



# AUSTRALIA

Examining the components of Australia's flag



## GRADE 7

### KEY WORDS

- Southern Cross
- Southern Hemisphere
- commonwealth star

### STANDARD

- SS.7.3.12

### OBJECTIVE

- Students will learn about Australia's unique cultural and geographic features.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- In the upper left corner of the flag, the Union Jack symbolizes Australia's historical ties with Britain (Australia used to be a colony of Britain).
- The seven-pointed star on the flag represents the seven states and territories in Australia.
- The Southern Cross is a group of five bright stars that can only be seen in the Southern Hemisphere and is referred to in Aboriginal legends.
- Because Australia lies in the Southern Hemisphere, seasons are the reverse of those in the Northern Hemisphere. Summer is from December to February; autumn is from March to May; winter is from June to August; and spring is from September to November.

### PROCEDURE

- Have students answer the questions with the help of the provided background information.

### RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Ensure that the students' answers are correct.

### EXTENSIONS

- Have students research other aspects of Australia and present their findings to the class.





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Answer the questions on this worksheet with help from your teacher.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



The red and white British flag appears in the upper left hand corner of the Australian flag. Under the miniature British flag is the seven-pointed Commonwealth Star, representing the seven states and territories of Australia. The five white stars on the blue field represent the constellation of the Southern Cross.

Color the flag and then answer these questions:

1. Why does Australia have a small British flag on its country's flag?
2. Why is the constellation of the Southern Cross important to Australians?
3. Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere, so their seasons are the opposite of ours. List the months when these seasons occur in Australia.

