**Учебная дисциплина:** Английский язык 1 курс

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**Australia**

The Commonwealth of Australia is formed of Australia, Tasmania and several smaller islands (for example, Cocos Islands, Kangaroo Island and others). Australia itself is made up of the mainland of Australia and the island of Tasmania in the South. It is located between the Pacific and the Indian oceans in the Southern Hemisphere. The Australian continent is washed in the North by the Timor Sea, the Arafura Sea, Gulf of Carpentaria and Torres Strait, in the East by the Tasman Sea and the Coral Sea of the South Pacific Ocean, in the South by Bass Strait and the Indian Ocean. Australia’s neighboring countries are Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea in the North, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia in the north-east and New Zealand in the south-east.  **Australia is "the most" country in many ways. It is the world’s biggest island and the smallest continent at the same time. It is almost 25 times larger than the British Isles. And it is nearly as large as the territory of the USA without Alaska and Hawaii. Australia is the only country in the world which has the territory of the whole continent. Australia’s total area is 7,690,000 sq kilometres. It is also the oldest, the flattest and the driest continent in the world. Australia is the oldest continent, because some rocks are more than 3 million years old. Australia is the flattest continent of all. But still it has mountains. Its main mountain chain is the Great Dividing Range which is known as "the Australian Alps". It runs along the western coast. Australia’s highest point, Kosciuszko in the Australian Alps is only about 2,000 metres high. Other mountains include the Kimberly Range, the Hamersley Range and the Flinders Range in south Australia.**  Australia is very dry. In the centre of the continent there are three deserts: Great Sandy Desert, Great Victoria Desert and Simpson Desert. In fact, Great Sandy and Great Victoria Deserts are among the largest deserts in the world. There are not so many rivers and lakes in Australia. Its best known rivers are: the Murray (2,600 km long); the Darling (the Murray’s tributary; is the longest river in Australia — 2,740 km). The largest lake is Lake Eyre. The seasons in Australia are the other way round. Summer is from December to February (New Year is in the middle of summer), autumn is from March to May, winter is from June to August (the middle of winter is in June) and spring is from September to November. Because of Australia’s great size there are different climatic regions here. The climate of Australia ranges from tropical in the North, to cool temperate in the south-east where it even often snows in winter. There are such weather hardships in Australia as droughts, floods and cyclones along its coasts. The continent suffers from the lack of fresh water. There is not much rain in many parts of the country and they are very dry. South Australia is the driest state of the driest continent on the Earth.

Перевод некоторых географических названий:

**the Commonwealth of Australia** — Австралийский Союз (Содружество); **Australia** — Австралия (страна, континент); **the island of Tasmania** — о. Тасмания; **Cocos Islands** — Кокосовые о-ва; **Kangaroo Island** — о. Кенгуру; **the Southern Hemisphere** — Южное полушарие; **the Timor Sea** — Тиморское море; **the Arafura** — Арафурское море; **Gulf of Carpentaria** — залив Карпентария; **Torres Strait** — Торресов пролив; **the Tasman Sea** — Тасманово море; **the Corral Sea** — Коралловое море; **Bass Strait** — Бассов пролив; **Indonesia** — Индонезия; **East Timor Island** — о. Восточный Тимор; **Papua New Guinea** — Папуа-Новая Гвинея; **the Solomon Islands** — Соломоновы о-ва; **Vanuatu** — Вануату (страна); **New Caledonia** — Новая Каледония; the Great Dividing Range — Большой Водораздельный хребет; **Kosciuszco** — гора Косцюшко; **the Kimberly Range** — горы Кимберли; **the Hamersley Range** — хребет Хамерсли; **the Flinders Range** — хребет Флиндерс; **Great Sandy Desert** — Большая Песчаная пустыня; **Great Victoria Desert** — Большая пустыня Виктория; **Simpson Desert** — пустыня Симпсон; **the Murray** — р. Муррей; **the Darling** — р. Дарлинг

**Answer the questions:**

1. What does The Commonwealth of Australia form?
2. Where is Australia located?
3. What are Australia’s neighbor countries?
4. Why is Australia “the most” country in many ways?
5. What is the total area of Australia?
6. How old is Australia?
7. What is the main mountain range and what is the highest mountain?
8. What is the climate of Australia?
9. What Australian rivers and lakes do you know?
10. What problem does the continent have?

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**1. Перевести текст.**

**2.Поставить три вопроса к тексту на анг.яз.**

**3.Выписать из текста относящиеся к тематике «Новая Зеландия»**

# Топик New Zealand

What is the name of the country which has volcanoes and rivers of ice, deer and sea-elephants?

It is New Zealand, called the Land of the Long White Cloud by the Maoris.

New Zealand is an island country. It is made up of three islands: the North and South Islands and Steward Island, a small land mass just to the south of (he South Island. Most of its people live in North Island, and that is where you find big volcanoes like Egmont and Tongariro and the boiling pools and geysers and lakes of bubbling mud. Auckland, Christ church and Wellington are the biggest cities. Wellington is the capital.

South Island is larger than North Island and has the highest mountains. There you can find the snow-capped Southern Alps, rising 3.764 metres to the tip of Mount Cook (named after Captain Cook, of course, because he visited the islands before sailing on westwards and discovering the eastern coast of Australia).

South Island is very beautiful with its Alps and lakes, its glaciers and fiords. Have you ever heard of Milford Sound? That is one of the most picturesque of the fiords, with cliffs rising straight up out of the water, the whole scene reflected in the water. Down there, too, are the Sunderland Falls, where water drops six hundred metres, making these falls one of the highest waterfalls in the whole world.

So you can see there is plenty to look at in New Zealand. Plenty of things to do for tourists, because New Zealand is also famous for its fishing, snow sports, mountaineering, sailing and hiking.

The climate is pleasant at all seasons, without much difference between winter and summer. New Zealand does not have the terrible heat of Australian summers; the oceans temper its climate and the mountains bring down quite a lot of rain.

What do the people do? Farm mostly. Dairy products, meat and wool are the main exports. New Zealand ranks second only to Australia as an exporter of wool. There are many factories there too, with hydro-electric stations to produce the power for them.

North Island is where you find the Maoris, the fine people who lived in these islands hundreds of years before the white man came. Most of them live near Auckland.

The Maoris, a Polynesian people, are the aborigines of New Zealand. After long stays in Indonesia and the South Pacific, which they explored for many years, they made their great journey to New Zealand about the middle of the 14th century. They sailed in double canoes open to all weathers. They knew the winds, the ocean currents and the stars, and this earned them the name of Vikings of the Sunrise.

The capital of New Zealand since 1865, and one of its busiest ports, Wellington is at southern end of North Island, lying among hills on the western side of a natural harbour.

It is the third largest city in New Zealand.

Auckland (the former capital) is the first largest city, and Christchurch is the second.

The Maori name for Wellington Harbour means the great bay of Tara. According to Maori legend, Tara was the first Polynesian settler in this place. But Nicholson (after a Royal Navy captain) was the name given to it by the first British settlers, and it is still sometimes called by this name.

In 1839 a British officer bought the site of Wellington from the Maoris; he got it in exchange for blankets and some other unimportant things. In 1840 the first settlers arrived and called their settlement Britannia. By 1842 there were 3.700 colonists in the settlement and Britannia had become Wellington.

The kiwi is rather an unusual bird found only in New Zealand. It has no tail, almost no wings, and its nostrils are situated near the end of its bill. No other bird lays an egg so large in proportion to its size. Its egg is about one fifth of its own weight. This is a tremendous size.

In many countries. New Zealander. too, are known as Kiwis, for the bird is also the symbol of people of the two islands.

Forests of exotic pines near the centre of New Zealand's North Island, cover an area of more than 160000 hectares. This is the largest single continuous area of planted forest in the world. New Zealand has more than four hundred thousand hectares of planted forests.

The most important wood is pine, which grows five times faster in New Zealand than in its native habitat in California, USA.

1. Поставить три вопроса к тексту на анг.яз.
2. Выписать из текста относящиеся к тематике «Новая Зеландия»