

UNIT
10

The Pacific World



*Green turtle,
Great Barrier Reef*

Chapter **31** *Australia and New Zealand*

Chapter **32** *The Pacific Islands*

CONNECTING TO *Literature*

A SECRET COUNTRY *by John Pilger*



John Pilger

(1939–) was born and educated in Sydney, Australia. Pilger is a journalist, filmmaker, and playwright. In this selection from his book *A Secret Country*, Pilger describes the beach in the Bondi neighborhood of Sydney, where he grew up. His reflections provide valuable insights into the human geography of his homeland.

By December, when the king tides have arrived from across the south Pacific, the salt spray blows up from the beach. It stiffens the air, covers windows with a stocky mist, corrodes paint on cars and mortar between bricks, and tastes like Bondi and summer. . . .



In Bondi, even the crankiest streets have a glimpse of the Pacific, if not of the beach itself. Whatever the state of life in the streets, the great sheet of dazzling blue-green is always there, framed between chimneys and dunnies [outhouses]. On weekdays my friend Pete and I would 'scale' a Bondi Beach tram if we spotted an old 'jumping jack' type, which had a peculiarly high suspension and could be bounced off the rails by a swarm of eleven-year-olds synchronising their efforts. And of course Len's [the tram conductor] apoplexy [great anger] was part of the fun. . . .

All principal beaches in Australia are public places. This is not so in the United States and Europe, where the private possession of land and sea is rightly regarded by visiting Australians as a seriously uncivilised practice. Although private property is revered by many Australians, there are no proprietorial [ownership] rights on an Australian beach. Instead, there is a shared assumption of tolerance for each other, and a spirit of equality which begins at the promenade steps. . . .

Australia, a society with a deeply racist past, has absorbed dozens of diverse cultures peacefully. The beach and the way of life it represents are central to this. A spectacle at Bondi in the 1950s . . . was the arrival on the beach of the first post-war immigrants. . . .

Bolting lemming-like into a deceptively light surf, they would be duly rescued by lifesavers with a large trawling net. The ritual was repeated as each national group arrived. . . .

For most Australians, who live in congested coastal cities, the foreshore, the beach, is the one link with our ancient continent. . . . We see and understand little beyond the last of the urban red-tiled roofs, but many of us understand well the rhythm of water on sand, of wind on current. A Bondi child will know the feel of a westerly, a nor'easterly and a 'southerly buster.' There is a grace about this life.

Analyzing the Primary Source

- 1. Comparing** How do beaches in Australia differ from beaches in the United States?
- 2. Analyzing Information** According to Pilger, how have Australia's beaches shaped the country's society?

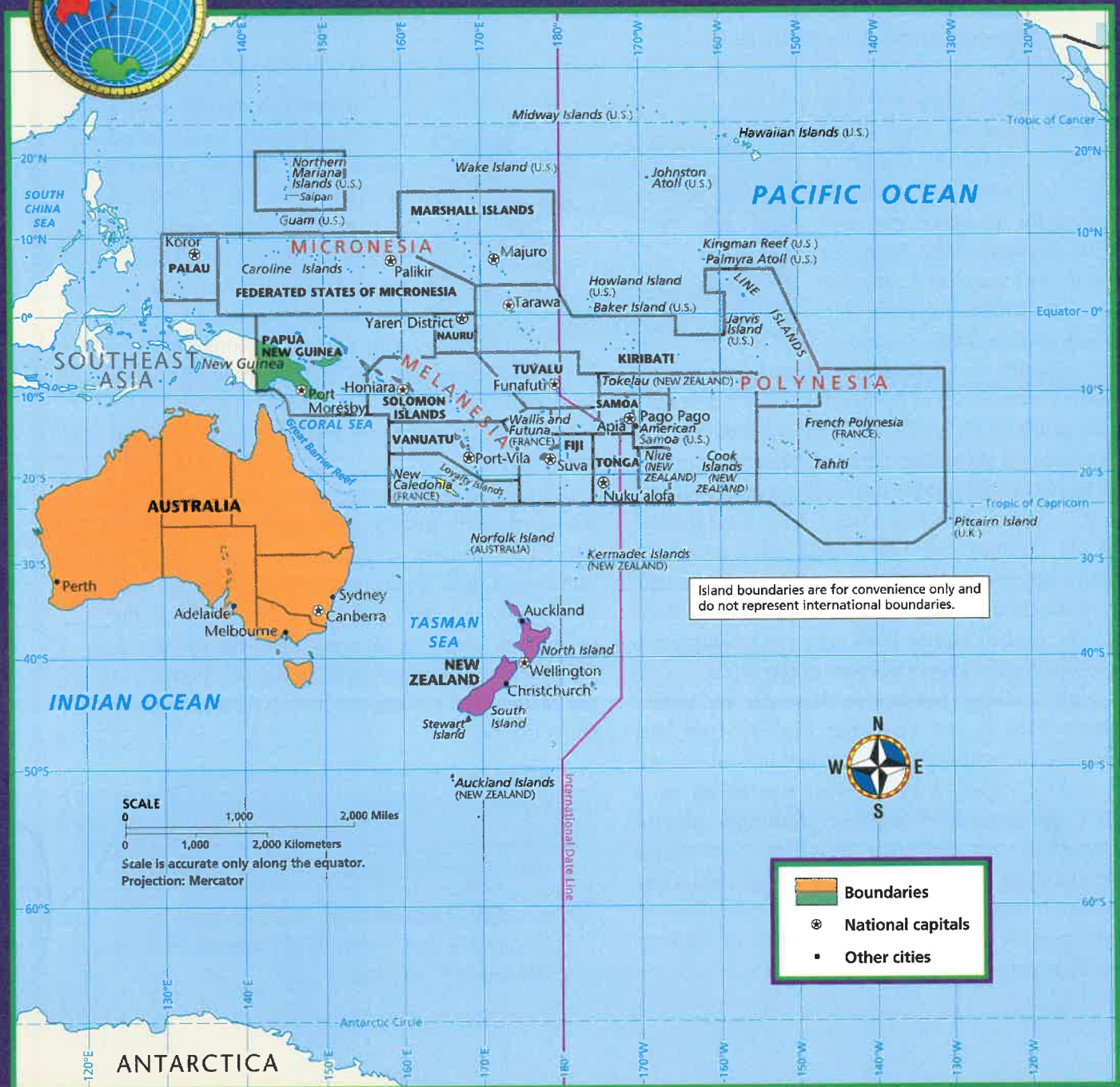
The World in Spatial Terms

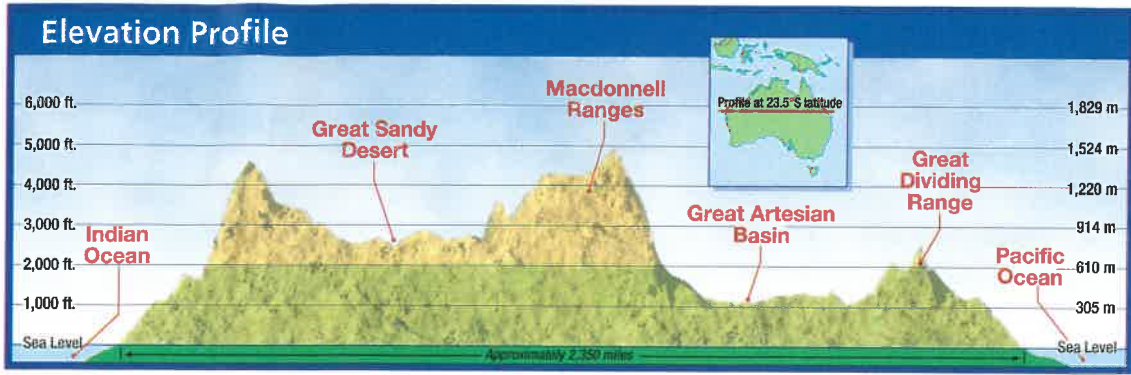
The Pacific World: Political

- Places and Regions** Which of the region's capital cities is located farthest south?
- Human Systems** Which outside countries control islands in the Pacific region?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** Based on information on the map, which country would you expect to have the largest economy? Why?

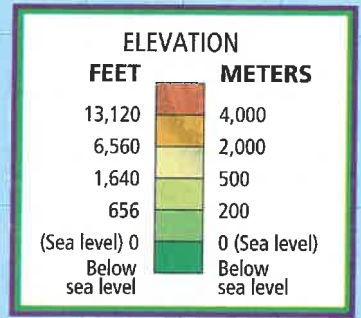




The Pacific World: Physical



Island boundaries are for convenience only and do not represent international boundaries.

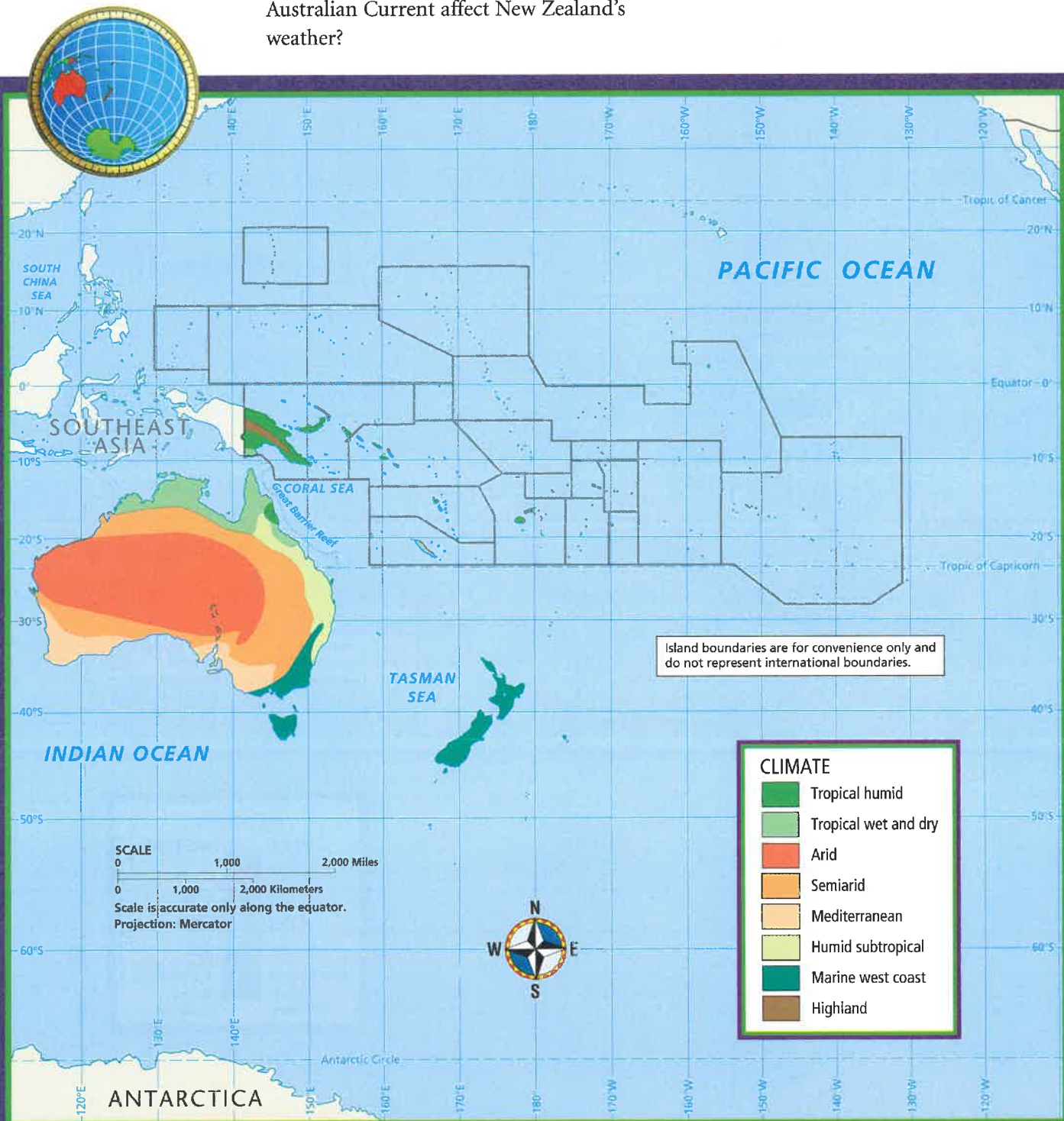


The Pacific World: Climate

- Physical Systems** Compare this map to the political map. Which two climates cover most of Australia?
- Physical Systems** Compare this map to the physical map. How might the East Australian Current affect New Zealand's weather?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** Based on information on the map, where would you expect most people in Australia to live?

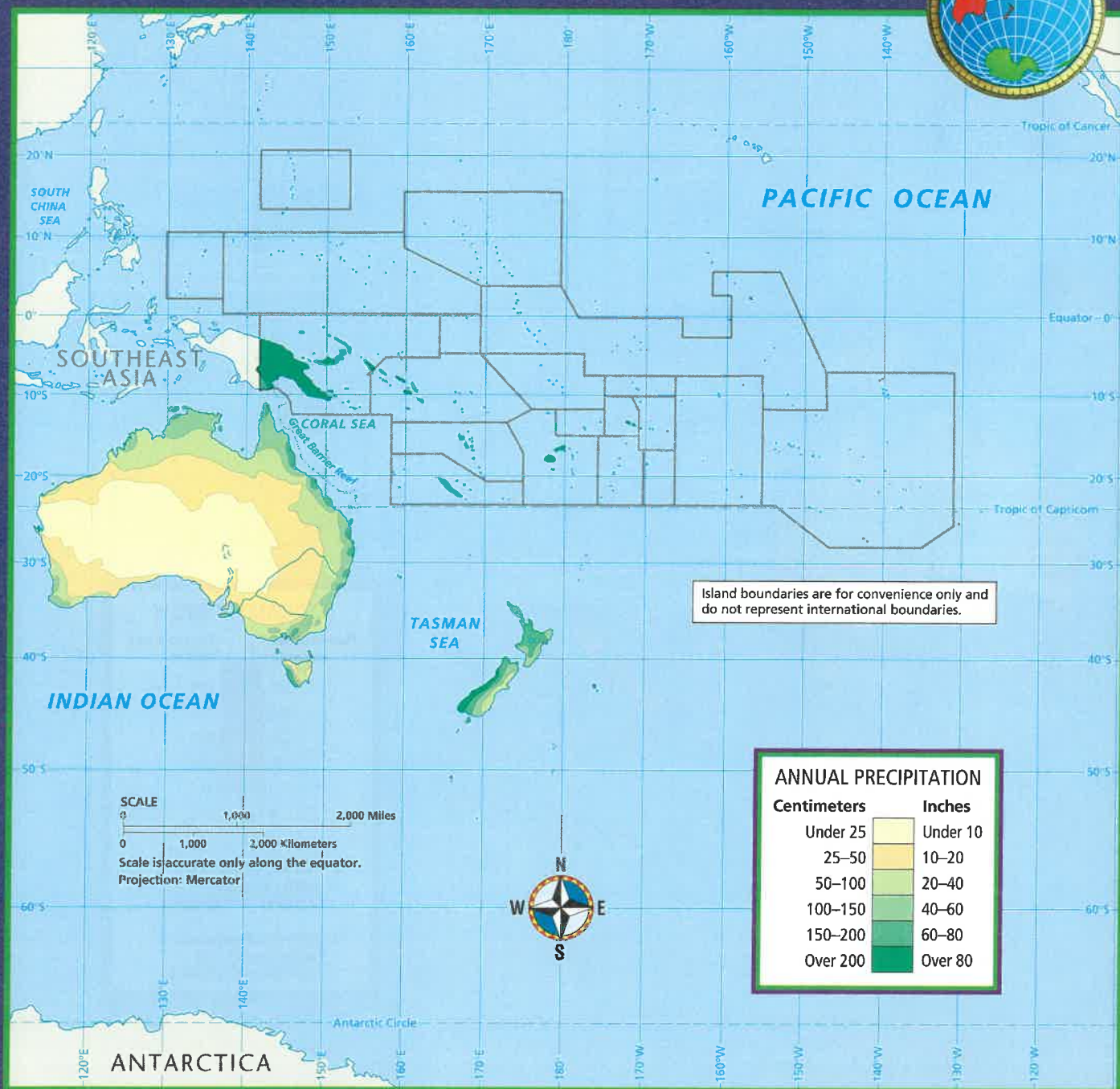
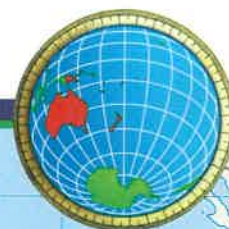


The Pacific World: Precipitation

- Physical Systems** Compare this map to the political map. Which part of Australia receives the most precipitation?
- Places and Regions** Compare this map to the political and physical maps. How do the Southern Alps affect the distribution of precipitation in New Zealand?

Critical Thinking

- Making Generalizations** Compare this map to the political map. How do you think latitude affects the amount of precipitation in central Australia?



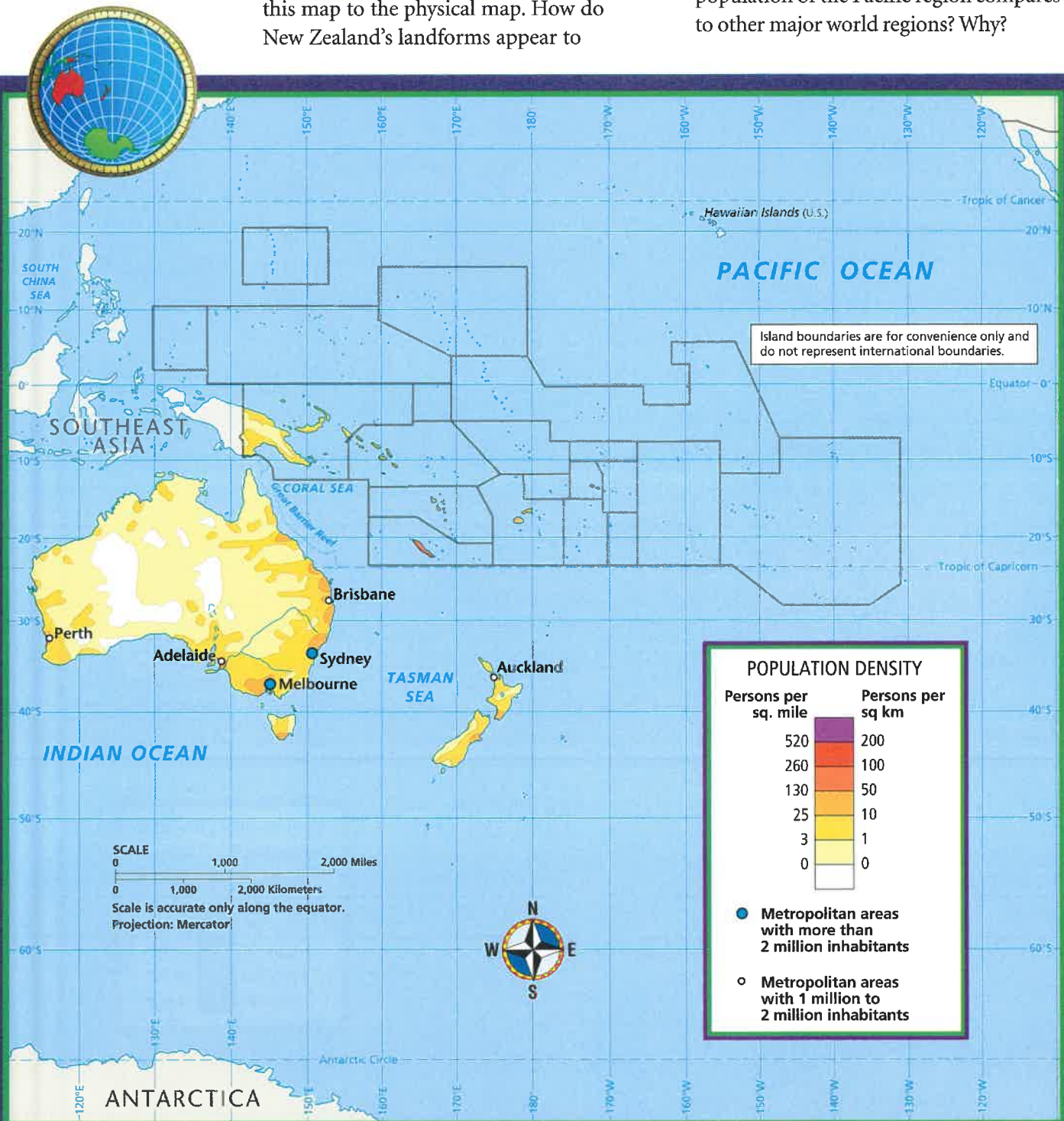
The Pacific World: Population

- 1. Places and Regions** Compare this map to the political map. Which part of Australia has the highest population density?
- 2. Environment and Society** Compare this map to the physical map. How do New Zealand's landforms appear to

influence the distribution of its population?

Critical Thinking

- 3. Comparing** How do you think the total population of the Pacific region compares to other major world regions? Why?

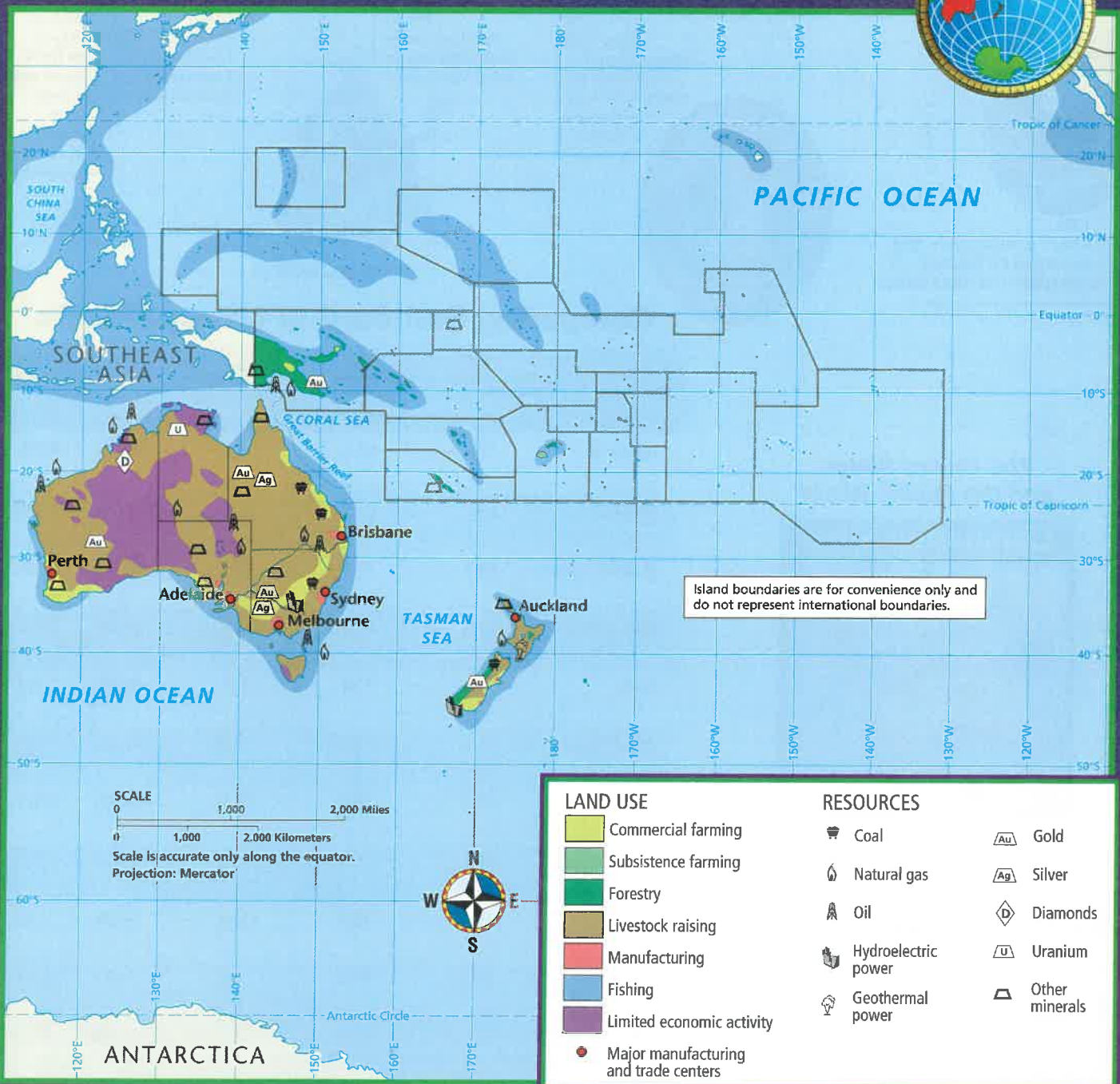


The Pacific World: Land Use and Resources Map

- Places and Regions** Compare this map to the political map. Which natural resources are found in New Zealand?
- Places and Regions** Which resources are found in western Australia?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** Compare this map to the political map. How do you think the location of resources in interior Australia has affected the movement of products, capital, and people?



Time Line: The Pacific World



1642
Dutch explorer Abel Tasman becomes the first European to reach New Zealand.

1788
Britain establishes its first prison colony in Australia.

1851
Gold is discovered in Australia.



1967
Aborigines become legal citizens of Australia.

1000

1600

1700

1800

1900



c. 1000
The Maori come to New Zealand by canoe from the Polynesian islands northeast of New Zealand.



1770
James Cook explores Australia's east coast and claims it for Great Britain as New South Wales.

1845–72
The Maori and the British fight for control of New Zealand.



1901
Australia becomes independent.

1941–45
Some of the Pacific Islands serve as major battle-grounds in World War II.

Comparing Standard of Living—Pacific

COUNTRY	LIFE EXPECTANCY MALE (at birth, 2006)	LIFE EXPECTANCY FEMALE (at birth, 2006)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 births)	LITERACY RATE	DAILY CALORIC INTAKE
Australia	77.6	83.5	4.6	99.0%	3,135
Kiribati	59.1	65.2	47.3	NA	2,846
Marshall Islands	68.3	72.4	28.4	93.7%	NA
New Zealand	75.8	81.9	5.8	99.0%	3,199
Palau	67.3	73.8	14.5	92.0%	NA
Papua New Guinea	63.1	67.6	50.0	64.6%	NA
Samoa	68.2	73.9	26.9	99.7%	2,921
Solomon Islands	70.4	75.5	20.6	NA	2,260
Tonga	67.3	72.5	12.3	98.9%	NA
Vanuatu	61.3	64.4	53.8	74.0%	2,604
United States	75.0	80.8	6.4	99.0%	3,754

The United States and the Pacific World

Comparing Sizes



internet connect



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KEYWORD: SW3 Almanac

FOR: Additional information and reference sources

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *CIA World Factbook*, Food and Agriculture Organization

Fast Facts: The Pacific World



FLAG	COUNTRY Capital	POPULATION	POPULATION DENSITY (per sq. mi.)	AREA	PER CAPITA GDP (in US \$)	ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION (kilowatt hours per person)	TELEPHONE LINES (per 100 people)
	Australia Canberra	20,264,082	7.0	2,967,907 sq. mi. 7,686,844 sq km	\$ 32,000	9,902.01	58.6
	Fiji Suva	905,949	128.5	7,054 sq. mi. 18,270 sq km	\$ 6,100	796.33	12.4
	Kiribati Tarawa	105,432	380.7	313 sq. mi. 811 sq km	\$ 800	105.85	5.1
	Marshall Islands Majuro	60,422	864.5	70 sq. mi. 181.3 sq km	\$ 1,600	NA	8.3
	Micronesia, Fed. States of Palikir	108,004	398.6	271 sq. mi. 702 sq km	\$ 2,000	NA	10.8
	Nauru Yaren District	13,287	1,638.7	8 sq. mi. 21 sq km	\$ 5,000	1,505.2	NA
	New Zealand Wellington	4,076,140	39.4	103,738 sq. mi. 268,680 sq km	\$ 24,200	9,084.6	46.1
	Palau Koror	20,579	116.3	177 sq. mi. 458 sq km	\$ 9,000	NA	NA
	Papua New Guinea Port Moresby	5,670,544	32.6	178,703 sq. mi. 462,839 sq km	\$ 2,400	261.0	1.1
	Samoa Apia	176,908	160.8	1,137 sq. mi. 2,945 sq km	\$ 5,600	621.8	7.3
	Solomon Islands Honiara	552,438	52.1	10,985 sq. mi. 28,451 sq km	\$ 1,700	92.59	1.3
	Tonga Nuku'alofa	114,689	414.4	289 sq. mi. 749 sq km	\$ 2,300	261.6	11.3
	Tuvalu Funafuti	11,810	1,176.4	10 sq. mi. 26 sq km	\$ 1,100	NA	NA
	Vanuatu Port-Vila	208,869	36.8	4,710 sq. mi. 12,199 sq km	\$ 42,000	191.5	3.2
	United States Washington, D.C.	298,444,215	84.4	3,717,810 sq. mi. 9,629,084 sq km	\$ 42,000	12,252.0	60.6

Sources: Population: Census Bureau Per Capita GDP: *CIA Fact book*; Electricity: Energy Information Admin.; Telephones: Int'l Telecommunication Union