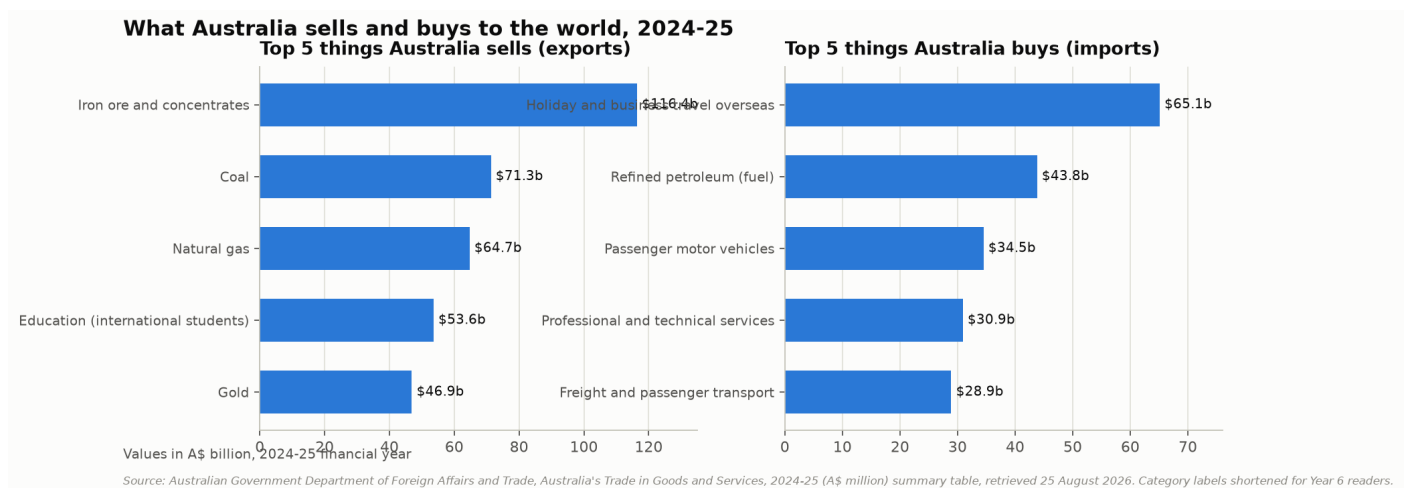


Source: Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia's Trade in Goods and Services, 2024-25 (A\$ million) summary table, retrieved 25 August 2026. Top 8 of 15 shown.

A horizontal bar chart of Australia's top eight export markets for goods and services in 2024-25 in billions of Australian dollars, led by China at 188.7 billion, then Japan, the United States, South Korea, India, the United Kingdom, Singapore and New Zealand, with bars coloured by the partner's continent.



A horizontal bar chart of Australia's top eight import sources for goods and services in 2024-25 in billions of Australian dollars, led by China at 120.0 billion and the United States at 96.8 billion, then Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Germany, South Korea and Malaysia, with bars coloured by the partner's continent.

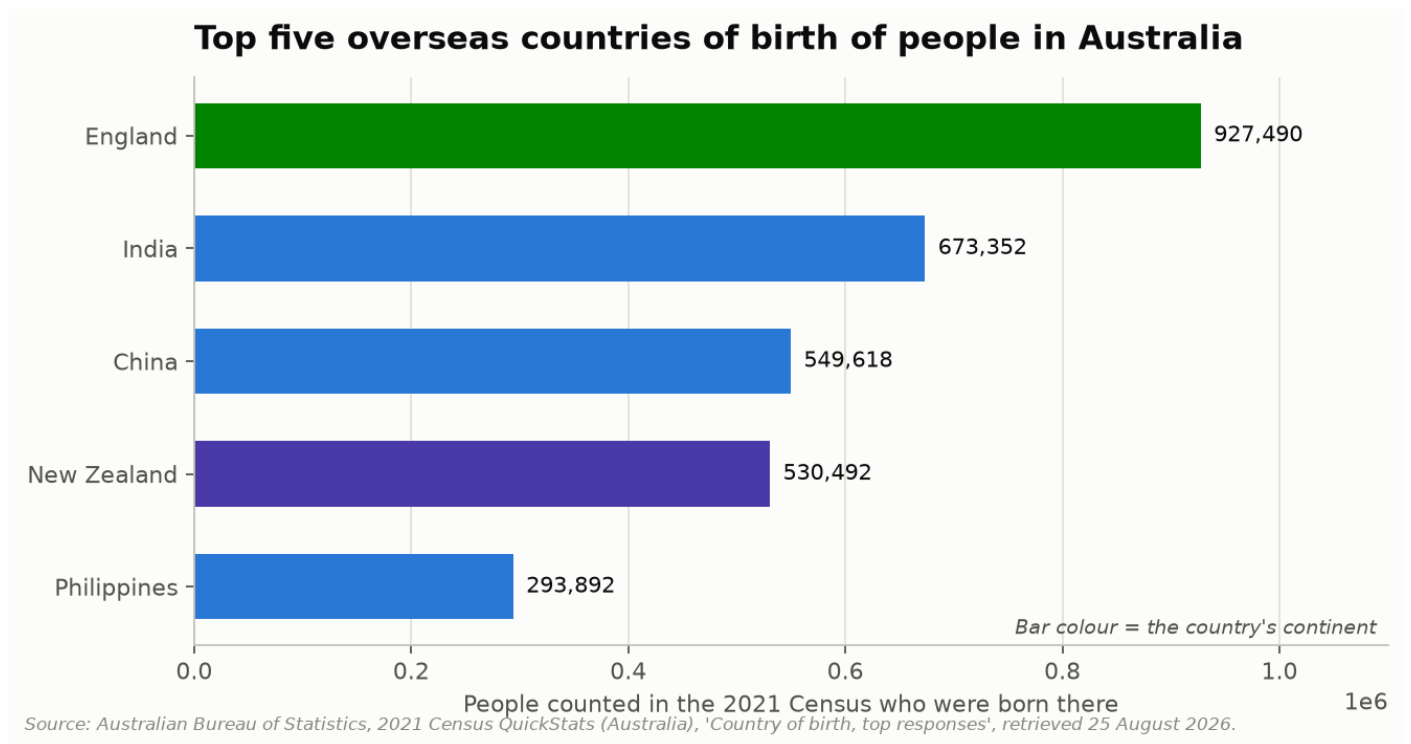


A two-panel bar chart of Australia's top five exports (iron ore, coal, natural gas, education-related travel and gold) and top five imports (overseas travel by Australians, refined fuel, passenger vehicles, professional services and transport) in 2024-25, in billions of Australian dollars.

Read the trade story carefully:

- **China is by far our biggest two-way partner** — \$188.7 billion of our exports (29.2% of the total) and \$120.0 billion of our imports.
- Most of our top export markets sit in **Asia**: China, Japan, South Korea, India and Singapore all sit in the top eight.
- We sell what we dig, grow and teach — iron ore, coal, natural gas, and **education**, the fees and living costs of international students, our fourth-biggest export at \$53.6 billion.
- We buy what we do not make enough of at home — refined fuel, cars — and we buy travel: the money Australians spend overseas (\$65.1 billion) is our biggest single import.

**Migration — people as a connection.** The 2021 Census counted where the people of Australia were born. More than a quarter of us were born overseas, and the top five overseas birthplaces were:



*A horizontal bar chart of the top five overseas countries of birth in the 2021 Australian Census: England 927,490; India 673,352; China 549,618; New Zealand 530,492; Philippines 293,892, with bars coloured by the country's continent.*

Every migrant is a living link between Australia and their birth country — through family visits, phone calls, money sent home, food, festivals and business.

**Tourism, education, aid, defence and culture.** Overseas visitors spent about \$23.0 billion in Australia in 2024–25, coming to see our cities, beaches and unique wildlife; at the same time we travelled too. International students from many countries study in our schools and universities — a connection worth \$53.6 billion. Australia gives **aid** — money, equipment and expertise — much of it going to nearby Pacific countries and to South-East Asia, helping with health, schools and recovery after disasters. Our **defence** connections include joint training and peacekeeping with partner countries — for example, through the ANZUS agreement with New Zealand and the United States. And **culture** flows both ways: foods like sushi, laksa and dumplings, festivals like Lunar New Year and Diwali, and sports like cricket and soccer all tie Australia into wider worlds.

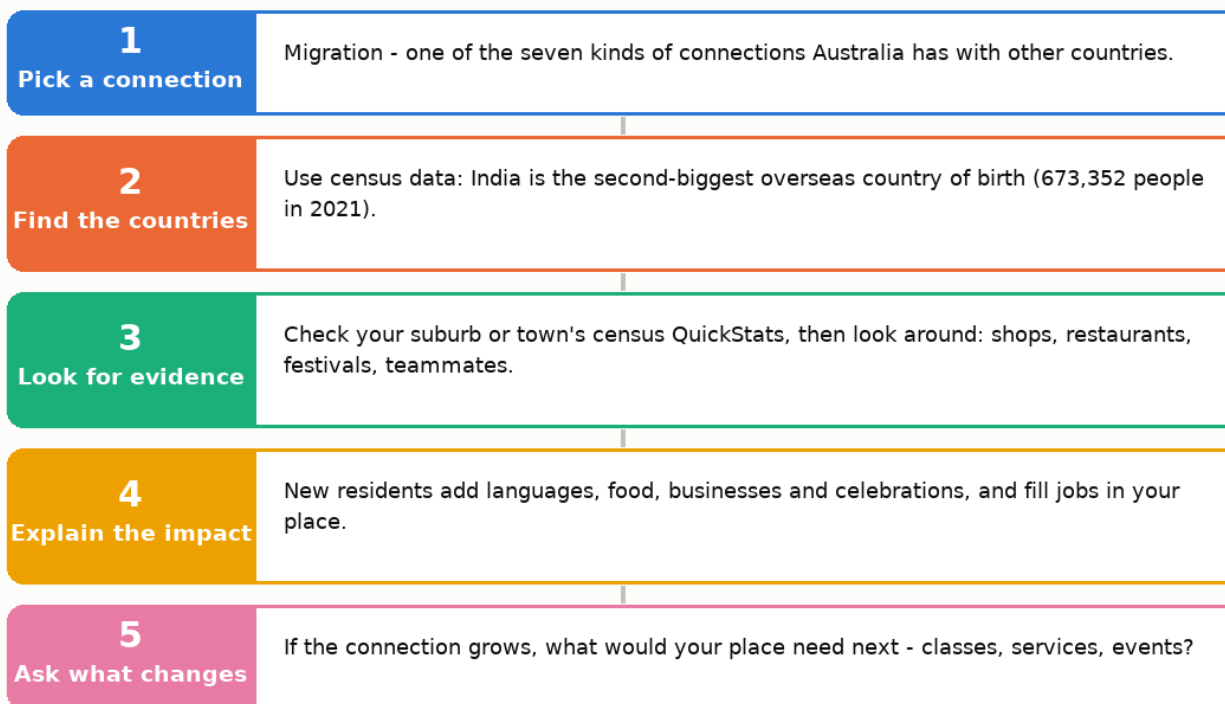
Notice the pattern the data keeps showing: **so many of Australia's closest connections are with Asia** — in trade, migration, education and tourism. That is why this level of the curriculum pays special attention to Australia's engagement with Asia.

#### **Part 4 — Tracing a connection down to your place (place, interconnection)**

Big national numbers can feel far away — until you trace them home. The model below shows how to take one connection and follow it all the way down to the streets you actually live in.

## Trace a connection to your own place: a five-step model

Worked example: migration from India to Australia



Data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census QuickStats (Australia), retrieved 25 August 2026. Now trace a connection for YOUR place.

A five-step flow diagram titled *Trace a connection to your own place: pick a connection; find the countries; look for evidence in your place; explain the impact; ask what changes*, worked with the example of migration from India.

The diagram above runs the model for migration from India. The inquiry task at the end of the section asks you to run it for **your own place**, using the ABS census QuickStats as a secondary source (a skill you will build on in Section 3B) and, later, drawing your connections as a flow map with BOLTSS in Section 3C.

### Worked examples

#### Example 1 — guided (links VC2HG6K06.E01)

Use the continents table to compare Asia and Oceania.

| Working                                                                                                       | Comment                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Area: Asia 44,614,000 km <sup>2</sup> ; Oceania 8,510,926 km <sup>2</sup> . Asia is about 5 times bigger. | $44,614,000 \div 8,510,926 \approx 5.2$ . Compare by dividing when the numbers are huge.                   |
| (b) Density: Asia about 105 people/km <sup>2</sup> ; Oceania about 5 people/km <sup>2</sup> .                 | Density = population $\div$ area. Read from the table, or check: $44,491,724 \div 8,510,926 \approx 5.2$ . |
| (c) So Asia is far bigger <i>and</i> about 21 times more crowded ( $105 \div 5 \approx 21$ ).                 | Interpreting two facts together is what turns data into geography.                                         |

$\therefore$  Asia is the largest and most densely populated continent; Oceania is small and lightly populated.

#### Example 2 — guided (links VC2HG6K06.E02)

Describe the location of Japan and Indonesia in relation to Australia, using bearing and distance from Melbourne.

| Working                                                       | Comment                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tokyo (Japan): bearing N, about 8,190 km from Melbourne.      | Read both numbers from the distance chart and compass diagram.    |
| Jakarta (Indonesia): bearing WNW, about 5,207 km.             | WNW = west-north-west, between west and north-west.               |
| Jakarta is about 2,983 km closer ( $8,190 - 5,207 = 2,983$ ). | A location relative to Australia = direction <b>and</b> distance. |

∴ Indonesia lies west-north-west of Australia and is the closest country to us; Japan lies almost due north and is about 3,000 km further away.

### Example 3 — guided (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

Use the trade charts to describe Australia's trade with China in 2024–25.

| Working                                                                      | Comment                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exports to China: \$188.7 billion = 29.2% of all exports.                    | The chart gives the value; the source table gives the share. |
| Imports from China: \$120.0 billion = our biggest import source too.         | Two-way trade makes China our largest overall partner.       |
| Difference: $188.7 - 120.0 = \$68.7$ billion more sold to China than bought. | Subtracting the two bars shows the trade is not balanced.    |

∴ China is Australia's biggest market in both directions, and in 2024–25 we sold China \$68.7 billion more than we bought from it.

### Example 4 — independent (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

A friend says, "Australia's most important connections must be with Europe, because so many Australians were born in England." Use one migration figure and one trade figure to test this claim carefully, then give your own view.

Model answer: The claim has real evidence behind it — England is the top overseas birthplace (927,490 people in the 2021 Census), a deep migration and culture link. But in trade, the United Kingdom bought \$23.9 billion from us in 2024–25, while China alone bought \$188.7 billion — about eight times as much. So the fairest reading is: Europe, and Britain in particular, is a huge *people* connection, while Asia is a huge *trade* connection — and "most important" depends on which connection you weigh.

## Practice questions

### Guided

**Q1.** Using the continents table: (a) name the largest continent by area and give its area; (b) name the continent with the second-largest population and give that population; (c) calculate the population density of Europe to one decimal place; (d) explain in one sentence why Antarctica's density is 0.0. (links VC2HG6K06.E01)

**Q2.** Using the population and density charts: (a) about how many people live in Asia? (b) which continent has the highest population density? (c) give one geographical reason why Oceania's density is so low. (links VC2HG6K06.E01)

**Q3.** Using the Melbourne-to-Asia chart: (a) which major Asian city is closest to Melbourne, and how far away is it? (b) what is the bearing from Melbourne to Tokyo? (c) how much further away is Beijing than Singapore? (links VC2HG6K06.E02)

**Q4.** Using the compass diagram, give the bearing from Melbourne to: (a) London; (b) New York; (c) McMurdo Station; (d) Johannesburg. (links VC2HG6K06.E02)

**Q5.** Using the export-markets chart: (a) name Australia's biggest export market and the value of our exports to it; (b) about how many times bigger is that market than Japan's? (c) which Asian country sits at rank 5? (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

**Q6.** Using the import-sources chart: (a) name the two biggest import sources and their values; (b) which two Asian countries sit at ranks 4 and 5? (c) add the value of imports from the United States and Japan. (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

**Q7.** Using the census chart: (a) name the most common overseas country of birth and its count; (b) how many more people born in India than in New Zealand were counted in 2021? (c) which three of the top five birthplaces are in Asia? (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

**Q8.** Using the sells-and-buys chart: (a) what was Australia's fourth-biggest export in 2024–25, and its value? (b) what does the biggest import tell us about what Australians do with their holidays? (c) name two mined resources in the top five exports. (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

### **Independent**

**Q9.** Describe Asia to someone who has never seen a map. Use at least two numbers from the area, population and density charts, and say where Asia sits in relation to Australia. (links VC2HG6K06.E01 and VC2HG6K06.E02)

**Q10.** A penfriend in Seoul writes: "How far away is Australia from me, and which way do I face?" Answer using the distance chart, remembering that the way *they* face is the reverse of the way we face them. (links VC2HG6K06.E02)

**Q11.** Add up Australia's 2024–25 exports to the Asian partners in the top eight (China, Japan, South Korea, India and Singapore). Compare that total with exports to the United States and the United Kingdom together. Which way does Australia trade most, and by roughly how much? (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

**Q12.** "All of Australia's closest connections are with Asia." Test this claim like a geographer: give one figure that supports it and one figure that challenges it (look hard at the migration chart), then state your own balanced conclusion. (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

**Q13.** Run steps 1–3 of the trace model for **trade**: pick one thing Australia exports, find one country that buys it from the trade charts, then name one place in Australia (a port, a mine, a farm region) where that trade is part of local life. (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

**Q14.** Two views: (A) "Australia should put most of its effort into its Asian connections." (B) "Australia's European and North American connections matter just as much." Write the strongest case you can for *each* view using at least one figure for each, then say which view you find more persuasive and why. You are marked on the fairness and quality of your reasoning, not on which side you choose. (links VC2HG6K06.E03)

### **Inquiry task — extended response**

**Trace one connection home** (links VC2HG6K06.E03; inquiry skills from Chapter 3). Choose **one** of the seven connections (migration is a good first choice). Then: (1) name three countries that matter for that connection — this section's figures give you a strong start; (2) open the ABS census QuickStats for **your** suburb or town (a secondary source) and record the top overseas birthplaces there; (3) list two pieces of evidence of the connection you can observe in your own place — shops, festivals, teammates, sister-city signs, local industries; (4) explain the impact of the connection on your place in three to four sentences, using the words *interconnection* and *change*; (5) predict one way your place would be different if the connection grew stronger. Present your findings as a half-page infographic or a short report with one small map or chart. Success looks like: real figures with their source named, local evidence you checked yourself, and clear use of the concepts. (In Section 3C you will redraw your connection as a flow map drawn to BOLTSS.)

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## Answers

**Q1.** (a) Asia, 44,614,000 km<sup>2</sup>. (b) Africa, 1,393,676,444. (c)  $745,173,774 \div 10,000,000 \approx 74.5$  people/km<sup>2</sup>. (d) No one lives there permanently — only rotating research staff.

**Q2.** (a) About 4,695 million (roughly 4.7 billion). (b) Asia (about 105 people/km<sup>2</sup>). (c) Any sound reason, e.g. much of Australia is dry desert or semi-desert where few people can live, so a big area holds few people.

**Q3.** (a) Jakarta, about 5,207 km. (b) N (almost due north). (c)  $9,119 - 6,063 = 3,056$  km.

**Q4.** (a) NW. (b) ENE. (c) S. (d) SW.

**Q5.** (a) China, \$188.7 billion. (b) About 2.7 times ( $188.7 \div 69.7 \approx 2.7$ ). (c) India (\$35.0 billion).

**Q6.** (a) China \$120.0 billion; United States \$96.8 billion. (b) Singapore and Thailand. (c)  $96.8 + 32.4 = \$129.2$  billion.

**Q7.** (a) England, 927,490. (b)  $673,352 - 530,492 = 142,860$ . (c) India, China and the Philippines.

**Q8.** (a) Education-related travel (international students), \$53.6 billion. (b) Australians spend a great deal overseas — personal travel is our biggest import at \$65.1 billion. (c) Any two of iron ore, coal, natural gas and gold.

**Q9.** Any accurate description, e.g. Asia is the biggest continent (about 44.6 million km<sup>2</sup>) and holds the most people (about 4,695 million in 2021) at the highest density (about 105 people/km<sup>2</sup>); from Australia it lies to the north and north-west, the nearest continent to us.

**Q10.** About 8,583 km away; from Seoul you would face roughly south-south-east (the reverse of the NNW bearing from Melbourne to Seoul).

**Q11.** Asia top five:  $188.7 + 69.7 + 41.3 + 35.0 + 21.3 = \$356.0$  billion. US + UK:  $54.6 + 23.9 = \$78.5$  billion. Australia trades most with Asia — roughly four to five times more than with those two Western partners.

**Q12.** Supports: e.g. China is our top trade partner in both directions (\$188.7b exports; \$120.0b imports). Challenges: the top overseas birthplace is England (927,490), a non-Asian migration link. Balanced conclusion: Asia dominates trade and education, while migration and culture also link Australia strongly to Europe — the connections are wide, not single.

**Q13.** Any valid trace, e.g. iron ore → China → the Pilbara mines and ports of Western Australia (where ore carriers load for Asia), or wool → China → sheep farms and wool handlers in western Victoria.

**Q14.** Marked on reasoning. Case A evidence: the trade and distance charts (Asia is nearest and buys most). Case B evidence: the migration and culture links to Europe (England the top birthplace) and the huge two-way trade with the United States (\$54.6b exports, \$96.8b imports). A fair conclusion weighs people-links and trade-links together.

**Inquiry task.** Marked against the success criteria: sourced figures, checked local evidence, and clear use of *interconnection* and *change*.

---

## Step-by-step solutions

**Q1.** (a) Largest by area: Asia at 44,614,000 km<sup>2</sup>. (b) Populations in order: Asia 4,694,576,167; Africa 1,393,676,444 — so Africa is second. (c)  $745,173,774 \div 10,000,000 = 74.517... \approx 74.5$  people/km<sup>2</sup>. (d) Density counts permanent residents per km<sup>2</sup>; Antarctica has no permanent residents, so  $0 \div 14,200,000 = 0.0$ .

**Q3.** (a) Shortest bar = Jakarta at about 5,207 km. (b) The chart labels Tokyo with bearing N. (c) Beijing about 9,119 km; Singapore about 6,063 km;  $9,119 - 6,063 = 3,056$  km.

**Q5.** (b)  $188.7 \div 69.7 \approx 2.71$ , so about 2.7 times.

**Q6.** (c)  $96.8 + 32.4 = 129.2$ , so \$129.2 billion.

**Q7.** (b)  $673,352 - 530,492$ :  $673,352 - 530,000 = 143,352$ ; then  $- 492 = 142,860$ .

**Q10.** Melbourne to Seoul is about 8,583 km at bearing NNW; distance is the same both ways, and the direction reverses — the opposite of NNW is SSE, so a Seoul penfriend faces roughly SSE.

**Q11.** Asian five:  $188.7 + 69.7 = 258.4$ ;  $+ 41.3 = 299.7$ ;  $+ 35.0 = 334.7$ ;  $+ 21.3 = 356.0$ . US + UK:  $54.6 + 23.9 = 78.5$ .  $356.0 \div 78.5 \approx 4.5$  — about four and a half times more trade with those five Asian partners.

**Q12.** See Answers; the key move is using one figure *for* the claim (trade with China) and one *against* it (England top birthplace), then concluding with both links in view.

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### Sources (all retrieved 25 August 2026)

- Continent areas and populations: the continent table in Wikipedia, *Continent* (populations are United Nations 2021 estimates); the density of each continent is calculated from these figures.
- Trade in goods and services, 2024–25: Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Australia's Trade in Goods and Services* summary table (based on ABS international trade releases, September 2025).
- Countries of birth: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census QuickStats (Australia), “Country of birth, top responses”.
- Distances and bearings: calculated from city-centre coordinates using the great-circle (haversine) method; chart values are rounded to the nearest kilometre.

## The Asia-Pacific region: diversity, location and connections with Australia

**Teacher note — teaching sequence.** This section owns VC2HG6K07. It draws on elaborations VC2HG6K07.E01–.E06 for MCQ and coverage linkage (they are illustrations, not a teaching order), and .E01–.E05 carry the Asia and Australia’s Engagement with Asia cross-curriculum priority, which is live content here.

**Assumed from Levels 3–4:** the world’s major geographical divisions and compass directions (VC2HG4K05), climate and the main climate types (VC2HG4K06), and how climate and vegetation fit together (VC2HG4K07) — these are not re-taught here. Do not assume any prior learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content.

**Suggested sequence (about four lessons):** Lesson 1 – the region’s five parts and its diversity of rivers, climates and crowding (Figures 2.11–2.14); Lesson 2 – the major countries and capitals, absolute location by latitude and longitude (Figure 2.15), then environments and settlement patterns (Figure 2.16); Lesson 3 – population size and life expectancy (Figures 2.17–2.18); Lesson 4 – the connections with Australia using real ABS and DFAT data (Figures 2.19–2.22) and the big evidence task. Flow maps and BOLTSS are practised here with S03.E02–E03 and taught formally in 3C. The country-profile investigation opened in the big task is concluded and presented in Chapter 4. Handoff: 2A set the world map this section narrows; 2C compares countries across the whole world.

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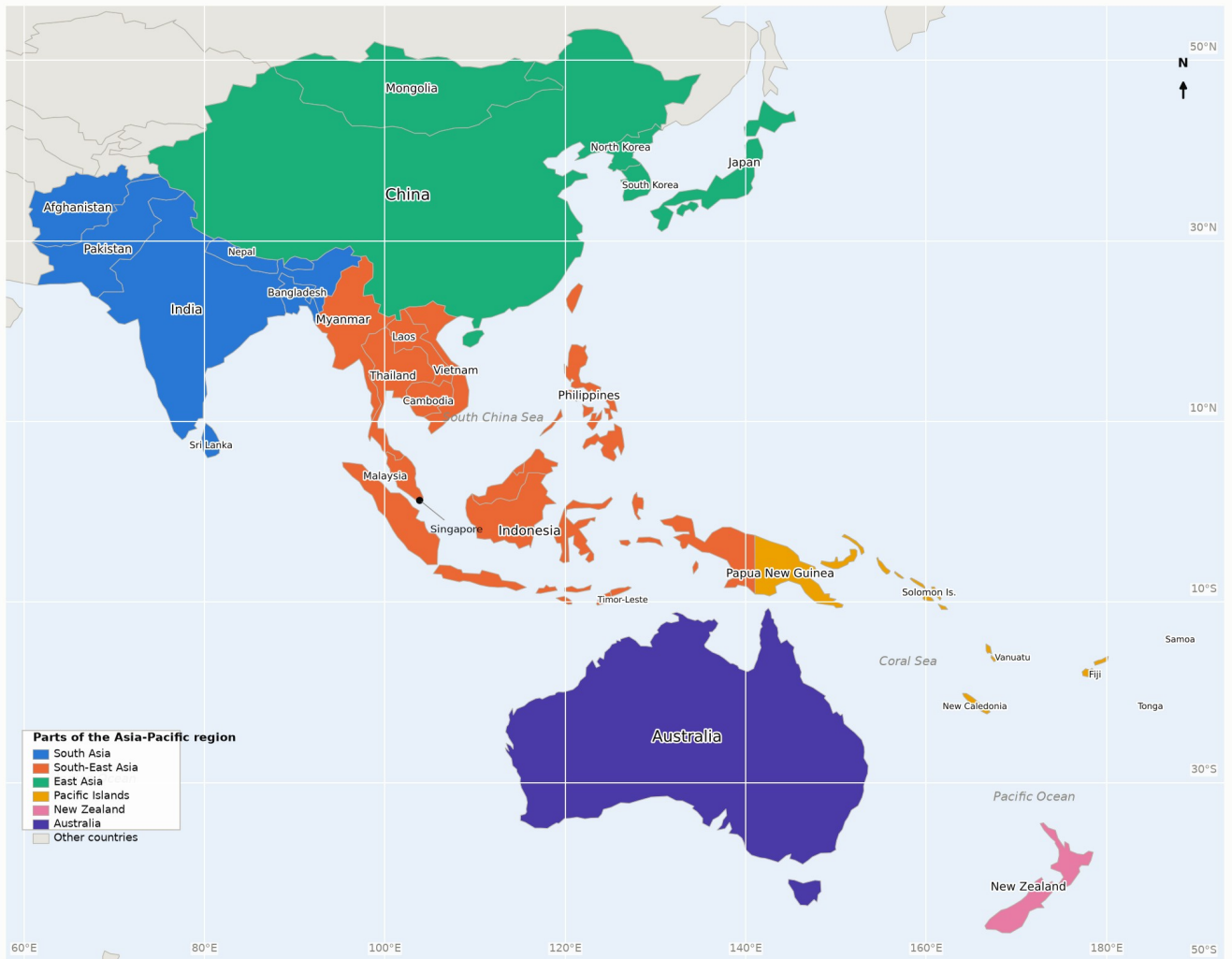
### Theory

#### Part 1 — One region, five parts

A **region** is an area we group together because its places share something. This section studies the **Asia-Pacific region**. *The name is used in more than one way, so we follow the Victorian Curriculum definition (code VC2HG6K07.E01): the region is **South Asia, South-East Asia, East Asia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands**.* Other definitions exist — for example, the APEC trade group also takes in Australia and countries of North and South America — so when you meet “Asia-Pacific” in the news, check which countries the writer includes. On our maps, Australia is the familiar starting point we measure from; it is not counted as one of the region’s five parts.

## The Asia-Pacific region and its five parts

Australia is shown as our starting point for the whole chapter.



Map data: Natural Earth v5.1.2 (public domain), downloaded 2026-08-25. The parts of the region follow the Victorian Curriculum F-10 Geography definition.

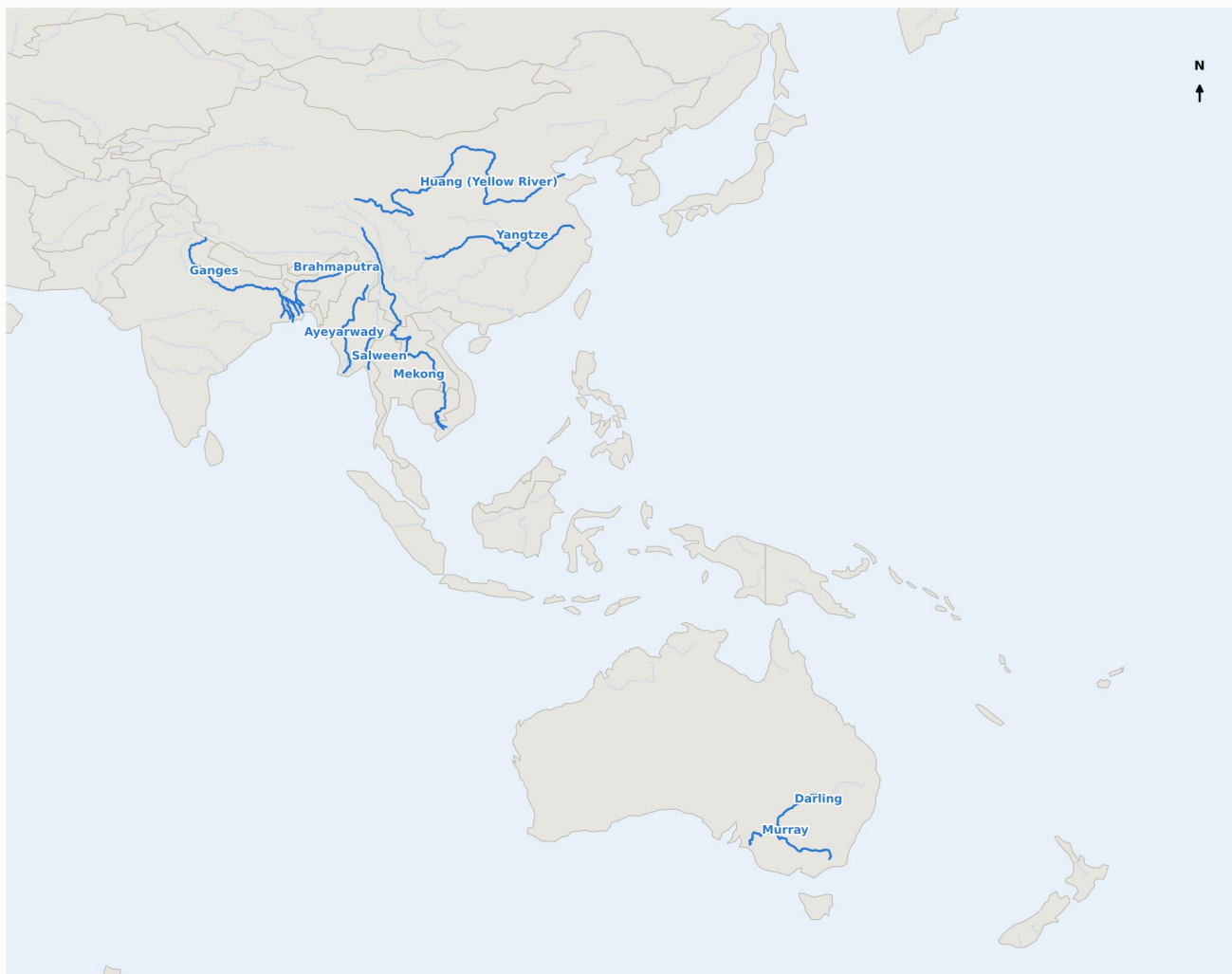
*Figure 2.11 — The Asia-Pacific region and its five parts, with Australia as our starting point.*

Two things to notice in Figure 2.11. The countries are very different in size — China and India are huge, Singapore is a tiny island city-country, and Pacific countries such as Fiji, Samoa and Tonga are spread over wide ocean. And the five parts sit all the way from the Himalaya mountains in the north to cool New Zealand in the south. That spread is what makes the region so **diverse** — full of many different kinds of places.

Geographers pick out a region's main **characteristics** — the facts that describe what it is like — using maps. Start with rivers. A river gives people water, food, travel and power, so the region's great rivers hold some of its richest farmlands (Figure 2.12).

## Major rivers of the Asia-Pacific region

Many of the region's biggest cities and richest farmlands sit beside these rivers.



Rivers: Natural Earth v5.1.2 1:50m (public domain), downloaded 2026-08-25. Faint lines show other rivers of the region.

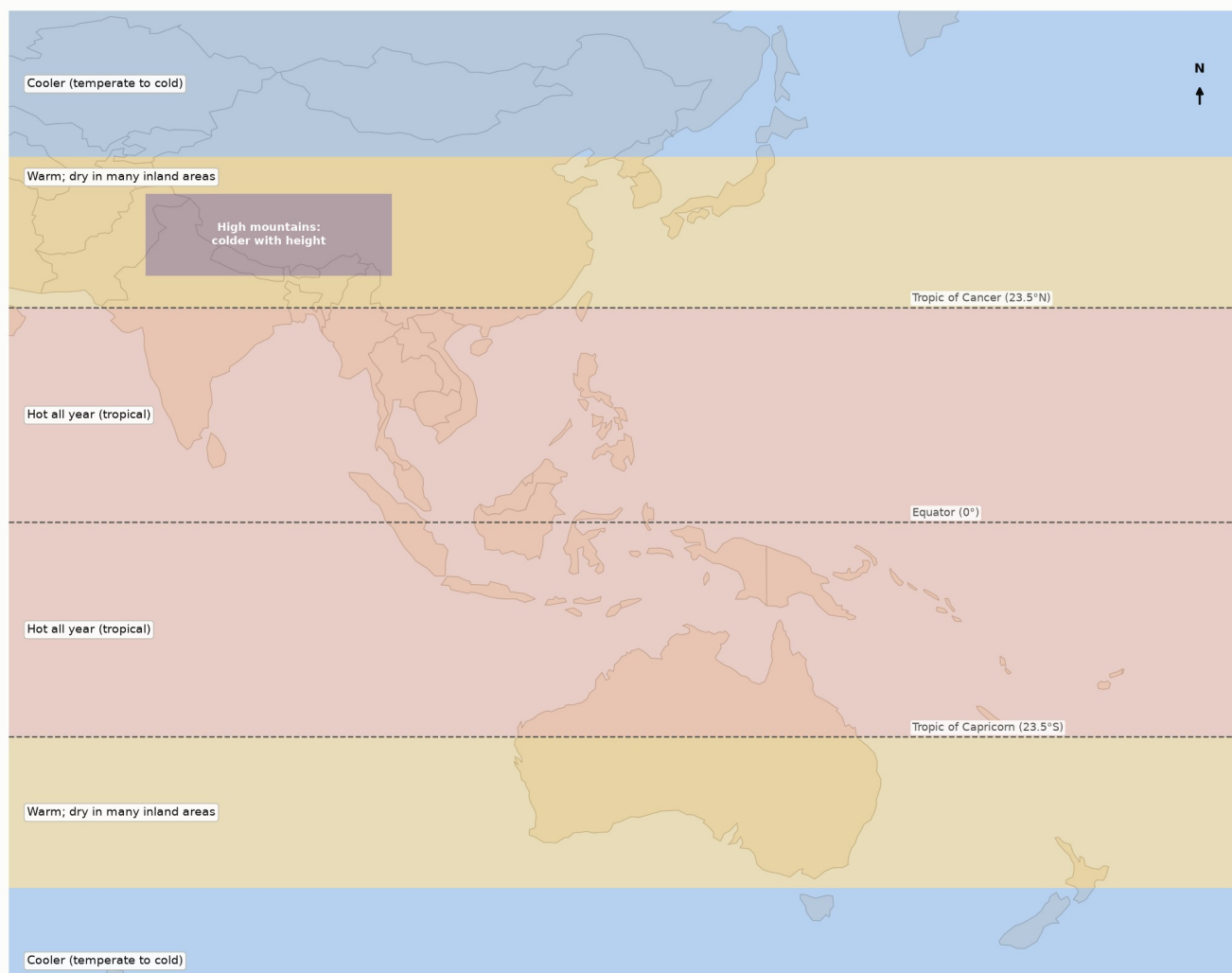
*Figure 2.12 — Major rivers of the Asia-Pacific region.*

The Ganges and Brahmaputra share a giant delta in Bangladesh, the Mekong feeds rice farms through Cambodia and Vietnam, and the Yangtze and Huang cross China. Compare our own Murray–Darling from Chapter 2A: every one of these river plains grew big cities beside it.

Next, climate. You already know from Levels 3–4 that places near the Equator are hot and places far from it are cooler, and that climate and vegetation fit together — hot wet land grows rainforest, warm dry land grows grass and desert plants, and cooler lands grow forests that cope with cold. Figure 2.13 uses that knowledge as a simple model of the region.

## A simple model of climate by latitude

Real climates also depend on winds, ocean currents and how far a place is from the sea.



A teaching model drawn by the author, 2026-08-25; map data Natural Earth v5.1.2 (public domain). Zone positions follow the latitude climate zones taught at Levels 3–4.

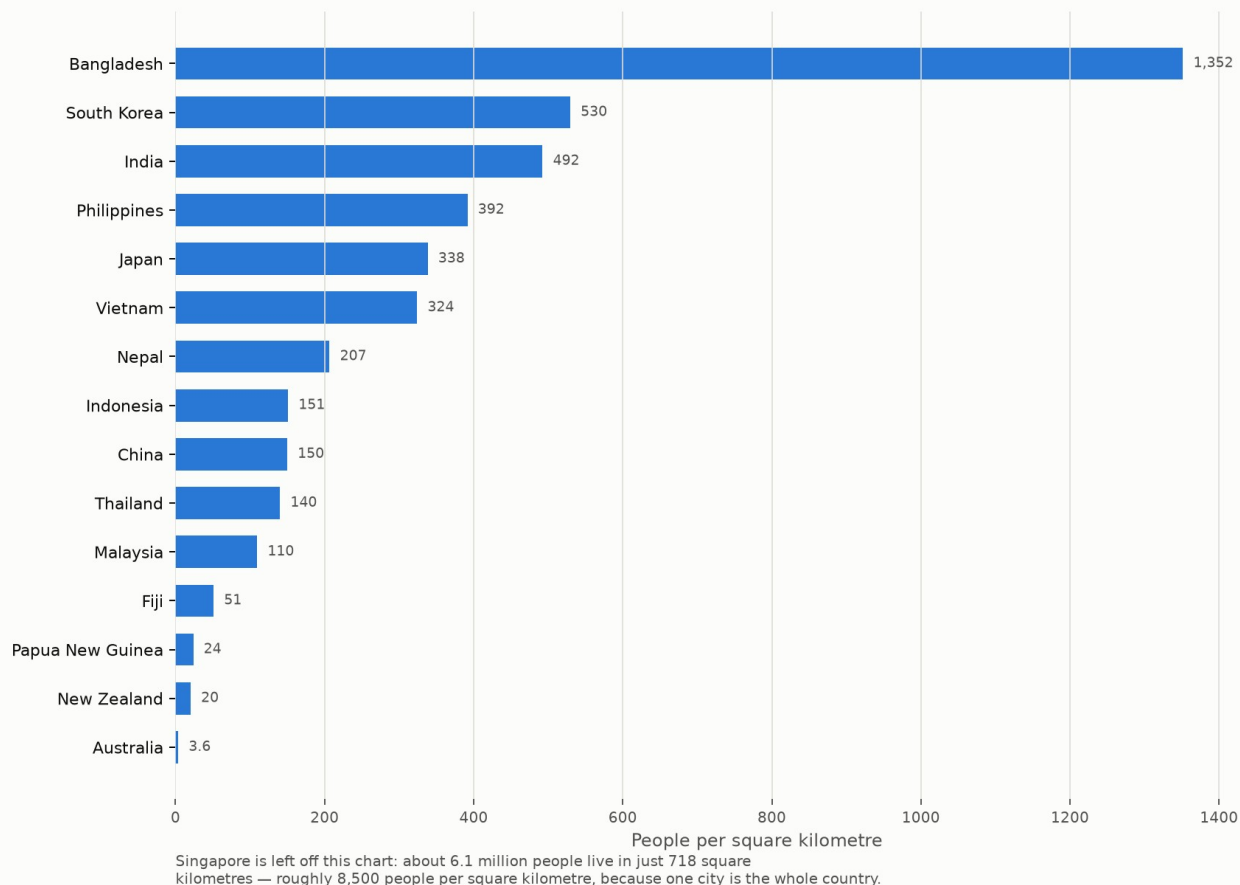
*Figure 2.13 — A simple model of climate by latitude. Real climates also depend on winds, ocean currents and distance from the sea.*

Add language and religion and the diversity is even clearer: hundreds of languages are spoken across the region, and among the religions with the most followers are Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity.

One more characteristic: **population density** (say: *dens-ih-tee*), how many people live on each square kilometre of land. Figure 2.14 computes it for the region's countries.

## Population density — people crowded into space, 2025

Bangladesh packs about 1,352 people into every square kilometre; Australia has fewer than 4.



Computed from World Bank Open Data: Population total (SP.POP.TOTL), 2025 ÷ Surface area (AG.LND.TOTL.K2); retrieved 2026-08-25.

Figure 2.14 — Population density: people crowded into space, 2025.

Bangladesh packs about 1,352 people into every square kilometre — its river delta is flat, wet and fertile, so people cluster there. Australia has fewer than 4 people per square kilometre, because most of our land is dry and our people cluster on the coasts. And Singapore is left off the chart for a good reason: about 6.1 million people live in just 718 square kilometres, roughly 8,500 per square kilometre, because one city is the whole country.

### Part 2 — The major countries, and pinning down place

Each part of the region holds countries. Here are major countries in each part, with their **capital** cities (a capital is the city where a country's government sits):

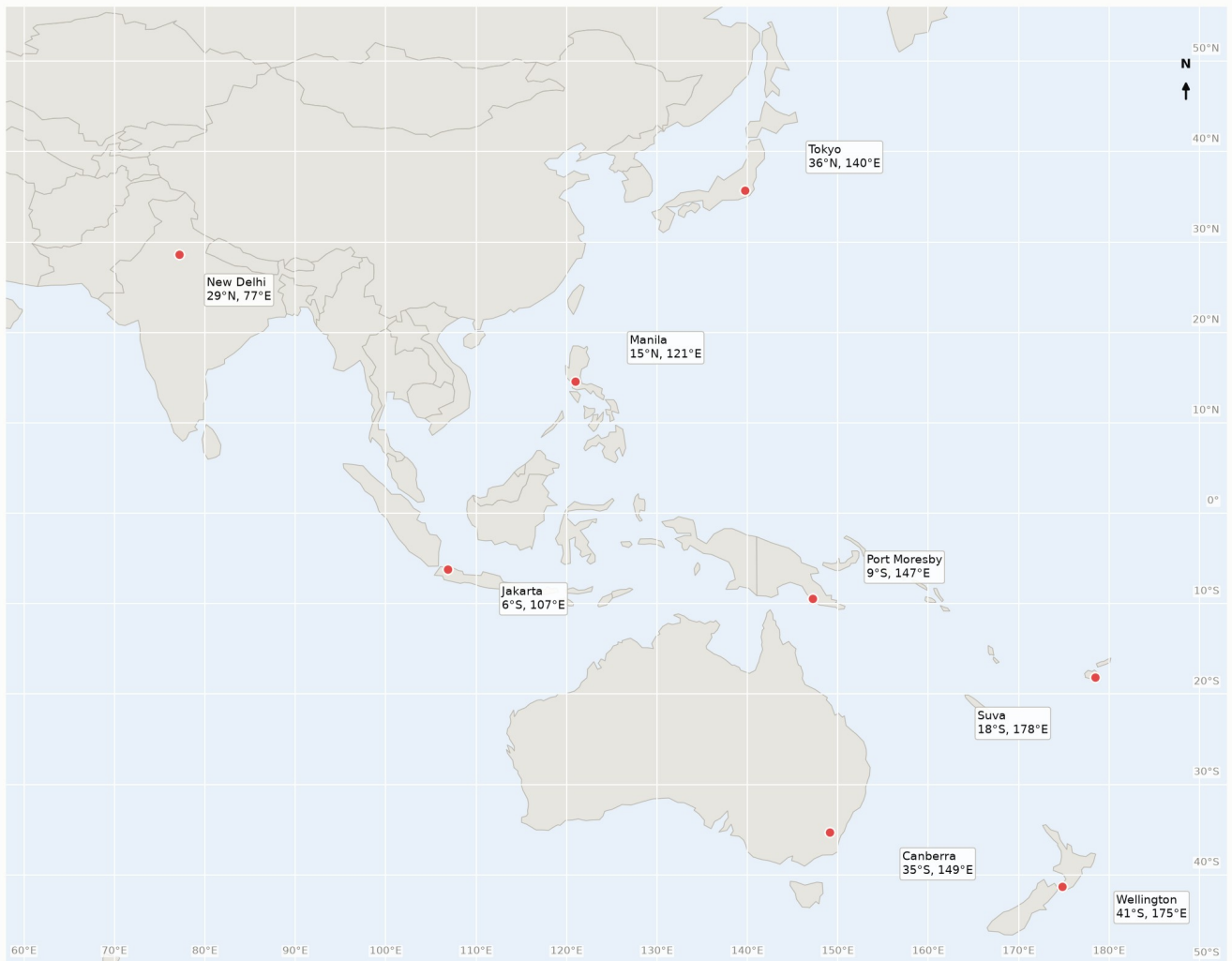
| Part of the region | Some major countries (capital city)                                                                                            |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| South Asia         | India (New Delhi), Bangladesh (Dhaka), Nepal (Kathmandu), Sri Lanka (Colombo)                                                  |
| South-East Asia    | Indonesia (Jakarta), Vietnam (Hanoi), Thailand (Bangkok), Philippines (Manila), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Singapore (Singapore) |
| East Asia          | China (Beijing), Japan (Tokyo), South Korea (Seoul), Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar)                                                    |
| Pacific Islands    | Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby), Fiji (Suva), Samoa (Apia), Tonga (Nuku'alofa)                                                 |
| New Zealand        | New Zealand (Wellington)                                                                                                       |

Maps and geospatial tools like Google Earth all do the same job: they let you name a country and point to exactly where it is. “Near the top of the map” is not exact, so geographers give every place an **absolute location** — its exact position on Earth, written as **latitude** then **longitude**.

- **Latitude** tells you how far north or south a place is from the **Equator** (the line at 0° around the middle of the Earth). Lines of latitude run east–west and are measured in degrees (°) north (N) or south (S).
- **Longitude** tells you how far east or west a place is from the **Prime Meridian** (the 0° line through Greenwich, England). Lines of longitude run north–south, in degrees east (E) or west (W). Everything in our region is east of the Prime Meridian, so our longitudes all carry an E.

#### Absolute location: where one line of latitude meets one line of longitude

Each dot is a capital city. Its latitude and longitude give its exact place on Earth.



Capital-city coordinates: Natural Earth v5.1.2 populated places (public domain), downloaded 2026-08-25.

Figure 2.15 — Absolute location: where one line of latitude meets one line of longitude.

Read latitude first, then longitude. Jakarta sits at 6°S, 107°E: a little south of the Equator (so hot all year, as Figure 2.13 predicts) and 107° east of the Prime Meridian. Wellington, at 41°S, is the far-southern capital of the grid, while Tokyo (36°N) is about as far north as Wellington is south.

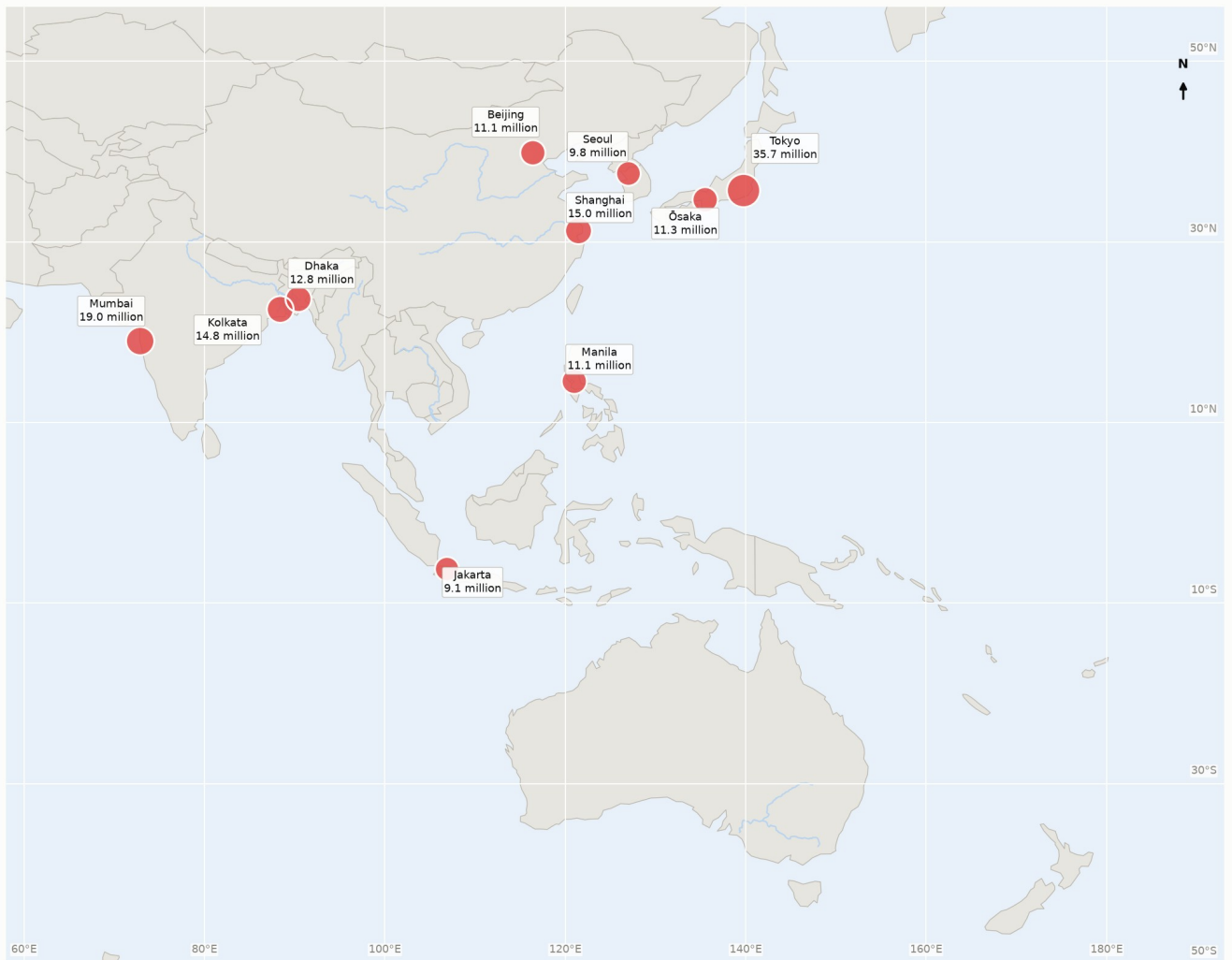
### Part 3 — Environments and where people settle

An **environment** is the natural setting of a place — its landforms, climate and living things. The region’s environments are very different: the high **Himalaya** mountains; fertile river plains like the Ganges delta; dry desert and steppe like the Gobi in Mongolia and China; tropical rainforest on Borneo and Sumatra; low coral **atolls** (say: *AT-ols*) like Kiribati and Tuvalu, ring-shaped islands only a little above sea level; and cool temperate islands in New Zealand and northern Japan.

A **settlement** is any place where people live, from a village of rice farmers to the biggest city. A **megacity** is a city with 10 million or more people. Figure 2.16 plots the region's very big cities (8 million or more).

### Very big cities of the region — 8 million people or more

Nearly every one sits on the coast or beside a big river — the places people have always settled.



City populations: Natural Earth v5.1.2 POP\_MAX estimates (public domain), downloaded 2026-08-25. Dot area grows with population.

Figure 2.16 — Very big cities of the region. Nearly every one sits on the coast or beside a big river.

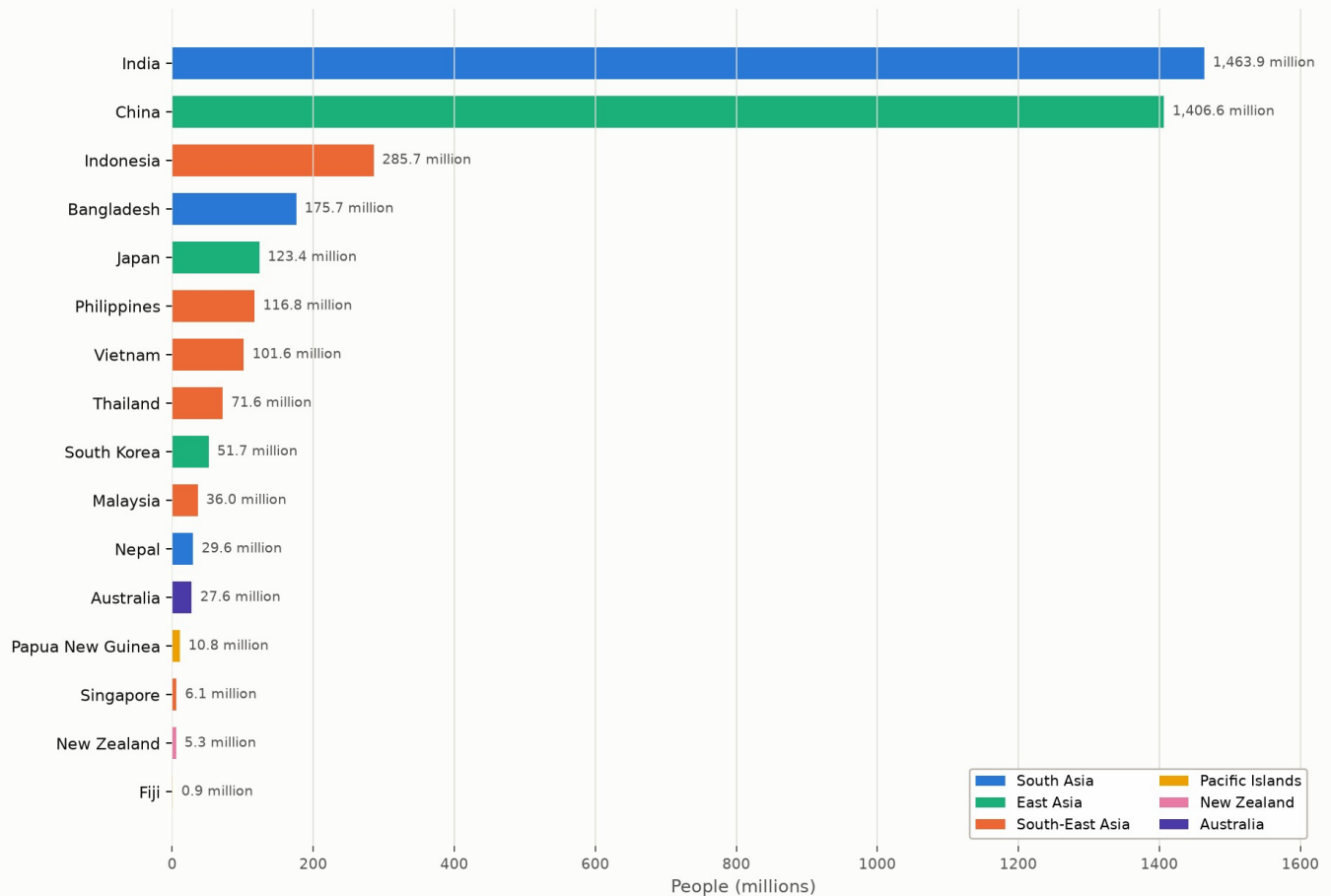
Now look for the **pattern** — the arrangement that keeps repeating. Nearly every dot sits on the coast or beside a big river: Tokyo, Shanghai and Jakarta on coasts; Delhi, Kolkata and Dhaka on river plains. People settle where water, food, flat land and trade by ship are easy to get. The high mountains and dry deserts between the dots hold far fewer people.

### Part 4 — People: population size and life expectancy

**Population** means the number of people living in a place. Figure 2.17 shows the 2025 population of sixteen countries of the region, plus Australia.

## Population size of selected Asia-Pacific countries, 2025

India has more than 1,500 times as many people as Fiji.



Source: World Bank Open Data, Population total (SP.POP.TOTL), 2025; retrieved 2026-08-25.

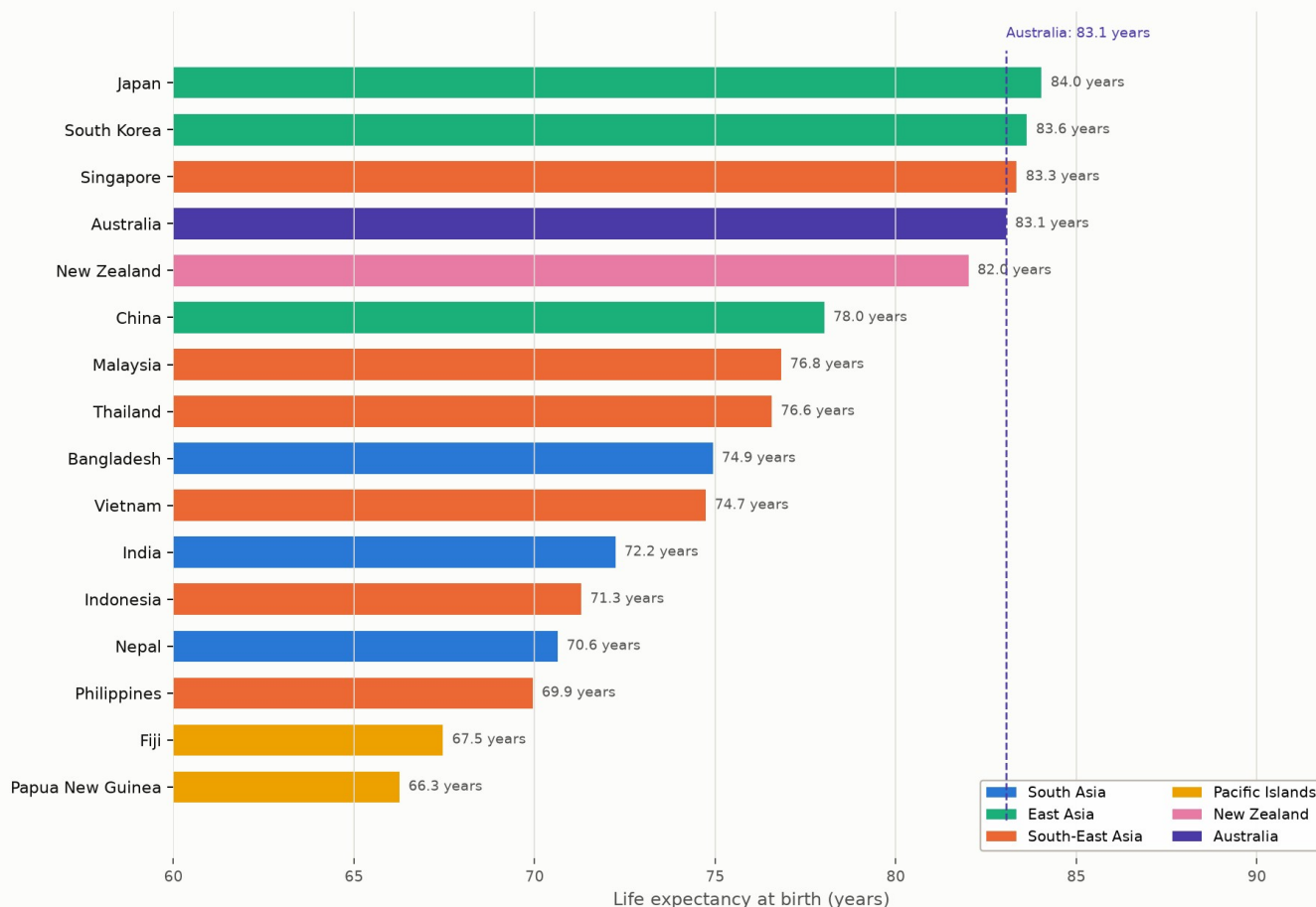
Figure 2.17 — Population size of selected Asia-Pacific countries, 2025.

India has the biggest population on the chart — more than 1,500 times as many people as Fiji. Four of the five parts hold at least one country with over 100 million people, while the Pacific Islands hold countries of under a million. That gap is part of the region's diversity too.

**Life expectancy** is the number of years a newborn baby can expect to live if life stays as it is now. It is one quick measure of how healthy a place is: good food, clean water and doctors push the number up. Figure 2.18 shows it for the same countries.

## Life expectancy at birth, 2024

A person born in Japan can expect to live about 18 years longer than one born in Papua New Guinea.



Source: World Bank Open Data, Life expectancy at birth (SPDYN.LE00.IN), 2024; retrieved 2026-08-25.

Figure 2.18 — Life expectancy at birth, 2024.

A person born in Japan can expect to live about 18 years longer than one born in Papua New Guinea (84.0 years against 66.3). Australia's 83.1 years sits near the top of the chart. Notice that big population does not mean long life: India has the most people on the chart but a life expectancy of 72.2 years, well below Japan's and Australia's.

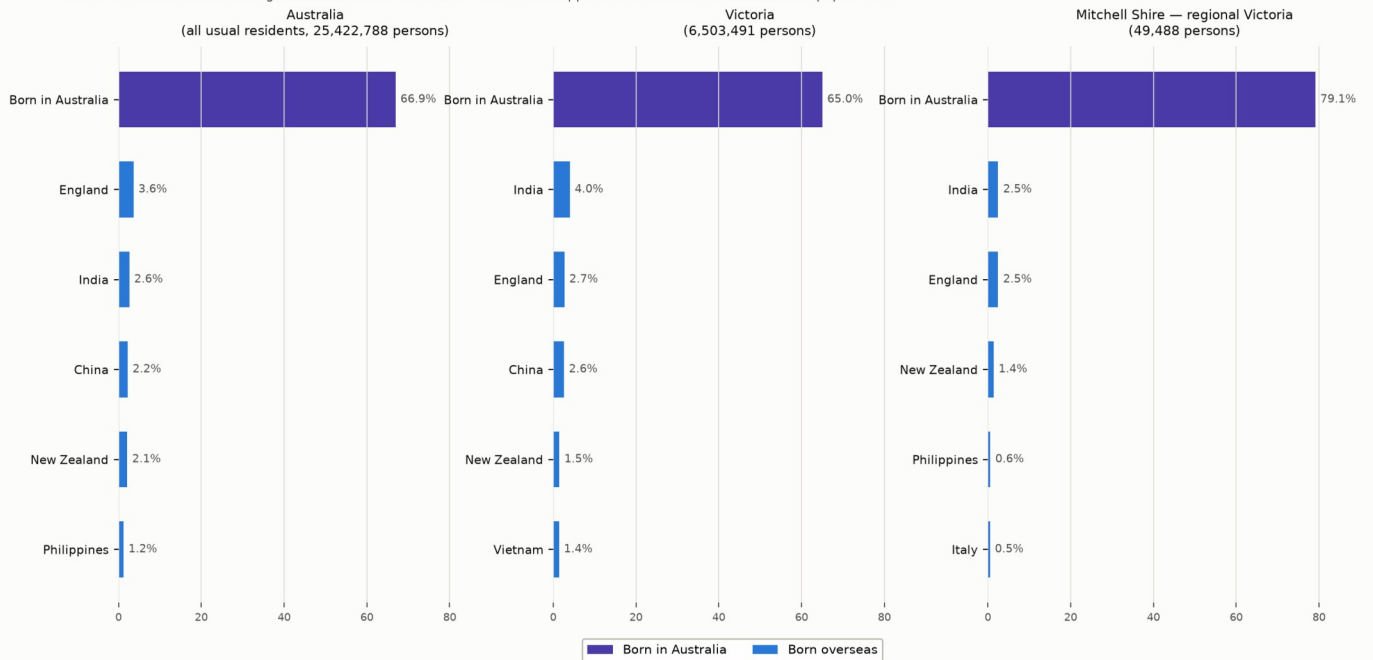
## Part 5 — Connections with Australia

**Interconnection** means the ways places are joined to each other and affect each other. Australia's strongest ties in the region run through people moving (**migration**), goods and services being sold (**trade**), and visitors (**tourism**).

Start with people. A **census** is an official count of every person in a country, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) ran ours in 2021. One census question is **birthplace** — where each person was born. Figure 2.19 shows the answers for Australia, for Victoria, and for one regional local government area, the Mitchell Shire in central Victoria.

## Where people were born — Census 2021

Share of all usual residents. England, India, China, New Zealand and the Philippines lead Australia's overseas-born population.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021, QuickStats country of birth for Australia, Victoria and Mitchell Shire (LGA24850); retrieved 2026-08-25.

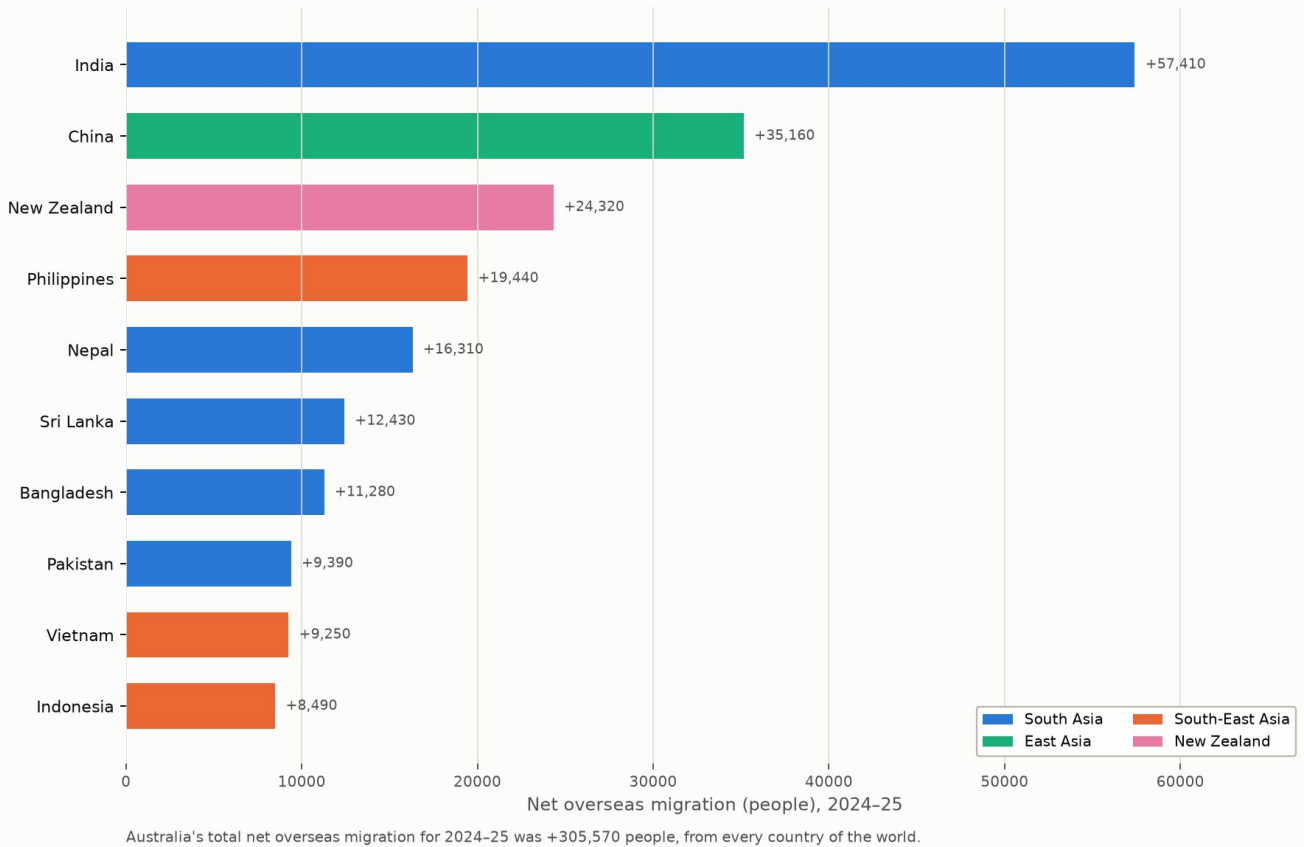
Figure 2.19 — Where people were born, Census 2021.

About a third of Australia's usual residents were born overseas, and the biggest overseas birthplaces are a mix of the region (India, China, New Zealand, the Philippines) and beyond (England). Victoria's list leans even more to the region, and the Mitchell Shire — a regional area — has a higher Australian-born share than the big cities do.

Migration keeps those ties alive. **Net overseas migration** is what you get when you take the departures away from the arrivals. In 2024–25 Australia's net overseas migration was +305,570 people, and nearly all of the top ten countries of birth (Figure 2.20) are in our region.

## People moving to Australia — the top ten countries of birth, 2024-25

Net means we took the departures away from the arrivals. More people arrived from each of these countries than left.



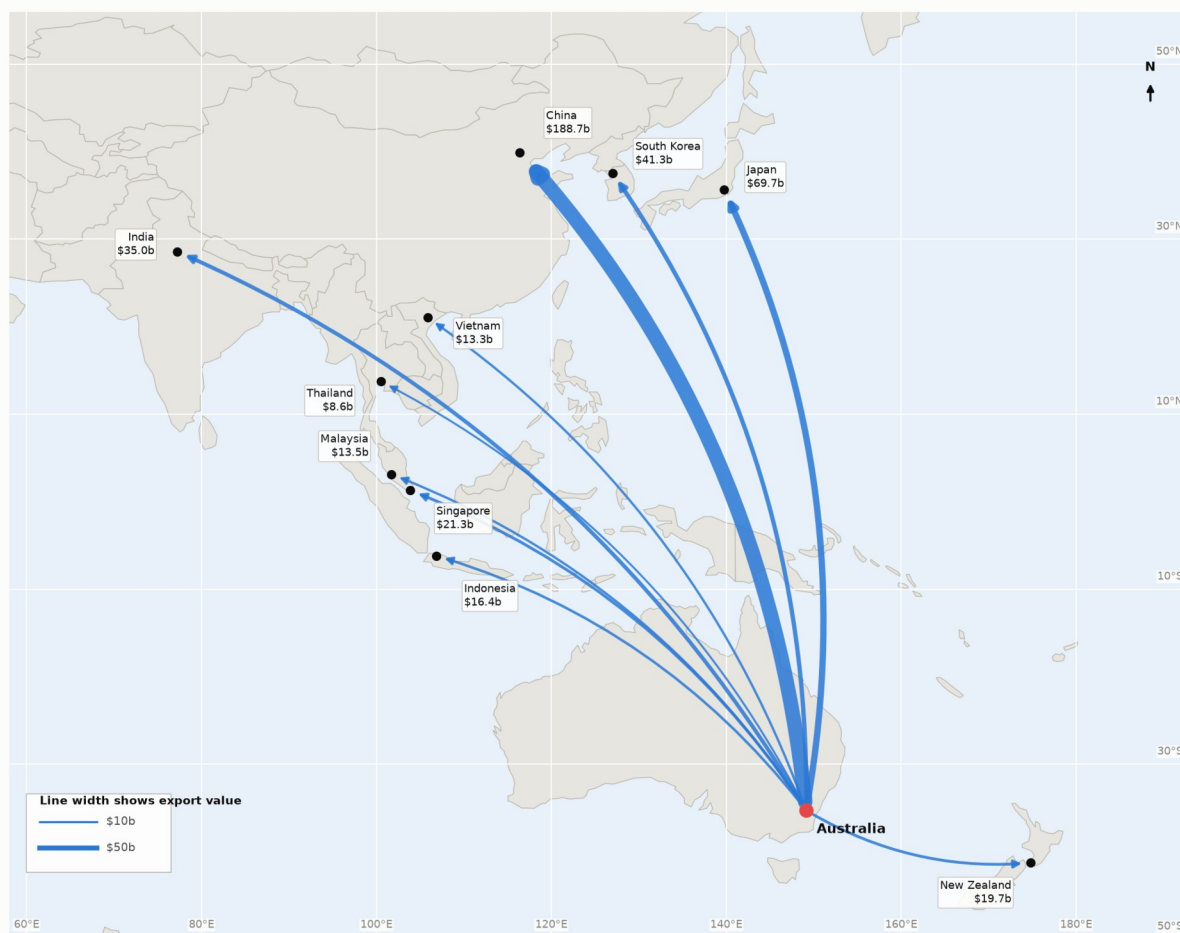
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Overseas Migration (cat. 3407.0), Table 1.1, Net overseas migration by country of birth, preliminary 2024-25; retrieved 2026-08-25.

Figure 2.20 — People moving to Australia: the top ten countries of birth, 2024-25.

Now trade. **Exports** are goods and services sold to other countries — **goods** are things you can ship (iron ore, wheat), **services** are things you do (education, tourism). Figure 2.21 is a **flow map**: a map whose arrows show connections, with the arrow width growing with the value of the connection.

## Where Australia's exports go in the Asia-Pacific region

Value of goods and services exports, 2024–25, in billions of Australian dollars (A\$b).



Export values: Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia's Trade in Goods and Services 2024–25; retrieved 2026-08-25. Map data: Natural Earth v5.1.2 (public domain). Lines are drawn to each country's capital and are not real routes.

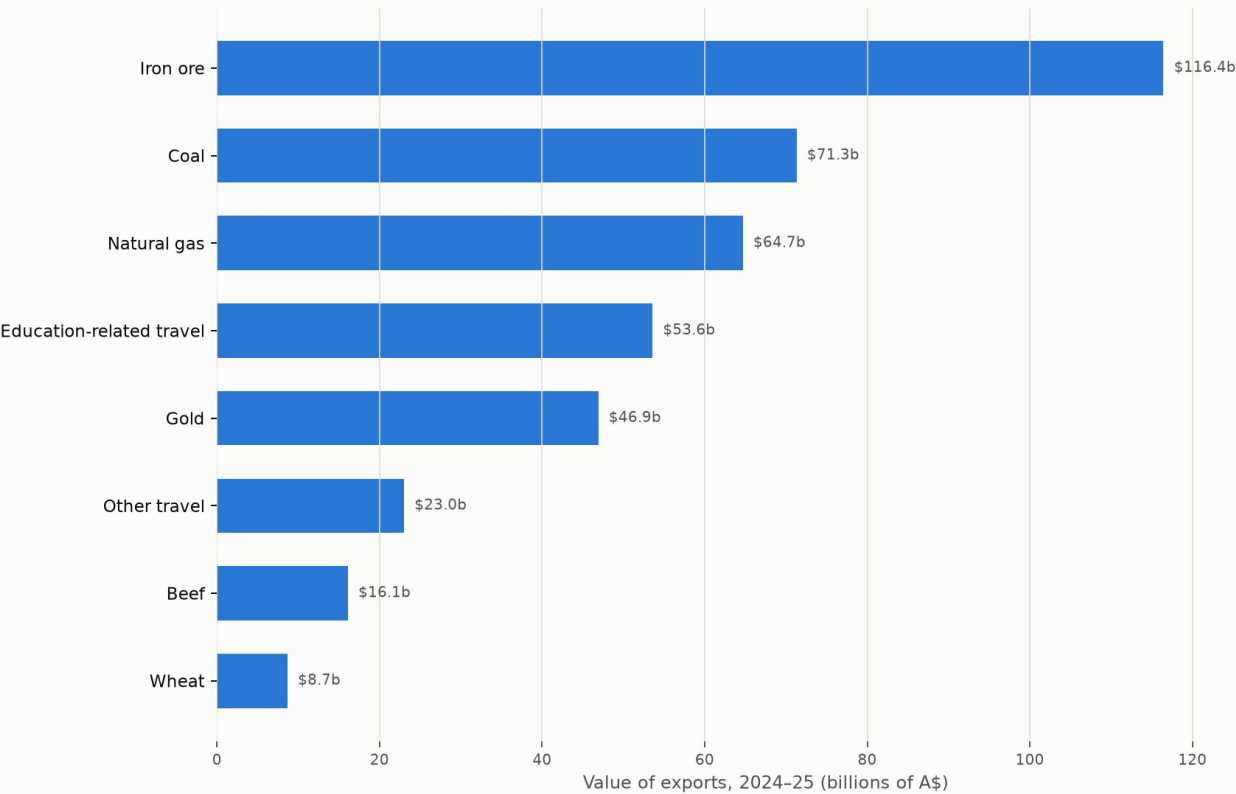
Figure 2.21 — Where Australia's exports go in the Asia-Pacific region, 2024–25.

Check Figure 2.21 against **BOLTSS**, the map-maker's checklist: **B**order (the frame around the map), **O**rientation (the north arrow), **L**egend (the line-width key), **T**itle, and **S**ource (the line under the map). The one part missing is **S**cale — a flow map of connections like this has no scale bar because the arrows are not real journeys; the 20° grid still lets you judge roughly how far away each market is.

Seven of Australia's top ten export markets are in our region, and China alone took \$188.7 billion of goods and services in 2024–25. What do we sell? Figure 2.22 shows the top exports.

What Australia sells to the world — top items, 2024-25

Rocks and fuels lead — but education and travel services are close behind.



Source: Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia's Trade in Goods and Services 2024-25; retrieved 2026-08-25.

Figure 2.22 — Australia’s top exports, 2024–25.

Iron ore, coal and gas are mined and shipped to the region’s factories and power stations. “Education-related travel” is money spent by international students — many of them from China, India and Indonesia — studying in Australian cities.

Tourism runs the other way: visitors coming here. In 2025–26, over 9.1 million visitors arrived in Australia; the biggest groups came from New Zealand (about 1.4 million) and China (about 1.1 million).

**What does all this mean for your own place?** Connections change what a place looks like, sounds like and sells: new classmates and new languages at school; Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai restaurants and grocery shops; festivals such as Lunar New Year and Diwali held in Victorian towns each year; and Victorian farms selling beef, dairy and wine to customers in China, Japan and India. Close in connection is not the same as close in distance — but in the Asia-Pacific region, Australia is both.

Worked examples

Example 1 — with steps: reading absolute location

**Question:** Use Figure 2.15. (a) Write the absolute location of Jakarta and of Port Moresby. (b) Which of those two capitals sits closer to the Equator?

| Step | What to do                                               | What we find                                                      |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Read each label as latitude first, then longitude.       | Jakarta: 6°S, 107°E. Port Moresby: 9°S, 147°E.                    |
| 2    | Remember that latitude is the distance from the Equator. | Jakarta is 6 degrees from the Equator; Port Moresby is 9 degrees. |
| 3    | Compare the two latitudes.                               | 6 is less than 9.                                                 |
| 4    | Say the answer in a full sentence.                       | Jakarta (6°S, 107°E) sits closer to                               |

| Step | What to do | What we find                                                                                               |
|------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      |            | the Equator than Port Moresby (9°S, 147°E), so both are hot all year but Jakarta is the closer of the two. |

### **Example 2 — with steps: testing a claim with two charts**

**Question:** A classmate says, “Countries with more people always have longer life expectancy.” Test the claim with Figures 2.17 and 2.18.

| Step | What to do                                  | What we find                                                                                            |
|------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Find India and Japan on Figure 2.17.        | India 1,463.9 million people (the most); Japan 123.4 million.                                           |
| 2    | Find the same two countries on Figure 2.18. | India 72.2 years; Japan 84.0 years.                                                                     |
| 3    | Compare.                                    | India has nearly twelve times Japan’s population, yet Japan’s life expectancy is about 12 years longer. |
| 4    | Say the answer in a full sentence.          | The claim is false: population size and life expectancy do not march together, as India and Japan show. |

## **Practice questions**

### **With support**

**Q1.** Use Figure 2.11. Name the five parts of the Asia-Pacific region used in this book.

**Q2.** Use Figure 2.11. Which part of the region holds: (a) Japan, (b) India, (c) Fiji, (d) Vietnam?

**Q3.** Use Figure 2.12. (a) Which river is also called the Yellow River? (b) Two rivers share a giant delta in Bangladesh — name them. (c) Which river runs through Cambodia and Vietnam to the sea? (d) Name Australia’s great river system shown on the map.

**Q4.** Use Figure 2.13. (a) What is the name of the 0° line of latitude? (b) Which climate band holds Singapore? (c) Why is the mountain box colder than the land around it?

**Q5.** Use Figure 2.14. (a) About how many people live on each square kilometre of Bangladesh? (b) What is Australia’s number? (c) Why is Singapore left off the chart?

**Q6.** Use Figure 2.15. (a) Write the absolute location of Tokyo. (b) Which capital sits at 15°N, 121°E? (c) Is Suva north or south of the Equator, and by how many degrees?

**Q7.** Use Figure 2.17. (a) Name the two countries with the biggest populations. (b) About how many times Australia’s population does India have? (c) Which country on the chart has the smallest population?

**Q8.** Use Figure 2.18. (a) Which country has the highest life expectancy, and what is it? (b) Which has the lowest? (c) About how many years longer is Japan’s number than Papua New Guinea’s? (d) What is Australia’s number?

### **On your own**

**Q9.** Use Figures 2.16 and 2.12. Choose two megacities. For each, name the sea or river it sits beside. Then write one sentence describing the pattern in where the region’s very big cities sit.

**Q10.** Use Figures 2.17 and 2.18. “Countries with bigger populations have longer life expectancy.” Choose two countries that test this claim and give your verdict in one sentence.

**Q11.** Use Figure 2.19. (a) What share of Australia's usual residents were born overseas? (b) Compare the Mitchell Shire's born-in-Australia share with Australia's. Which is bigger, and give one reason a regional shire might differ from the big cities. (c) Name three countries that appear in all three panels.

**Q12.** Use Figures 2.21 and 2.22. (a) Name Australia's biggest export market and its value. (b) Name Australia's biggest single export and its value. (c) Find five of the six BOLTSS parts on Figure 2.21 and say where each is. (d) Which BOLTSS part is missing, and what does the map give you instead to judge distance?

### ***Big task — evidence first***

**Your country profile.** Choose one country from the Asia-Pacific region and write a profile of 6–8 sentences that includes: which of the five parts it belongs to; the absolute location of its capital (from Figure 2.15, or a geospatial tool such as Google Earth); one environment fact and one settlement fact about it; its population and life expectancy compared with Australia's (Figures 2.17–2.18); and one connection it has with Australia (Figures 2.19–2.22, or the tourism numbers in Part 5). Add a small map showing your country and Australia, with a title, a north arrow and a source. Quote the figure number beside every fact. **Keep your profile: you will conclude and present this investigation in Chapter 4.**

---

## Answers

**Q1.** South Asia, South-East Asia, East Asia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

**Q2.** (a) East Asia. (b) South Asia. (c) The Pacific Islands. (d) South-East Asia.

**Q3.** (a) The Huang. (b) The Ganges and the Brahmaputra. (c) The Mekong. (d) The Murray–Darling.

**Q4.** (a) The Equator. (b) Hot all year (tropical). (c) Because it is high mountain country, and air gets colder with height.

**Q5.** (a) About 1,352 people per square kilometre. (b) Fewer than 4 (about 3.6). (c) Because one city is the whole country — about 8,500 people per square kilometre would dwarf the other bars.

**Q6.** (a) 36°N, 140°E. (b) Manila. (c) South, by 18 degrees (18°S).

**Q7.** (a) India and China. (b) About 53 times. (c) Fiji.

**Q8.** (a) Japan, 84.0 years. (b) Papua New Guinea, 66.3 years. (c) About 18 years. (d) 83.1 years.

**Q9–Q12.** See the step-by-step solutions for what a good answer includes.

**Big task.** See the step-by-step solutions for the checklist.

---

## Solutions shown step by step

**Q9.** A good answer names a sea or river for each city — for example Tokyo beside the Pacific coast, Shanghai beside the Yangtze, Kolkata beside the Ganges delta, Jakarta on the coast — and then states the pattern: the region's very big cities almost all sit on coasts or big river plains, because water, food, flat land and trade by ship are easy to get there.

**Q10.** A good answer picks two countries and reads both charts honestly. For example: India (1,463.9 million people, 72.2 years) and Japan (123.4 million, 84.0 years) show the claim is false; or Bangladesh (175.7 million, 74.9 years) and New Zealand (5.3 million, 82.0 years) show a much smaller country with far longer lives. Either way the verdict sentence must say that population size does not decide life expectancy.

**Q11.** (a) 33.1 per cent ( $100 - 66.9$ ). (b) The Mitchell Shire's born-in-Australia share (79.1 per cent) is bigger than Australia's (66.9 per cent); a good reason is that new arrivals tend to settle in the big cities for work and family, so regional shires have a smaller overseas-born share. (c) India, England and New Zealand appear in all three panels.

**Q12.** (a) China, \$188.7 billion. (b) Iron ore, \$116.4 billion. (c) Border — the frame around the map; Orientation — the north arrow; Legend — the line-width key; Title — at the top; Source — the line under the map. (d) Scale is missing; instead the 20° latitude–longitude grid lets you judge roughly how far away each market is, and the source line explains the arrows are connections, not real routes.

**Big task.** A strong profile names one country and states its part of the region; gives the capital's absolute location as latitude then longitude (for example Wellington, 41°S, 175°E); gives one environment fact (for example New Zealand's cool temperate islands) and one settlement fact (most people live in a few coastal cities); compares population and life expectancy with Australia's using Figures 2.17–2.18 (New Zealand 5.3 million against Australia's 27.6 million; 82.0 years against 83.1); names one connection with Australia (for example New Zealand is Australia's closest migration partner, +24,320 in 2024–25, Figure 2.20, and a \$19.7 billion export market, Figure 2.21); quotes a figure number beside each fact; and includes a small map with a title, north arrow and source. It is also the seed of the investigation concluded and presented in Chapter 4.

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# Countries of the world: economic, demographic, social and cultural differences and interconnections

**Curriculum codes (teacher):** Owns VC2HG6K08 — how countries across the world are interconnected, and how they differ economically, demographically, socially and culturally. Draws on .E01 .E02 .E03 .E05 .E06. Skills taught with this section: VC2HG6S04 .E04 (reading choropleth maps — maps shaded by numbers) and VC2HG6S05 .E05 (using reliable global sources).

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## Theory

Countries are different in many ways: how much money their people earn, how fast their populations grow, how long their people live, what they believe, and what they celebrate. Yet countries are also joined together — by trade, by people moving, by aid, and by shared culture. This section looks at those **differences** and those **interconnections** at the **world scale**, and then zooms in on Australia’s own place in the connected world.

Geographers use seven big ideas to think with: **place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change**. All seven are at work in this section, especially *interconnection* (countries affect each other), *change* (countries change over time) and *scale* (we look at the whole world, then at our region, then at our own place).

### Part 1 — Sorting countries by income (VC2HG6K08 .E01)

**Income per person.** A country’s total income is huge, so geographers split it by the number of people so the comparison is fair. That gives **income per person**, also called **per capita income** (*per capita* is Latin for “for each person” — per capita income is the country’s income divided by its population). It is one useful way to compare how well people live, but it is only an average, and you will see below what it hides.

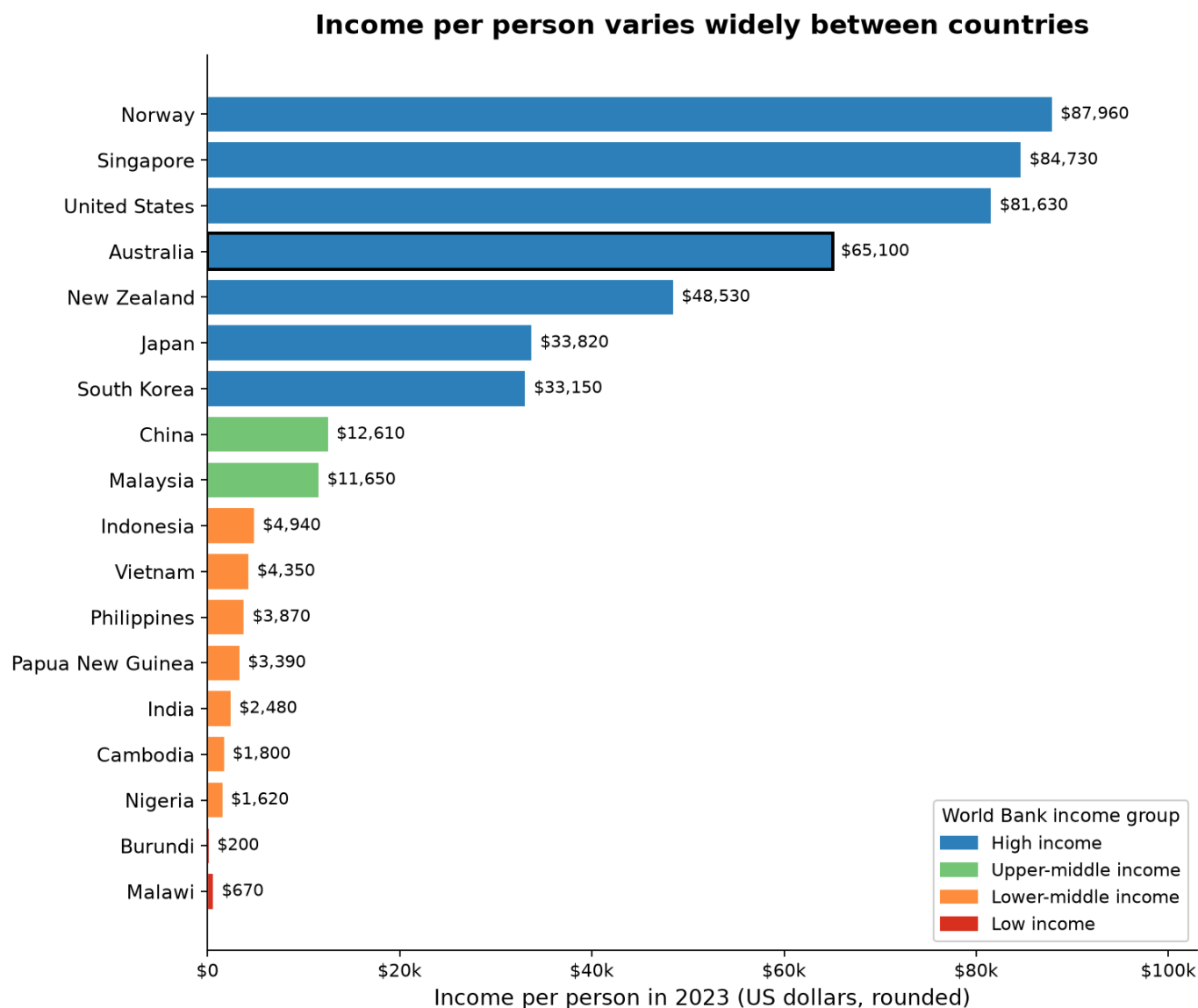
The **World Bank** sorts countries into four **income groups**. These are *stipulated* categories — the World Bank sets the cut-off numbers, and other groups are free to set different ones. In this section we use the World Bank’s groups (2023 data):

| World Bank income group    | Income per person (about, US dollars a year) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Low income</b>          | under \$1,150                                |
| <b>Lower-middle income</b> | \$1,150 to \$4,450                           |
| <b>Upper-middle income</b> | \$4,450 to \$13,850                          |
| <b>High income</b>         | over \$13,850                                |

*Source: World Bank country income groups, 2023 data, retrieved 25 August 2026. Cut-offs are rounded; they are reset every year.*

**Defined term — why we say “income groups”, not “developed and developing”.** Older books sorted countries as “developed” and “developing”. The World Bank itself stopped using those labels because there is no agreed line between the two. So in this section a country is described by its **income group** — a frame that is stated, sourced and testable. If someone uses “developing country”, ask them which definition they mean: the answer changes which countries fit.

Figure 1 sorts real countries into these groups.



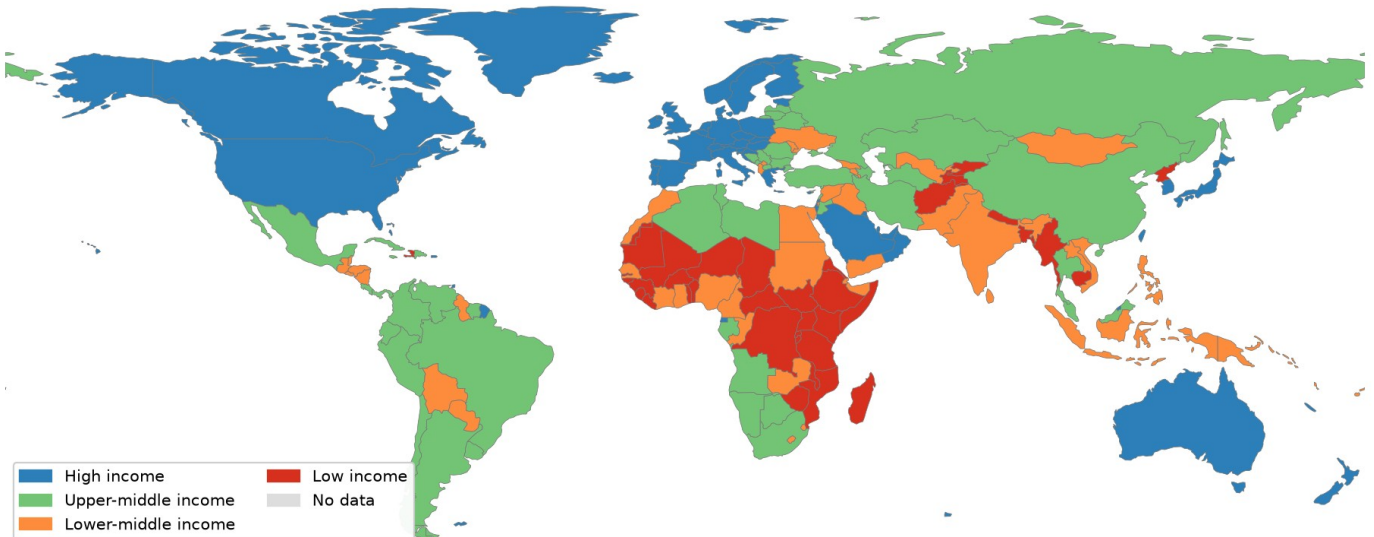
Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators (income per person, 2023). Values rounded. Australia outlined.

*Horizontal bar chart of income per person in 2023 for eighteen countries, with each bar coloured by World Bank income group: high-income countries such as Norway, Singapore, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea at the top; upper-middle-income China and Malaysia; lower-middle-income countries including Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, India, Cambodia and Nigeria; and low-income Burundi and Malawi at the bottom.*

*Figure 1. Income per person (US dollars, 2023). Australia is outlined. Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators.*

**How to read it as a choropleth too.** The same income groups can be shaded onto a world map. A map whose areas are coloured by the size of a number (or by a group) is called a **choropleth map**. Choropleth maps show *where* a pattern is, not just *how big* it is.

### World Bank income groups, country by country



Source: World Bank country income groups, carried in Natural Earth 110m admin-0 countries (public-domain geometry). This is a choropleth map.

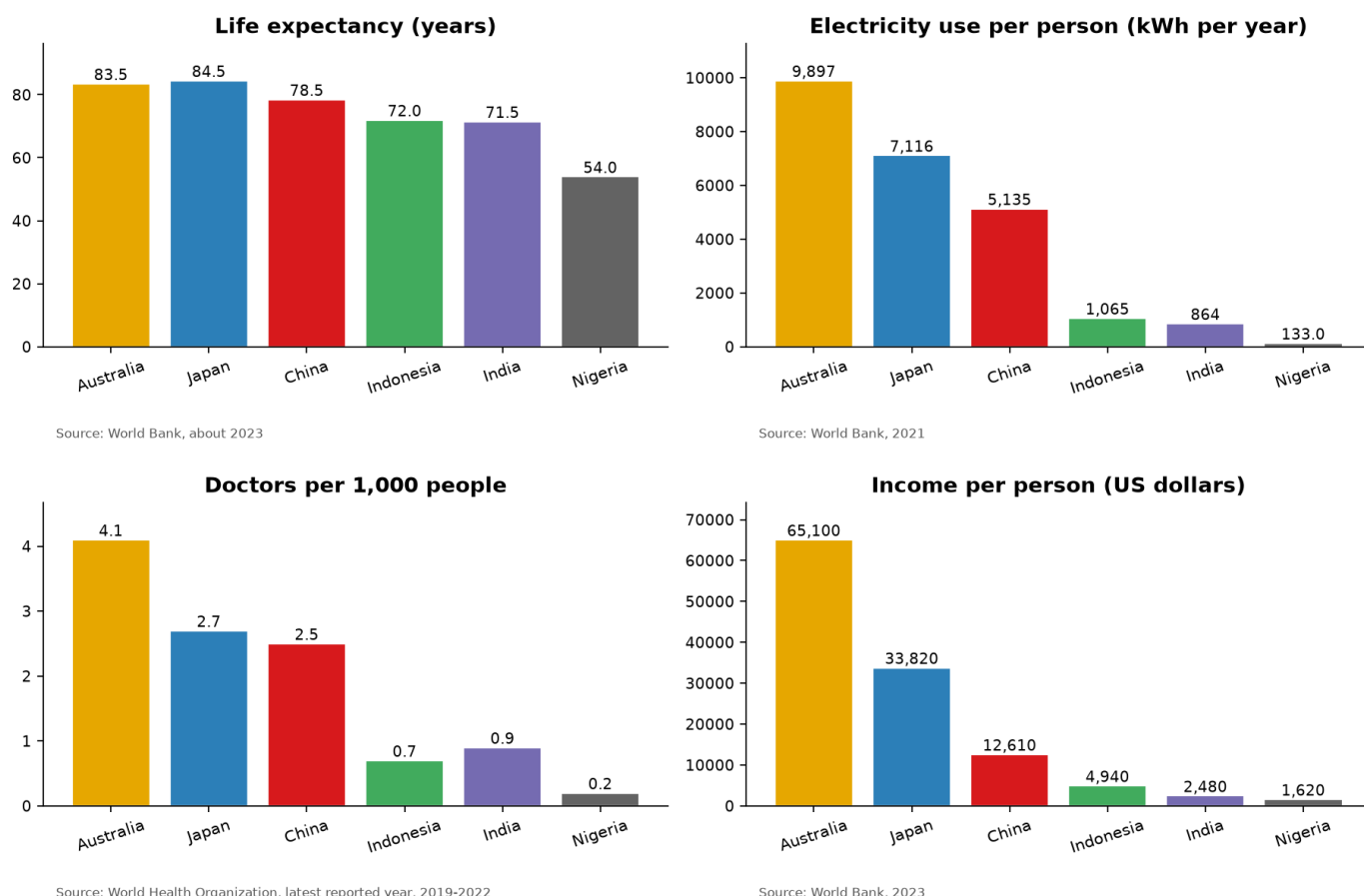
*World choropleth map shading every country by its World Bank income group: high income in blue across North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan; upper-middle income in green across much of South America, Russia, China and southern Africa; lower-middle income in orange across India, South-East Asia and parts of Africa; and low income in red across much of the Sahel and East Africa.*

*Figure 2. World Bank income groups on a choropleth map. Source: World Bank groups carried in Natural Earth 110m country map data.*

Look at Figure 2 and describe the pattern in one sentence: high-income countries cluster in North America, Europe and parts of East Asia and Oceania, while most low-income countries are in a band across Africa south of the Sahara. Naming a pattern like that — *where* things are, not just *that* they are — is what geographers do.

**What income differences mean for lives.** Income per person is only a number until you connect it to daily life. Figure 3 compares six countries across things you can feel: how long people live (their **life expectancy**), how much electricity they use, how many doctors there are, and income itself. (Electricity is measured in **kilowatt-hours (kWh)**: one kilowatt-hour is the electricity a 1,000-watt heater uses in one hour.)

## What life is like in places with different income levels



All values are rounded. Australia is gold in every panel. Values are whole-country averages: they hide differences inside each country.

Panel of four small bar charts comparing Australia, Japan, China, Indonesia, India and Nigeria on life expectancy in years, electricity use per person in kilowatt-hours, doctors per 1,000 people, and income per person in US dollars, showing that Australia and Japan score high on all four while Indonesia, India and Nigeria score much lower.

Figure 3. What life is like in places with different income levels. Sources: World Bank (income and electricity, 2021–2023); World Health Organization (doctors, latest reported year). All values rounded.

Two more categories from the curriculum belong here: **education** and **access to clean air**.

- **Education:** the World Bank reports how many years of school a child starting school today can expect. In Australia the answer is about **21 years**; in India about **13 years**; in Ethiopia about **9 years**. Same measure, very different lives.
- **Clean air:** the World Health Organization measures tiny pollution particles in the air (called PM2.5). Its safety guide is **5 micrograms** per cubic metre or less. Measured annual averages are about **7** in Australia, about **33** in China and about **53** in India. So in some places, the air itself is a health gap between countries.

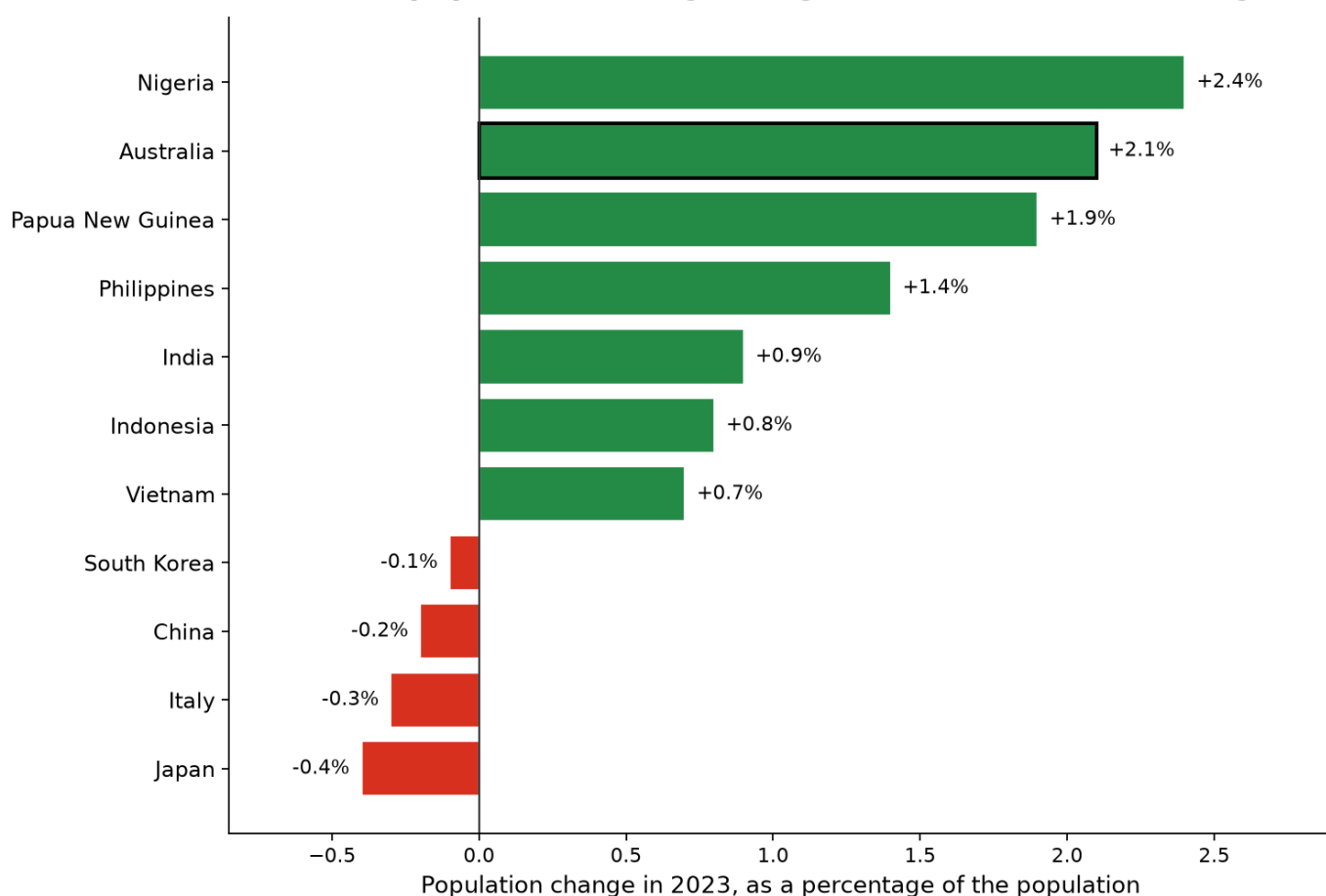
Sources: World Bank expected years of schooling; WHO air quality database (2019 data); retrieved 25 August 2026. Values rounded.

**Think like a geographer — what an average hides.** Per capita income, life expectancy and the other numbers above are whole-country averages. An average can hide big gaps *inside* a country: a high-income country still has people living in poverty, and a lower-middle-income country still has very rich areas. So use the averages to compare countries, but never let an average speak for every person in it. (This is the same caution statisticians give about any single number.)

## Part 2 — Populations, health and energy over time (VC2HG6K08.E02)

**Growing and shrinking.** A country's population changes through **births**, **deaths** and **migration** (people moving in or out). Figure 4 shows how fast some populations changed in one year.

## Some populations are growing fast; others are shrinking



Red bars: the population fell in 2023.

Green bars: the population grew in 2023.

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators (2023). Values rounded. Australia outlined. Most of Australia's growth comes from migration.

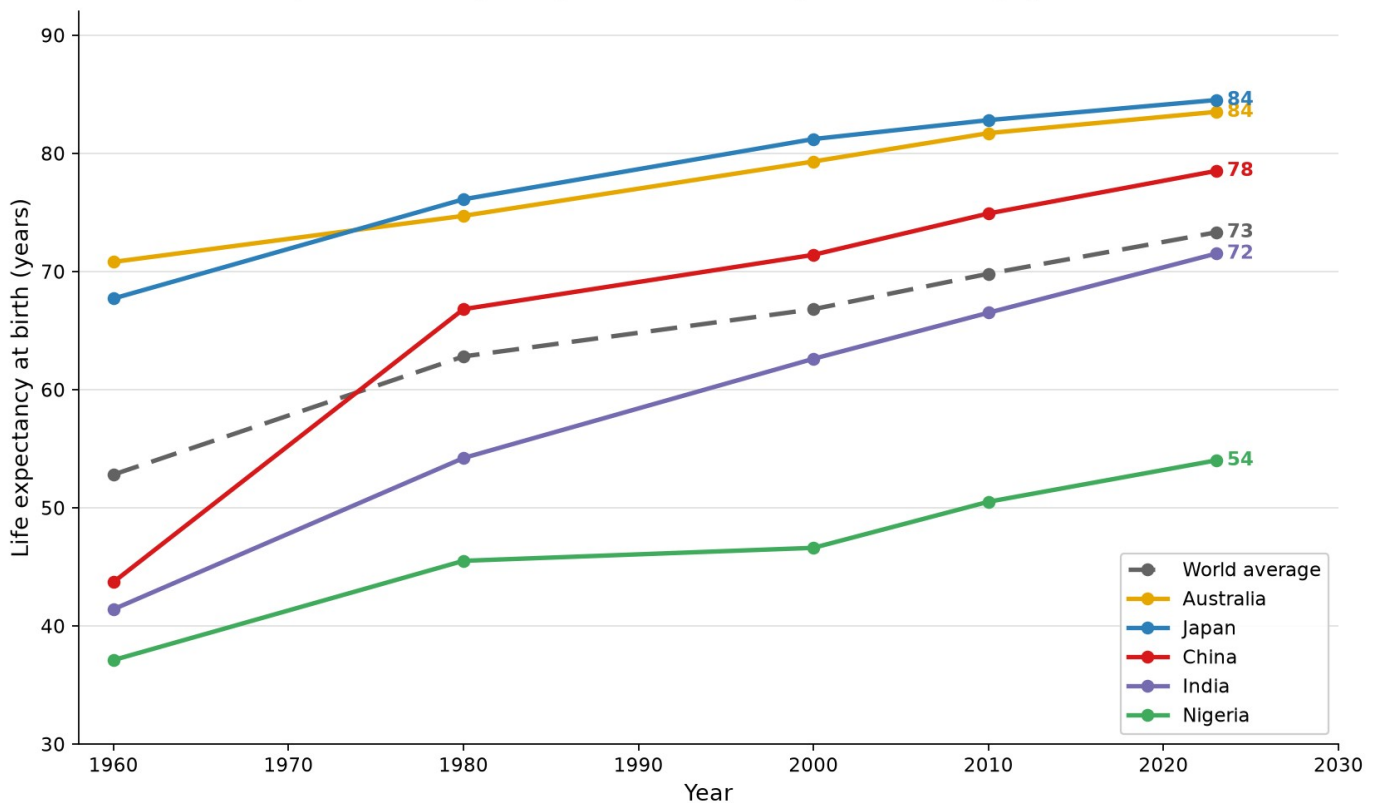
Horizontal bar chart of population change in 2023 as a percentage, with green bars for growing countries (Nigeria +2.4, Australia +2.1, Papua New Guinea +1.9, Philippines +1.4, India +0.9, Indonesia +0.8, Vietnam +0.7) and red bars for shrinking countries (South Korea -0.1, China -0.2, Italy -0.3, Japan -0.4), with Australia outlined.

Figure 4. Population change in 2023. Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators.

Notice both directions: **Nigeria's** population grew fast, while **Japan's, Italy's, China's and South Korea's** populations actually *shrank*. Australia grew quickly — and most of that growth came from **migration**, which links this figure straight to the connections in Part 4.

**Health, measured by life expectancy.** Life expectancy is the average number of years a newborn baby could expect to live if life stayed as it is now. It is the World Bank's and the United Nations' standard health measure for comparing countries. Figure 5 shows how it has **changed over time**.

## People are living longer almost everywhere, but gaps remain



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators. Lines join the data points as a guide. 'Life expectancy' is the average number of years a newborn baby could expect to live.

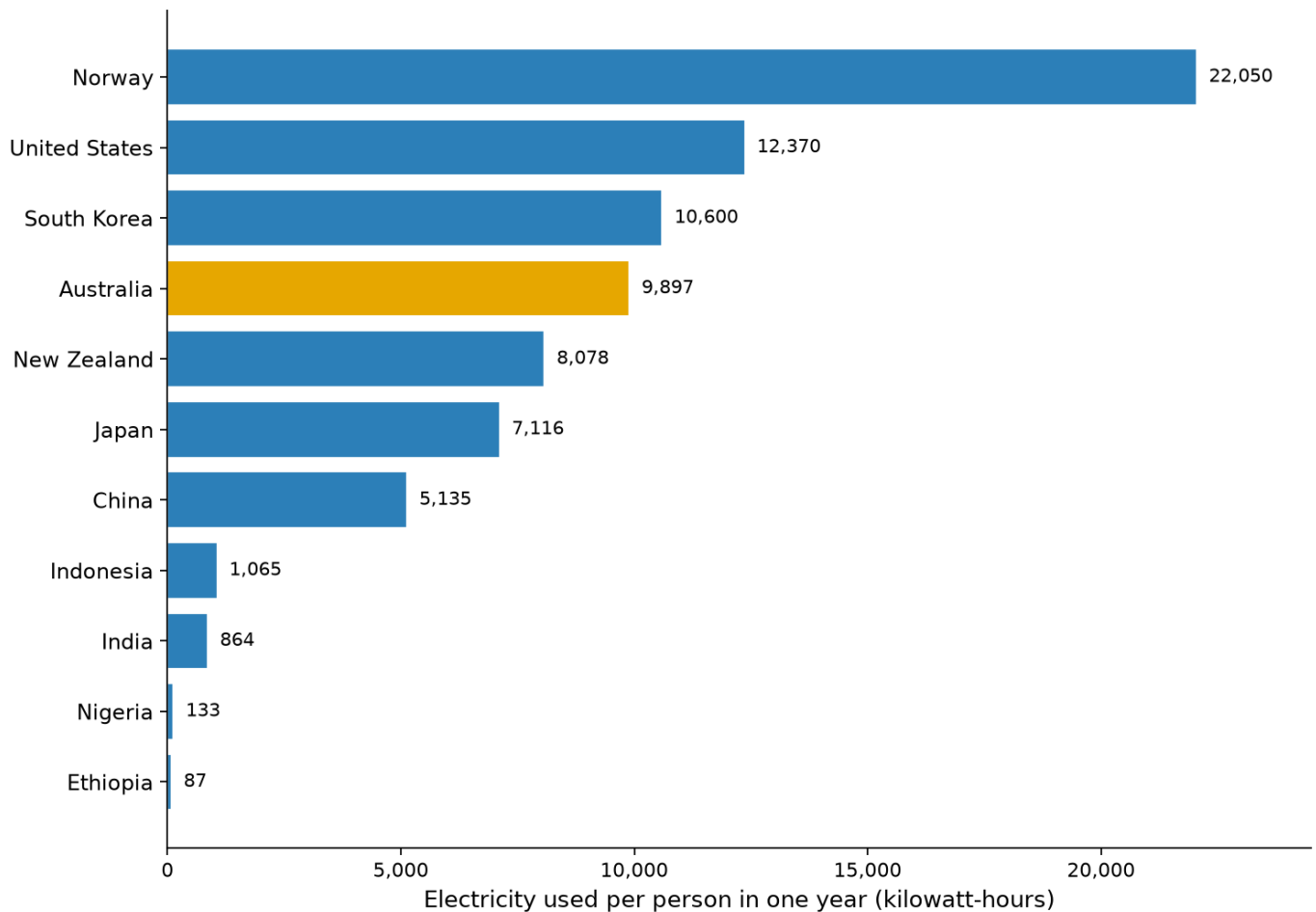
Line chart of life expectancy at birth from 1960 to 2023 for Australia, Japan, China, India and Nigeria plus a dashed world-average line, showing every line rising: India from about 41 to about 71 years, China from about 44 to about 78, Nigeria from about 37 to about 54, Australia from about 71 to about 84 and Japan from about 68 to about 84, with the gaps between the highest and lowest lines staying large.

Figure 5. Life expectancy, 1960–2023. Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators.

Every country climbed, and **China's** climb is the steepest — from about 44 years in 1960 to about 78 today. But look at **Nigeria's** nearly flat line between 1980 and 2000: progress is not automatic, and the gap between the top and bottom lines is still about 30 years. That gap is one of the big differences the curriculum asks you to discuss.

**Energy over time.** Figure 6 compares electricity use per person right now; Figure 7 shows how it changed between 2000 and 2021.

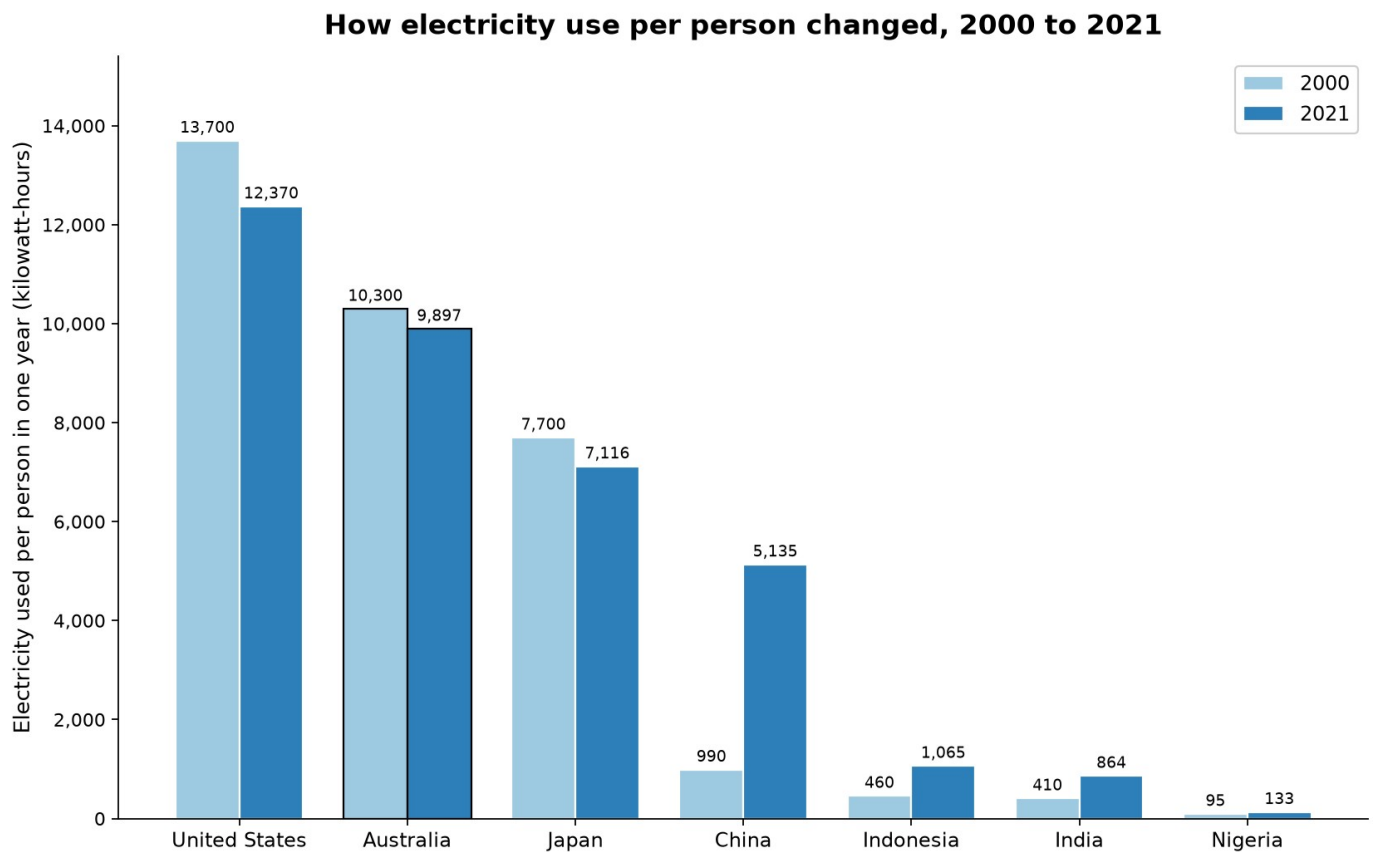
## Energy use per person is very uneven around the world



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators (electric power consumption, 2021). Values rounded. Australia in gold. Electricity is one big part of a country's total energy use.

*Horizontal bar chart of electricity used per person in one year in kilowatt-hours: Norway about 22,050; United States about 12,370; South Korea about 10,600; Australia about 9,897; New Zealand about 8,078; Japan about 7,116; China about 5,135; Indonesia about 1,065; India about 864; Nigeria about 133; Ethiopia about 87.*

Figure 6. Electricity use per person, 2021. Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators.



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators (electric power consumption). Values rounded; Australia outlined.

Grouped bar chart comparing electricity use per person in 2000 and 2021 for seven countries: the United States, Australia and Japan fall slightly (for example Australia from about 10,300 to about 9,900), while China rises from about 990 to about 5,135, Indonesia from about 460 to about 1,065, India from about 410 to about 864, and Nigeria from about 95 to about 133.

Figure 7. Electricity use per person, 2000 and 2021. Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators.

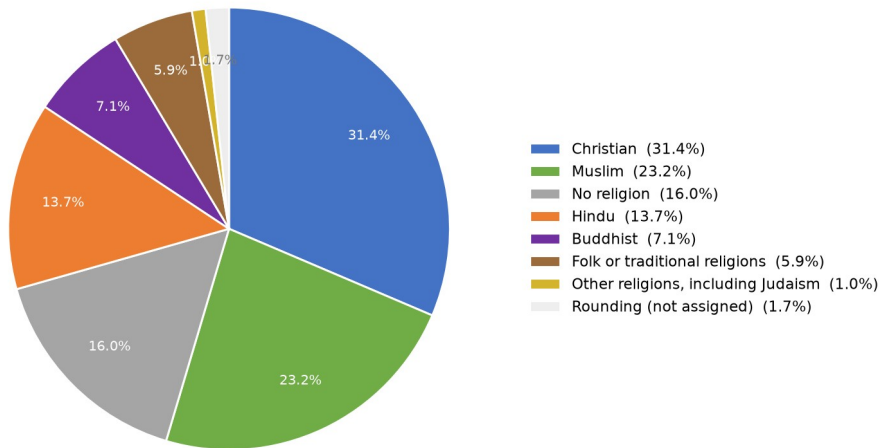
Read Figures 6 and 7 together: a person in **Norway** uses in a year roughly **250 times** the electricity of a person in **Ethiopia** ( $22,050 \div 87 \approx 253$ ). And over time, use has *risen fast* in China, India and Indonesia as more people get power, while it has *fallen a little* in rich countries such as Australia and Japan as they use energy more carefully. Both the gap and the change are part of the world's demographic and economic story.

**Skills link (VC2HG6S05 . E05) — where do numbers like these come from?** The figures in this section come from **reliable global sources**: the **World Bank**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the **United Nations (UN)**, and, for Australia, the **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)** and the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**. These groups collect data the same way every year, publish how they measured it, and let anyone check it. That is what makes a source *reliable* — not that it is famous, but that it can be checked. When you use a number, always write where it came from and when you retrieved it, as this section does.

### Part 3 — The world's major religions (VC2HG6K08 . E03)

Religion is part of a country's **culture** — its shared beliefs, festivals, foods and ways of life. The **Pew Research Centre**, an independent fact-finding group in the United States, surveyed religion in every country. Figure 8 shows its picture of the world in 2010.

**The world's major religious groups, 2010  
(share of the world's people)**



Source: Pew Research Centre, 'The Global Religious Landscape' (2012), based on 2010 data. Shares as published; they do not total 100 because of rounding. About 2.4 billion people were Christian in 2010 and about 1.6 billion were Muslim.

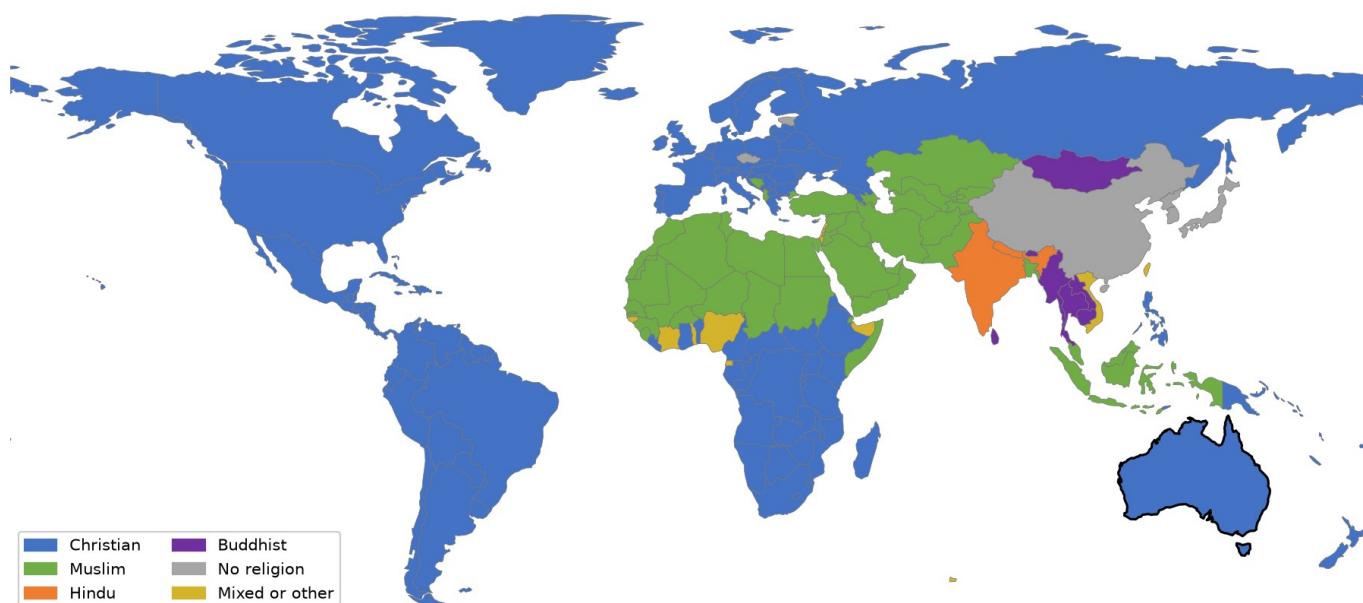
*Pie chart of the share of the world's people in each religious group in 2010: Christian 31.4 percent, Muslim 23.2 percent, no religion 16.0 percent, Hindu 13.7 percent, Buddhist 7.1 percent, folk or traditional religions 5.9 percent, other religions including Judaism 1.0 percent, plus a small rounding slice.*

*Figure 8. The world's major religious groups, 2010. Source: Pew Research Centre, "The Global Religious Landscape", 2010 data.*

Christianity was the largest group (about 2.2 billion people in 2010), then Islam (about 1.6 billion), then people with no religion, then Hinduism and Buddhism.

Figure 9 maps *where* each religion is strongest. Remember what a map like this can and cannot say: the colour shows only the **largest** group in each country — most countries are home to several religions at once.

## Where the world's major religions are strongest, 2010



Source: Pew Research Centre, 'The Global Religious Landscape' (2012), 2010 data. The colour shows only the LARGEST group in each country; most countries are home to several religions. Australia is outlined.

World map coloured by the largest religious group in each country in 2010: Christianity (blue) across the Americas, Europe, southern Africa, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand and the Pacific; Islam (green) across North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Bangladesh; Hinduism (orange) in India, Nepal and Mauritius; Buddhism (purple) in Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Laos, Bhutan and Mongolia; no religion (grey) in China, North Korea, Japan, South Korea, the Czech Republic and Estonia; and mixed or other (gold) in Nigeria, Vietnam, Singapore, Lebanon, Guinea-Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo, with Australia outlined.

Figure 9. Where the world's major religions are strongest, 2010. Source: Pew Research Centre, 2010 data.

| Religion     | Where it is the largest group (examples)                                                                            |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Christianity | Brazil, Mexico, the United States, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Australia, most of Europe and southern Africa |
| Islam        | Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco                                     |
| Hinduism     | India, Nepal, Mauritius                                                                                             |
| Buddhism     | Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Mongolia                                                            |
| Judaism      | Israel                                                                                                              |

Source: Pew Research Centre, 2010 data.

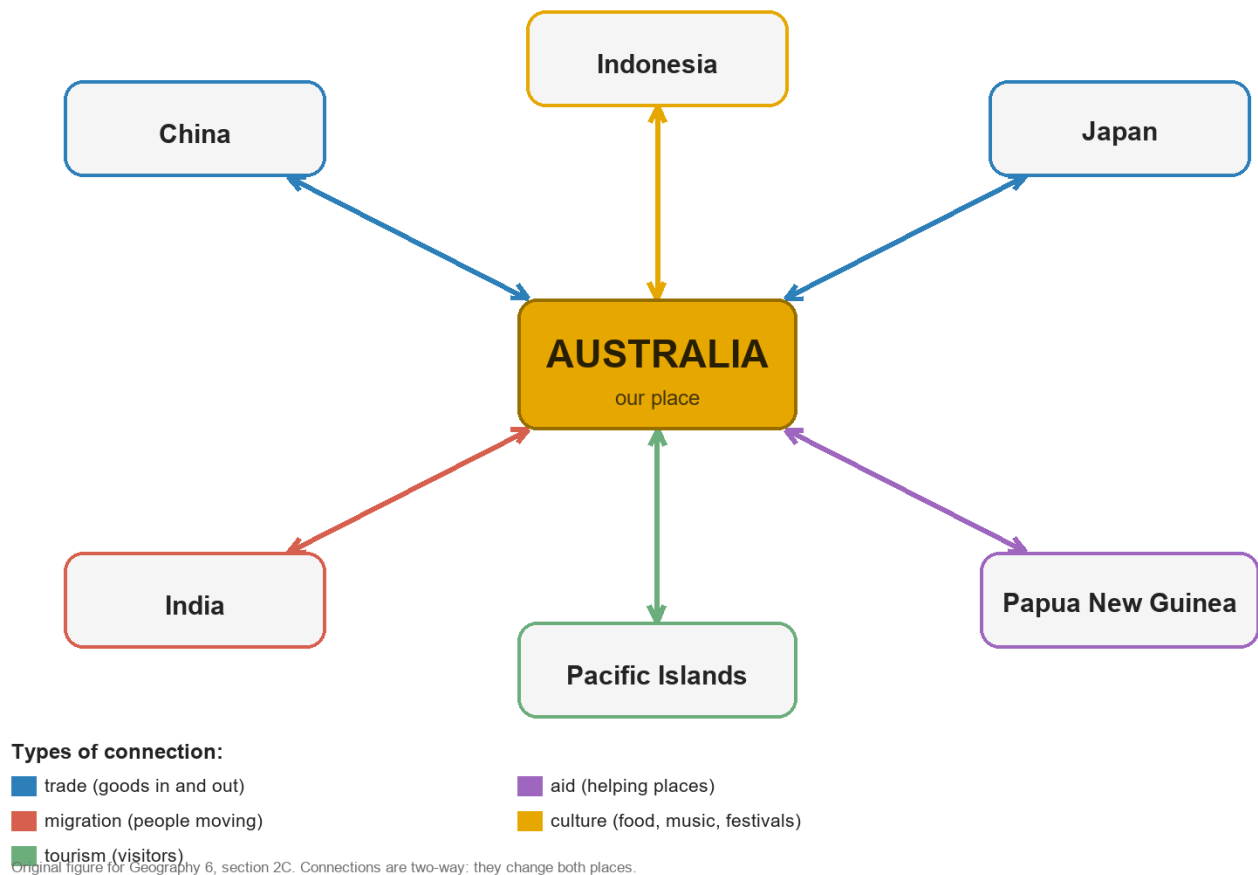
Indonesia is the country with the most Muslims; India has the most Hindus. And one more thing worth noticing: about **1 in 6** people on Earth reported **no religion**, mainly in East Asia and parts of Europe. Mapping beliefs, like mapping income, shows difference — and difference is not disagreement. In Australia, the census asks about religion and people are free to give any answer, or no answer: that freedom is itself part of our culture.

### Part 4 — Australia's connections with the Asia-Pacific (VC2HG6K08 . E05)

The **Asia-Pacific region** is the part of the world closest to Australia: South Asia, South-East Asia, East Asia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Australia is joined to it by at least seven kinds of connection: **trade, migration, tourism, aid, education, defence and cultural influence**. Figure 10 shows them as a web, with Australia — our place — at the centre.

## Australia is connected to the Asia-Pacific in many ways

Each arrow is a two-way interconnection

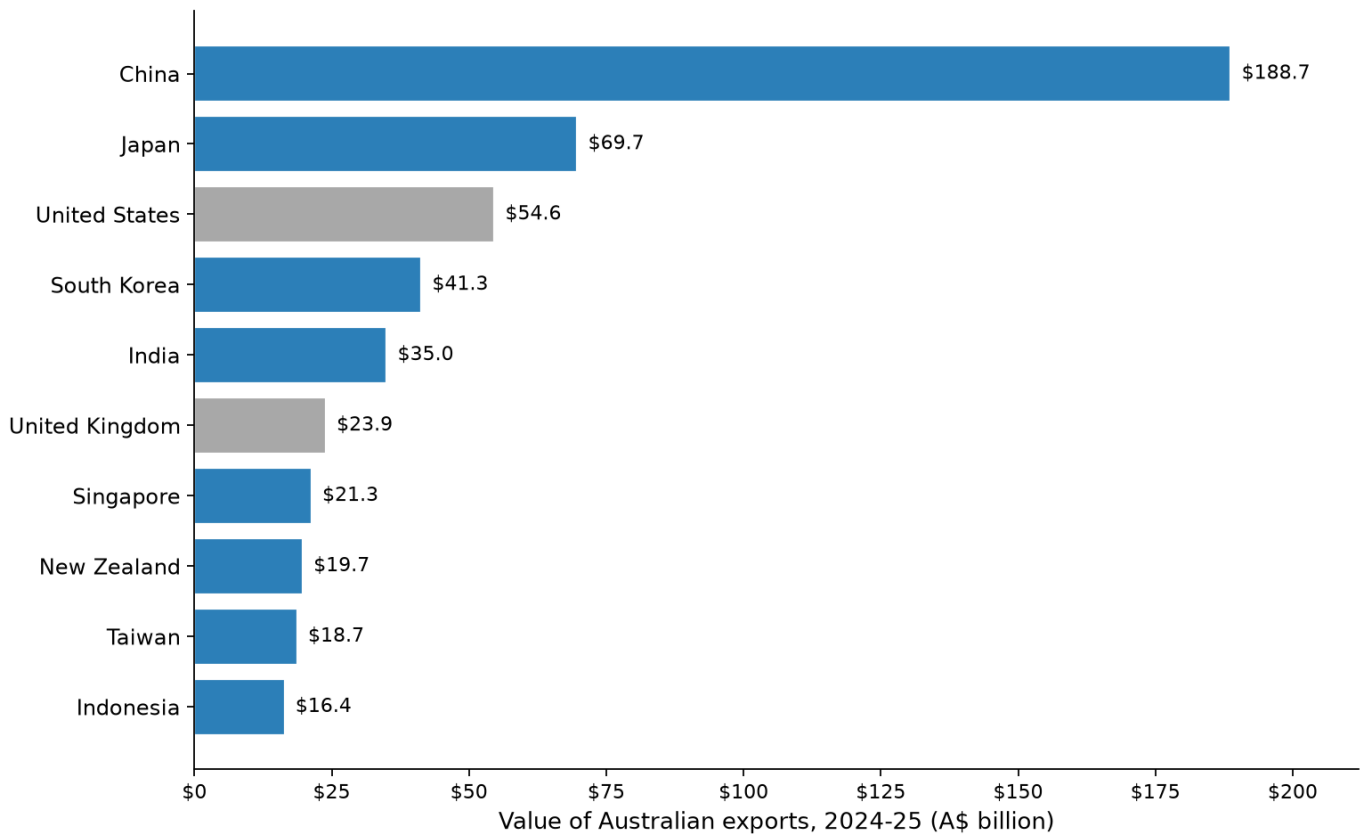


Web diagram with a gold Australia box in the centre and two-way coloured arrows linking it to six boxes: China and Japan in blue for trade, India in red for migration, Papua New Guinea in purple for aid, the Pacific Islands in green for tourism and Indonesia in gold for culture, with a key naming the five types of connection.

Figure 10. Australia's two-way connections with the Asia-Pacific. Original ClassBasics figure.

**Trade.** Figure 11 uses DFAT's own trade numbers for 2024–25. Count the blue bars: **eight of Australia's ten biggest export markets are in the Asia-Pacific**, and thirteen of the top fifteen are.

### Australia's top ten export markets



Source: DFAT, 'Australia's Trade in Goods & Services 2024-25' (from ABS international trade data). Values rounded. Blue bars: Asia-Pacific markets. Eight of the top ten are in

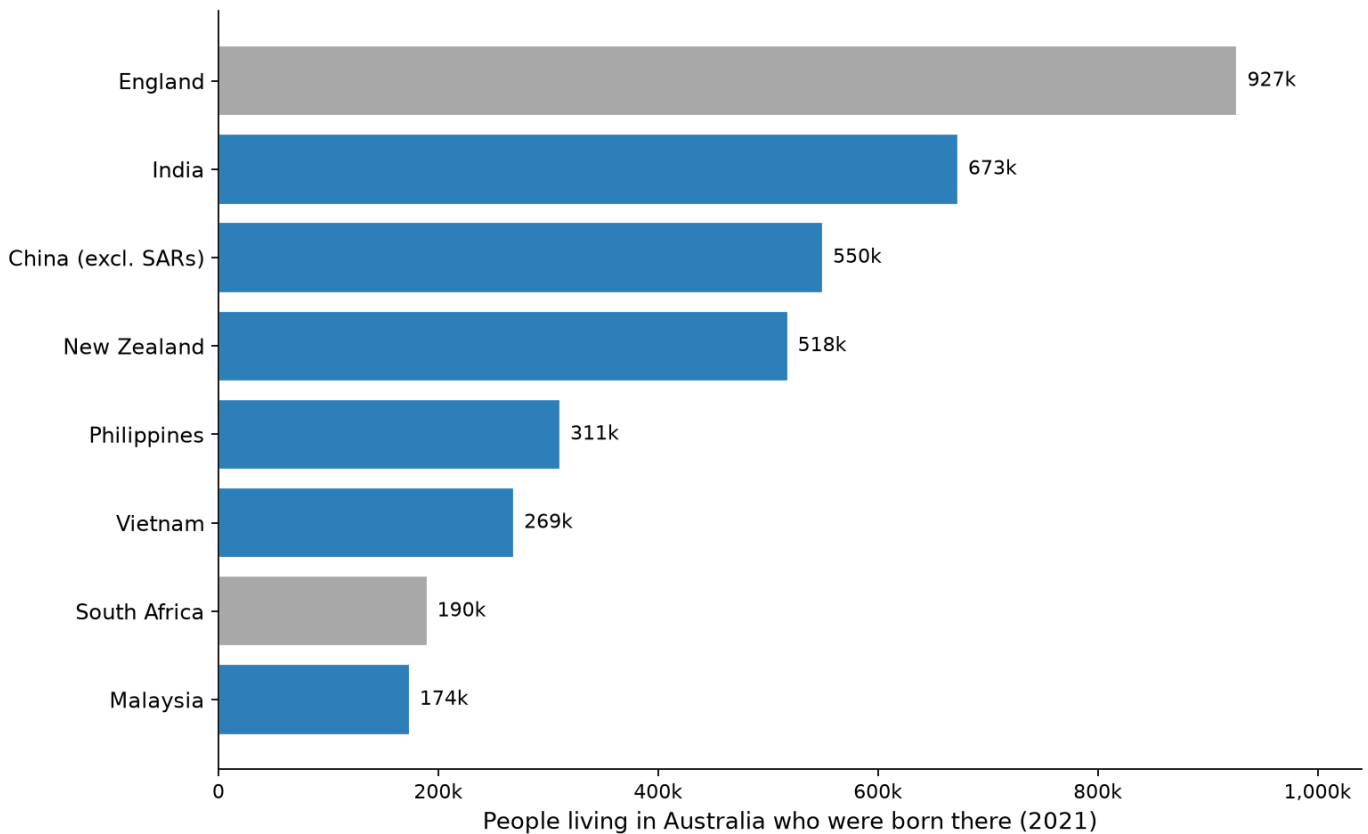
*Horizontal bar chart of Australia's top ten export markets in 2024–25 in billions of Australian dollars: China \$188.7, Japan \$69.7, United States \$54.6, South Korea \$41.3, India \$35.0, United Kingdom \$23.9, Singapore \$21.3, New Zealand \$19.7, Taiwan \$18.7, Indonesia \$16.4, with Asia-Pacific markets in blue and the United States and United Kingdom in grey.*

*Figure 11. Australia's top ten export markets, 2024–25. Source: DFAT, Australia's Trade in Goods and Services 2024–25 (from ABS trade data).*

Australia sells the region iron ore, coal and natural gas — and something less obvious: **education**. Education-related travel (international students studying here) was Australia's **fourth-biggest export** in 2024–25, worth **\$53.6 billion**, ahead of gold. What Australia buys back includes vehicles, fuel, electronics and furniture.

**Migration.** The 2021 Australian census shows where overseas-born Australians were born. Figure 12 shows the top eight — **six are in the Asia-Pacific**.

### Where overseas-born Australians were born



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021. Values rounded. Blue bars: birthplaces in the Asia-Pacific region. Six of the top eight are in the

*Horizontal bar chart of the eight most common overseas birthplaces of people living in Australia at the 2021 census: England 927,000; India 673,000; China 550,000; New Zealand 518,000; Philippines 311,000; Vietnam 269,000; South Africa 190,000; Malaysia 174,000, with Asia-Pacific birthplaces in blue.*

*Figure 12. Where overseas-born Australians were born, 2021 census. Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021.*

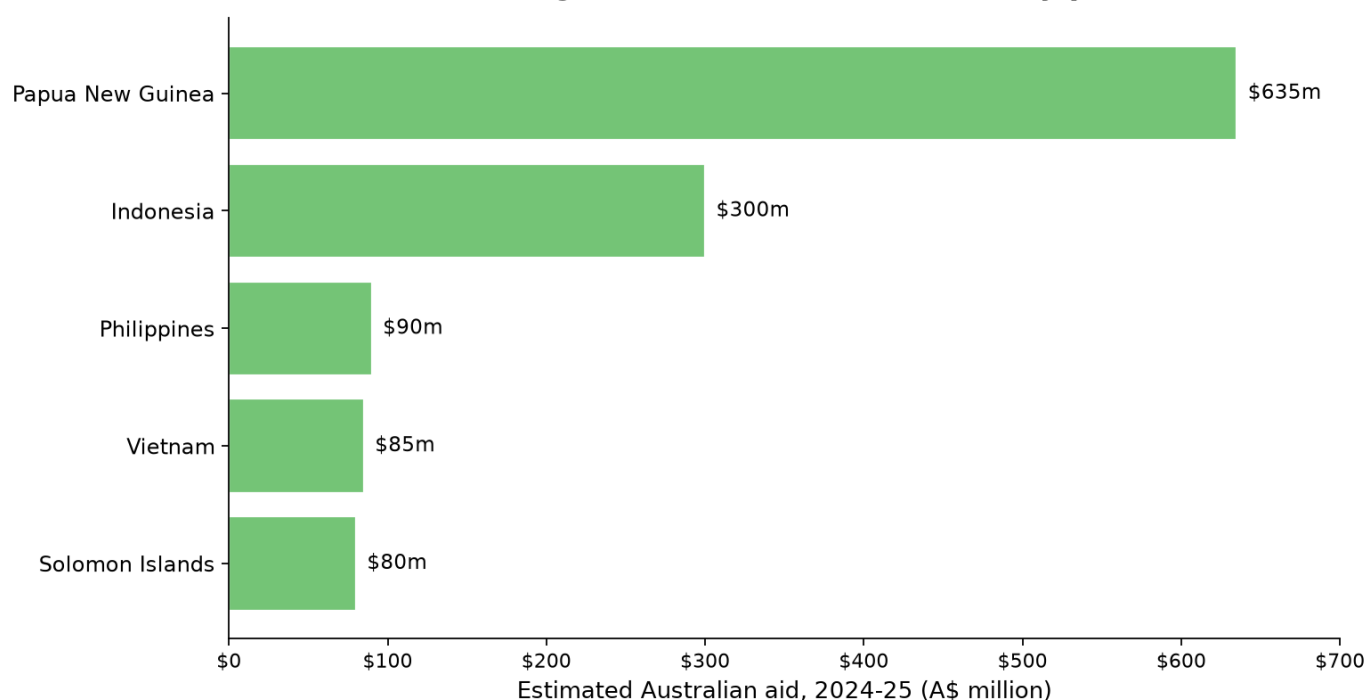
**Culture follows people.** After English, the most common home language in Australia is **Mandarin** (the main language of China), spoken at home by about 2.7 per cent of Australians. Melbourne’s Chinatown is one of the oldest in the Western world, dating to the 1850s gold rush; Box Hill, in Melbourne’s east, is a well-known centre of Chinese-Australian life; and Lunar New Year and Diwali (the Hindu festival of lights) are now celebrated in the streets of Australian cities. In Victoria, dairy and beef from regions such as Gippsland and the north of the state are shipped to customers in China, Japan and South-East Asia — so a connection made in the Asia-Pacific is felt on a Victorian farm.

**Your turn (E05) — trace a connection to your own place.** Pick **one** connection from Figure 10 and find it near you this week: an Asian grocery or restaurant, a sister-school exchange notice, a product labelled “Made in ...”, a festival poster, or a story from someone who travelled there. Note the place it links you to, and one way it changes your suburb or town. Then find one way the same connection changes *another* Australian place (for example, iron-ore mining towns in Western Australia, or tourism towns in Queensland). Connections always touch at least two places — that is what *interconnection* means.

### Part 5 — Australian aid and its impacts (VC2HG6K08.E06)

**Aid** is help — money, goods or skills — that one country gives to support another country’s development. Australia’s aid is mainly given by the government through DFAT and by **non-government groups** (charities such as the Australian Red Cross and World Vision) with public money. Figure 13 shows where Australia’s government aid is largest.

## Australia gives most of its aid to nearby places



Source: DFAT, Australian aid budget 2024-25 (estimates, bilateral programs). Values rounded to the nearest A\$5 million. Australia's aid to Papua New Guinea is the largest in the Asia-Pacific region.

Horizontal bar chart of estimated Australian aid to five Asia-Pacific countries in 2024–25 in millions of Australian dollars: Papua New Guinea about 635, Indonesia about 300, Philippines about 90, Vietnam about 85 and Solomon Islands about 80.

Figure 13. Australia's largest aid programs in the Asia-Pacific, 2024–25 estimates. Source: DFAT aid budget.

Most Australian aid stays in our region, and the biggest single program goes to **Papua New Guinea (PNG)**, the country just north of Australia.

**Case study — what aid does in Papua New Guinea.** Australian aid in PNG pays for things you can point to on the ground: support for **tuition-fee-free schooling** so families can send children to school without paying fees; **health programs** such as childhood immunisation (vaccination) and clinics; **roads and markets** that let farmers sell produce; and **disaster response**, as when Australia sent help after the 2018 Highlands earthquakes. Each of these changes a *place*: a village with a working clinic, a school with more children in it, a town joined to its markets by an all-weather road. Aid is one connection whose impact you can walk around and see.

### Two views, both at their strongest — does aid work?

**View 1 — aid helps.** The records show it: more children vaccinated, more children in school, faster recovery after disasters. In PNG, fee-free school support and immunisation programs funded with Australian aid have put services within reach of villages that had no clinic before. The evidence for these gains is in health and school records.

**View 2 — aid can fail.** If money is spent without local say, projects can sit unused, or prop up poor decisions, and dependence can grow. The evidence for this is in audits of failed projects and in cases where services collapsed when the money stopped.

Both views are argued by serious people with real evidence. A geographer's conclusion is not "yes" or "no" but *it depends on the evidence in each case* — which is exactly why DFAT publishes its aid budget and evaluations for anyone to check (VC2HG6S05: evidence-based conclusions).

## Worked examples

### Example 1 — with steps (Figure 1 and income groups)

Classify **Malaysia** and **Burundi** into World Bank income groups, then give one life difference you would expect between them.

| Working                                                                                                                         | Comment                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Malaysia's income per person $\approx$ \$11,650.                                                                                | Read the value from Figure 1.                     |
| \$11,650 sits between \$4,450 and \$13,850.                                                                                     | Compare with the cut-off table.                   |
| So Malaysia is <b>upper-middle income</b> .                                                                                     | The group name comes from the stated frame.       |
| Burundi $\approx$ \$200 $\rightarrow$ under \$1,150 $\rightarrow$ <b>low income</b> .                                           | Same steps, different end of the scale.           |
| Life difference: a child in Malaysia can expect more years of school and more doctors per 1,000 people than a child in Burundi. | Connect the number to life (Figure 3 categories). |

*Lesson:* always say which frame you used — the group, the measure, the year. A country near a cut-off (like Vietnam at about \$4,350, close to the \$4,450 line) can move groups as its income changes, so name the year whenever you classify.

### Example 2 — with steps (Figure 5, change over time)

Describe how India's life expectancy changed from 1960 to 2023, and name the country whose line rose the most.

| Working                                                                        | Comment                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| India 1960 $\approx$ 41 years; India 2023 $\approx$ 71 years.                  | Read both endpoints.                                |
| Change $\approx$ 71 – 41 = <b>30 years</b> .                                   | Subtract start from end.                            |
| India's line rose about 30 years; China's rose about 34 (44 $\rightarrow$ 78). | Compare rises, not end heights.                     |
| So <b>China's</b> line rose the most, and India's rose about 30 years.         | "Rose the most" = biggest change, not highest line. |

### Example 3 — with steps (Figure 2, reading a choropleth)

Use Figure 2 to answer: (a) which income group covers most of South America? (b) name one high-income country in Oceania.

| Working                                                                                       | Comment                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (a) Most South American countries are shaded green $\rightarrow$ <b>upper-middle income</b> . | Legend first, then map.          |
| (b) Oceania's blue countries include <b>Australia</b> (and New Zealand).                      | Find the region, then the shade. |

### Example 4 — without steps (Figure 11)

From Figure 11: (a) name Australia's biggest export market and its value; (b) about how many times bigger is that market than the 10th; (c) name two things Australia sells to the region.

Australia's biggest market is **China**, at **\$188.7 billion**. The 10th market, Indonesia, is \$16.4 billion;  $\$188.7 \div \$16.4 \approx 11.5$ , so China buys about eleven to twelve times as much. Two things Australia sells: **iron ore** and **natural gas** (coal and education are also correct).

### Example 5 — without steps (Part 5, weighing views)

A classmate says "aid never works". Use the Two Views box to answer them in three sentences.

"Never" is doing too much work: the school and immunisation records in PNG show real gains paid for with aid, so *some* aid works in ways we can measure. The fair claim is the weaker one — that aid *can* fail when it ignores local say. So the evidence supports "aid works when it is well spent and checked", not "never".

## Practice questions

### With steps

- Q1.** (Figure 1) Put these countries into World Bank income groups: (a) Japan, (b) India, (c) Malawi.
- Q2.** (Figure 1) About how many times bigger is Singapore's income per person than India's? Show your working with rounded numbers.
- Q3.** (Figure 2) Describe in one sentence where most **low-income** countries are.
- Q4.** (Figure 3) Name two of the four categories Figure 3 uses to compare lives.
- Q5.** (Figure 4) Which countries' populations shrank in 2023? List them.
- Q6.** (Figure 5) About how many years did life expectancy rise in India between 1960 and 2023?
- Q7.** (Figure 8) Name the two largest religious groups in the world in 2010.
- Q8.** (Figure 12) How many of the top eight overseas birthplaces are in the Asia-Pacific?

### Without steps

- Q9.** (Figures 6 and 7) A friend says "rich countries always use more energy every year". Use the 2000 and 2021 bars for Australia and China to agree, disagree, or agree with part of it — and say why.
- Q10.** (Figures 4 and 12) Australia's population grew fast in 2023 while Japan's shrank. Using Figure 12, give one reason Australia's growth looks different from Japan's.
- Q11.** (Figure 9) Name one country where each of these is the largest group: (a) Islam, (b) Hinduism, (c) Buddhism.
- Q12.** (Figure 11) What was Australia's fourth-biggest export in 2024–25, and why is it a surprise?
- Q13.** (Figure 13) Which country receives the largest single Australian aid program, and name one thing the aid pays for there.
- Q14.** Explain in your own words what a **choropleth map** shows, and how it is different from the pie chart in Figure 8.

### Extended response and inquiry

- Q15. (Inquiry — comparing two countries)** Choose **two** countries that appear in this section's figures (for example Indonesia and Australia, or India and Japan). Build a one-page comparison using at least **three** measures from the figures (income per person, population change, life expectancy, energy use). For each measure: state both values with their source, state the difference, and give one sentence on what the difference means for daily life. Finish with one sentence of pattern ("Overall, ..."). Present as a small table plus three sentences. (*Skills: VC2HG6S04.E04, VC2HG6S05.E05.*)
- Q16. (Extended response — aid)** "Australia should give more aid to the Pacific." Give the **strongest** argument for this view and the **strongest** argument against it, then reach your own evidence-based conclusion in one or two sentences. Marking looks at your reasoning, not which side you pick. (*Skill: VC2HG6S05.*)
- Q17. (Local study — your own place)** Carry out the "Your turn" task from Part 4 and write up your findings: the connection, the Asia-Pacific place it links you to, one impact on your place, and one impact on another Australian place. One short paragraph and one labelled sketch or photo note is enough.

## Answers

**Q1.** (a) High income. (b) Lower-middle income. (c) Low income. **Q2.** About  $\$84,700 \div \text{about } \$2,500 \approx 34$ , so roughly **34 times** (answers near 30–35 with shown working are correct). **Q3.** Most low-income countries are in Africa, especially in the band south of the Sahara. **Q4.** Any two of: life expectancy (health), electricity use per person (energy), doctors per 1,000 people, income per person. **Q5.** South Korea, China, Italy and Japan. **Q6.** About 30 years (from about 41 to about 71). **Q7.** Christianity and Islam. **Q8.** Six (India, China, New Zealand, the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia). **Q9.** Agree with part of it. Australia (a rich country) used *less* per person in 2021 than in 2000, while China (then a middle-income country) used about five times more — so energy use can fall in rich countries as they use energy more carefully. **Q10.** Most of Australia's growth comes from migration — Figure 12 shows hundreds of thousands of overseas-born Australians from Asia-Pacific countries — while Japan takes far fewer migrants and has an ageing population. **Q11.** (a) e.g. Indonesia (or Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia...). (b) e.g. India (or Nepal). (c) e.g. Thailand (or Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka...). **Q12.** Education-related travel (international students), \$53.6 billion. A surprise because it is a service, not a mined or grown product — yet it outsells gold. **Q13.** Papua New Guinea; any one of: fee-free schooling support, immunisation/health clinics, roads and markets, disaster response. **Q14.** A choropleth map shades areas by the size of a number or by a group, so it shows *where* a pattern is on Earth; a pie chart shows shares of a whole, with no location at all.

**Q15–Q17** are assessed with the guides in the solutions below.

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## Worked solutions

**Q15 (marking guide).** Award: one mark per measure that has *both* values with a source (3 measures  $\times$  2 values); one mark per correctly stated difference; one mark per life-meaning sentence; one mark for the pattern sentence. A strong answer looks like:

| Measure                       | Indonesia (World Bank) | Australia (World Bank) | Difference     | What it means                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Income per person (2023)      | about \$4,940          | about \$65,100         | about 13 times | Less to spend per family         |
| Life expectancy (2023)        | about 72 years         | about 83 years         | about 11 years | Health gap between the two       |
| Electricity per person (2021) | about 1,065 kWh        | about 9,897 kWh        | about 9 times  | Fewer powered hours and machines |

Pattern: “Indonesia is growing fast but starts from a much lower base, so on every measure its average person has less than Australia’s — yet the gap has been closing over time.”

**Q16 (marking guide).** Strong *for*: PNG and nearby Pacific countries are Australia’s closest trading and security partners, so aid that lifts their schools, clinics and disaster-readiness directly protects and enriches Australia’s own region — money spent nearby is money spent where Australia lives. Strong *against*: needs at home (schools, hospitals, housing) are real too, and aid that is not checked can be wasted, so every extra dollar abroad should be weighed against a dollar at home. A sound conclusion does not pick either slogan; it says *more aid makes sense when it is targeted, published and evaluated* — the evidence-based middle. Marks are awarded for: each view stated at its strongest (2), evidence named for each (2), a conclusion that answers the question (1), sources named (1).

**Q17 (marking guide).** Award: connection named (1), Asia-Pacific place named (1), impact on own place (1), impact on another Australian place (1), sketch or photo note labelled with place names (1). Example of full marks: “The Vietnamese restaurant on our street links Werribee to Vietnam; it adds jobs and food choice here, while the same migration connection gives Melbourne one of the largest Vietnamese-Australian communities in Australia — and family visits and support go both ways.” (Any real, observed connection earns full marks; marking is on the two-place reasoning, not on which connection you found.)

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*Every number in this section is drawn from a named, checkable source: World Bank World Development Indicators (income, population, life expectancy, electricity); World Health Organization (doctors, air quality); Pew Research Centre, “The Global Religious Landscape” (2010 data); Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census; DFAT, Australia’s Trade in Goods and Services 2024–25 and the 2024–25 aid budget. All retrieved 25 August 2026; values are rounded where stated.*