Chapter 34: The Pacific World and Antarctica

Section 1: Australia

Section 2: New Zealand and the Pacific Islands

Section 3: Antarctica
• How did various migrations to Australia affect population and land use?
• Why is Australia’s population clustered in and around its major cities?
• How have European settlers changed Australia’s environment?
Chapter 34, Section 1

A History of Migration
The Aborigines migrated to Australia about 50 thousand years ago.

The first European settlers were British prisoners, many of whom stayed in Australia after their sentences were finished.

The Aborigines suffered great losses from European diseases and weapons.

After World War II, many immigrants came not just from Britain but also from other European countries and from Southeast Asia.
Chapter 34, Section 1

Patterns of Settlement

KEY
- Tropical wet
- Tropical wet and dry
- Semiarid
- Arid
- Mediterranean
- Humid subtropical
- Marine west coast
- Mercator Projection

AUSTRALIA
- Alice Springs
- Cairns
- Brisbane
- Sydney
- Canberra
- Adelaide
- Melbourne
- Hobart

PACIFIC OCEAN

INDIAN OCEAN

NEW ZEALAND
- Auckland
- Wellington
- Christchurch
Australia’s hot, dry climate affected the country’s settlement and land use patterns. The vast majority of Australians live in the Urban Rim in the southeast, and 90 percent of the population lives with 100 miles of the ocean. Australia’s population clusters around the seven state capitals and the national capital, Canberra. Sydney and Melbourne are Australia’s oldest and largest cities, competing for trade and commerce for most of their history.
Aborigines believe that humans were given responsibility for the earth, and they learned to survive in the harsh **outback** without destroying the fragile ecosystem.

The discovery of gold in the outback sparked a gold rush in 1851.

Today, Australia is a source of many minerals, including bauxite, oil, and natural gas.

Many gold seekers stayed to build farms and sheep ranches, and sheep and cattle stations account for most economic activity in the outback today.

In the northern regions, **artesian wells** provide water to cattle stations, and new breeds of cattle are making Australia one of the world’s leading producers of cattle.
Why did the first European settlers come to Australia?
   a) They were looking for land to farm.
   b) They were looking for gold.
   c) They were prisoners transported from Britain.
   d) They came in search of a milder climate.

What is the main economic activity in the outback?
   a) Mineral extraction
   b) Sheep and cattle herding
   c) Commercial farming
   d) Forestry

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• How has New Zealand’s European majority affected the minority Maori group’s way of life and sense of group identity and the economy of this region?

• What kinds of physical characteristics distinguish the two types of Pacific Islands—namely, the high islands and the low islands?
The Maori, the first people to come to New Zealand, lived by farming and fishing in fiercely territorial groups.

The Maori began to see themselves as a nation after European settlers arrived and are attempting to reclaim lands that were once theirs.

New Zealand’s national identity is rooted in both its British and Polynesian past.

Farming and cattle and sheep herding are important to the economy.

The majority of people live in cities along the coast, and three out of four New Zealanders live on North Island.
Chapter 34, Section 2

The Pacific Islands
Many Pacific Islands are high islands, the tops of underwater mountains, while others are low islands, ring-shaped atolls in which coral reefs surround an inner lagoon.

The islands are divided into three groups: Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia.

Farming, fishing, and tourism are the major economic activities of the islands.

After World War II, many islands were divided into trust territories, and most were granted independence in the 1960s and 1970s.
How did European settlement affect Maori culture?
   a) The Maori were exterminated.
   b) The Maori fragmented into a number of competing groups.
   c) The Maori were forced to flee New Zealand.
   d) The Maori came to see themselves as a nation.

What are high islands?
   a) underwater mountains that break the surface of the ocean
   b) offshore pieces of continental crust
   c) rings of coral reefs with inner lagoons
   d) large sand bars
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• How do the climate and ice-covered terrain of the continent of Antarctica affect wildlife habitation and human exploration?

• Why do many scientists consider Antarctica to be a land of valuable natural resources?
Chapter 34, Section 3

The Frozen Continent

- Covered in ice, Antarctica is the only major landmass on the earth without permanent human settlements, and few plants and animals can survive the frigid conditions.
- Thick ice sheets reflect sunlight rather than absorbing heat, making temperatures frigid, and the climate is also very dry.
- Moister and warmer conditions near the coasts and mountains permit glaciers to flow.
- In several places, thick ice shelves extend out into the ocean, and large blocks often break off into the ocean as icebergs.
- Pack ice, a mix of icebergs and other ice, fringes most of Antarctica.
- In the convergence zone, nutrient-rich deep waters rise and feed krill, which provide food for fish and whales.
Because of its remote location and harsh climate, Antarctica was the last continent to be discovered and explored.

Through the first half of the twentieth century, various nations claimed parts of Antarctica out of national pride or to keep other countries from claiming the continent.

Antarctica has coal and other mineral resources, but it would cost too much to exploit them.

Scientific information is considered Antarctica’s most valuable resource, and the Antarctic Treaty provides for the peaceful use of the continent and the sharing of scientific research.
Section 3 Review

How do the Antarctic ice sheets affect the climate?
   a) The ice keeps the temperature above freezing.
   b) The thick ice raises the surface to warmer elevations.
   c) The ice makes the air very moist.
   d) The ice reflects heat from the sun, making Antarctica very cold.

Which resource is considered the most valuable in Antarctica?
   a) gold
   b) oil
   c) scientific information
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