The Impact of Location, Climate, & Natural Resources on Trade in Australia

Location

China is so close to Australia, its economic growth impacts Australia’s economic growth. Australia supplies many natural resources (minerals and metals) to China. Half of Australia’s Iron Ore goes to China. China provides Australia with affordable finished goods (cars, dishwashers, etc.). Chinese investors are buying into Australian mining companies. Because of Australia’s location, it is expensive for people to visit from other countries. Most visitors come from New Zealand, United States, England, and China. Because of its remote location, most Australians can not afford to leave the country for vacation. 75% of its $81 billion tourist industry occurs from Australians visiting other parts of Australia.

Climate

Summer in Australia is from December until March. Australia’s beaches are a popular tourist attraction during this time. Spring and fall find tourists going to the rural areas (the bush) and the outback. The weather is milder...
during this time and more comfortable for the tourists. Winters are usually mild, though there is snow in Australia in the mountain regions. Grain is grown heavily in the nondesert areas. The grains grown are wheat, barley, sorghum, and cereal rye. Australia also exports rice, chickpeas, lentils, and oilseeds (sesame seeds, canola, soybeans, and sunflowers). The cotton industry and cattle industry are growing in Australia.

**Natural Resources**

Most of the land in the outback is barren and not good for farming, however, there is an abundance of natural resources found there. The natural resources found in Australia include gold, silver, uranium, coal, copper, and iron ore. Australia is a huge exporter of coal and iron ore. Australia mines more bauxite, titanium, and diamonds than any other country. Australia also leads in reserves of lead, cadmium, or nickel. Nearly $400 billion worth of metals, minerals, and fuels have been exported in the past twenty years. Natural resources make up 1/3 of Australia’s economy. Natural resources are also important to trade
in Australia. A gold rush in the mid nineteenth century brought hundreds of thousands of people from England, Ireland, Germany, and China to Australia in hopes of finding wealth. The United States and China are very interested in the Uranium reserves in Australia for nuclear fuel.
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Guided Reading Questions

1) Which country do most visitors come from?
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2) Why did people flock to Australia in the nineteenth century?
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3) When is the best time to go to the beach in Sydney?
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4) Which nearby country is most important to Australia for trade?
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