



# Economies and Cultures

## TERMS & NAMES

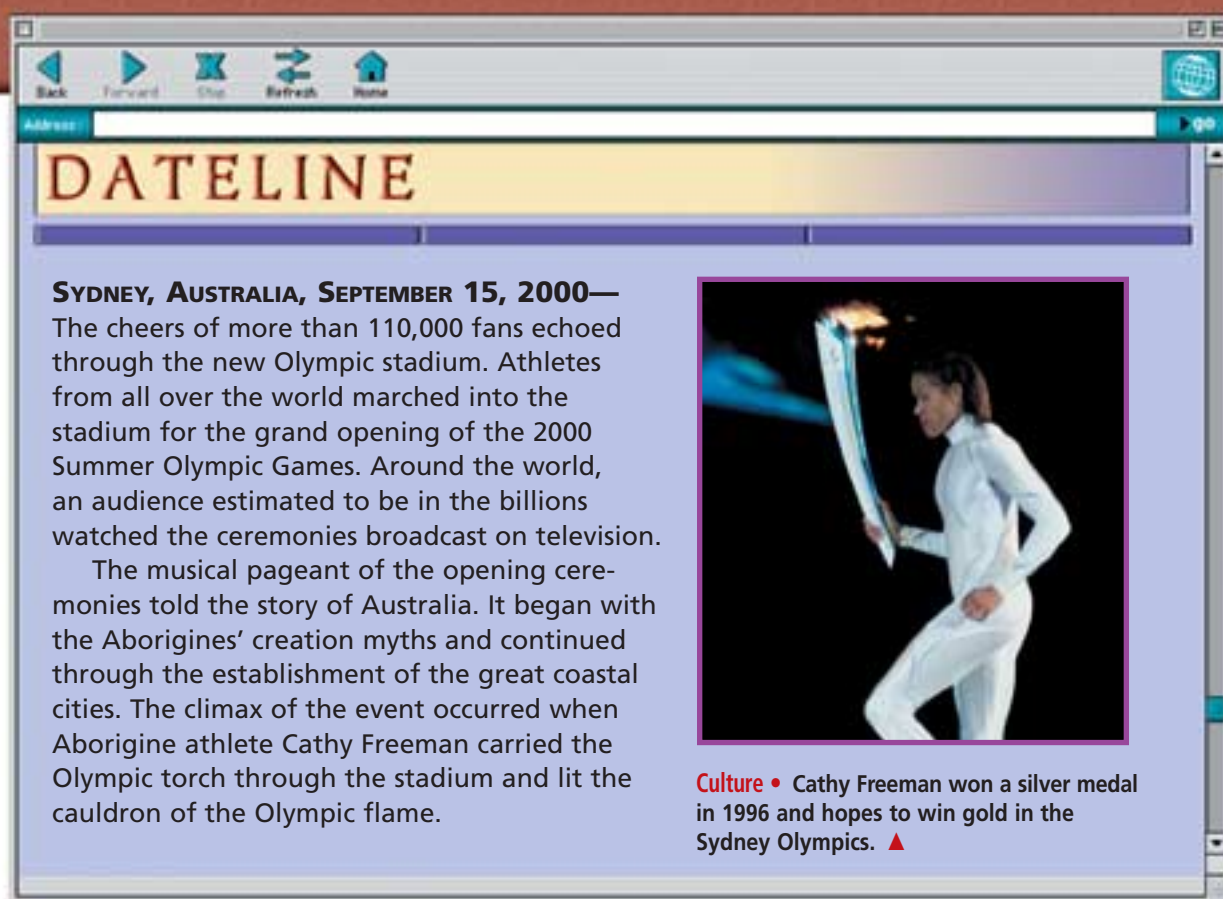
copra  
matrilineal society  
patrilineal society

### MAIN IDEA

There is great diversity among the economies and cultures of the nations of the Pacific.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Modern communication and transportation have brought this once isolated region into closer contact with the rest of the world.



## Resources and Economies

The economies of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands have various foundations. On the one hand, tourists travel to the region to enjoy its beaches, mountains, fjords, and unusual plant and animal life. Thousands also came to Australia for the 2000 Summer Olympic Games. On the other hand, agriculture is the traditional base of the region's economies. Australia and New Zealand still depend more on farming than do most other developed countries.



## Connections to Technology

**TV in Tuvalu** The Polynesian island nation Tuvalu (TOO•vuh•LOO) has poor soil and few natural resources. Its most valuable possession may be its Web address: “.tv.” Television organizations hoped to use those letters in their own Web addresses.

In 1998, Tuvalu sold the rights for “.tv” to a Canadian company. The government has since used the money from the sale to make life better for the people of Tuvalu.



**Pacific Island Economies** Most Pacific Islanders fish, grow their own food, and build their own homes. However, some commercial agriculture does exist on the islands. **Copra** (KOH•pruh)—dried coconut meat—and coconut oil are important agricultural exports. Tourism also contributes significantly to the economies of some Pacific Islands, such as Tahiti.

**Australia's Economy** Australia has a strong market economy and relatively free trade with other nations, especially Japan. Service industries—including health care, tourism, news media, and transportation—provide nearly three-fourths of the country's jobs.

Australia's strong economy also depends on mining and farming. Australia is the world's leading producer of bauxite, lead, and zinc. It has also developed vast fields of natural gas. Wheat is Australia's most important cash crop, and about 80 percent of the harvest is exported. Sugar cane is also an important cash crop.

**Trade** During colonial times, Australia and New Zealand mostly traded with Great Britain. Today, Australia's main trading partners are Japan and the United States, while New Zealand's main trading partner is Australia.

### Reading Social Studies

**A. Synthesizing**  
List some factors that might have allowed Australia to have a stronger economy than the Pacific Islands have.

## Products of Australia, 2001



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

- 1. Location** • Where is most of the uranium in Australia found?
- 2. Region** • Locate the sheep-ranching areas. What other products come from these areas?



Asian countries are also playing a bigger role in New Zealand's economy. In 1983, Australia and New Zealand signed a free-trade agreement to boost the trade between them.

## Cultures and Change

Despite their remote locations, the islands of the region have attracted immigrants from around the world. Modernization and tradition both play strong roles in the region.

**The Pacific Islands** Modernization has affected life in some of the Pacific Islands. For example, modernization has clearly changed modes of transportation. For short trips, villagers take canoes just as they always have. However, for longer trips, they outfit canoes with modern outboard motors or travel by ship or airplane.

Tradition continues to be strong, especially in art forms and family structures. For example, matrilineal societies are less common than patrilineal societies, but they are still found in parts of the Pacific Islands, such as Papua New Guinea. In **matrilineal societies**, ancestry is traced through the mother's side of the family. In **patrilineal societies**, ancestry is traced through the father's side.

### Reading Social Studies

**B. Hypothesizing**  
What else about Pacific Island life could modernization affect?

### Place •

In Papua New Guinea, people still perform traditional dances. ▼



## Biography



**Charlie Perkins** Charlie Perkins (shown above, center) grew up in Australia's outback near Alice Springs. Perkins was the first Aborigine in Australia to graduate from college. He also played professional soccer in England. However, he is best known for his struggle against discrimination.

In 1965, Perkins led "freedom rides" throughout Australia to teach people about equal rights for Aborigines. On these rides, he met with clubs and organizations to discuss discrimination. He also led activities such as taking Aborigine children swimming in pools where only white children were allowed to swim.

Perkins has been compared to Martin Luther King, Jr. When Perkins died in October 2000, Australia's prime minister said, "Charlie was a tireless fighter for the cause of his people."





**Australia and New Zealand** Australia has a diverse population. For example, people worship in mosques, churches, synagogues, and Buddhist temples. In the past 50 years, immigrants have come from many parts of the world, such as Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Some of them came from places where there was war or other danger. In a memoir, writer Barbara Marie Brewster described her pleasant surprise at Australia's diversity.

#### A VOICE FROM AUSTRALIA

As we drove home, I was struck by the extraordinary mixture Australia represented. Here were two Americans, a German, a Hungarian, and a Malay girl from Brunei, and we'd been talking with an Englishman who was a Buddhist monk in a monastery in Australia, founded and funded by Thais and run by an Italian abbot. I liked it.

*Barbara Marie Brewster*

In New Zealand, over half a million people are Maori. Most others are descendants of Scottish, English, Irish, and Welsh settlers. Many Asians also live in the cities, such as the capital, Wellington, and the largest city, Auckland.

## SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

### Terms & Names

1. Identify: (a) copra (b) matrilineal society (c) patrilineal society

### Taking Notes

2. Use a diagram like this one to organize the important economic activities of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands.

Economic Activities		
Australia	New Zealand	Pacific Islands

### Main Ideas

3. (a) How do the economies of the Pacific Islands and Australia benefit from the region's physical geography?  
 (b) How do Australia and New Zealand cooperate economically?  
 (c) What is the relationship between modernization and tradition in the Pacific Islands?

### Critical Thinking

#### 4. Drawing Conclusions

In what ways do you think Australia's ethnic diversity affects its culture and politics?

#### Think About

- the various ethnic groups in Australia and how long each has lived there
- how different ethnic groups contribute to diversity in other countries



Make up an **advertising slogan** to promote tourism in Australia, the Pacific Islands, or New Zealand.