

A photograph of Uluru, a large red sandstone rock formation in Australia. The rock is a vibrant red color and has a textured, layered appearance. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, dry grasses and some small, dark green shrubs. The sky is a clear, light blue.

Australia and Oceania

A W E B Q U E S T

Australia is part of larger region in the Pacific Ocean known as
Oceania.

Oceania also includes New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Find out more about the entire Oceania region [here](#).



Who are the people of Australia?

[Click here.](#)

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring red sand dunes with wavy patterns. Sparse, dry vegetation is scattered across the dunes. A semi-transparent dark oval is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

Who were the first Europeans to settle Australia?

Convicts!

Why were convicts sent to Australia? Read more [here](#).

Read on about the daily life of convicts in Australia [here](#).

During the 1960s, the Civil Rights Movement in the United States inspired indigenous and white Australian students to embark on their own Freedom Ride to bring attention to racial tensions in Australia.

[Click here for the story.](#)



The Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia is known for its tremendous biodiversity.

[Click.](#)



Some species are threatened, however. Australia is working to protect them.

[Click.](#)