Notes: Australia & Oceania’s Geography

LG: Describe the geography of Australia and Oceania.
1. Australia: **Great Dividing Range**

A. Chain of hills and mountains that extends along the east coast.

B. One of the few places with a higher elevation on the continent
C. Most of Australia’s rivers begin in this range, creating fertile lands around them.
D. The range extends 2175 miles.
2. Australia: **Western Plateau**

A. Known as the “**Outback**” (not steak house 😊)

B. This is a flatland in central and western Australia.
C. There are 3 deserts in this region: Great Sandy, Great Victoria, and Gibson deserts
D. Very few people live here, but you do find large cattle ranches.
3. Australia: **Central Lowlands**

A. Found between Great Dividing Range and Western Plateau.

B. Much of Australia’s farming is done here due to the Murray and Darling Rivers

C. There is also a lot of underground water here at the Great Artesian Basin
4. **Great Barrier Reef**

   A. Located along Australia’s northeast coast.

   B. This is the world’s largest coral reef. It extends over 1200 miles.
5. New Zealand

A. Located southeast of Australia.

B. Has two main islands- the North and South Islands.

1. The south island is the larger, making up 90% of the land
C. North Island - has the central plateau with volcanoes and hot springs.

D. South Island - has the Southern Alps mountains and lakes that were created by glaciers.
6. Oceania

A. Made up of 3 groups of islands: Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia

B. All have a tropical wet climate
C. The **high islands** were formed by volcanoes
D. **Continental Islands**- formed from the ocean floor rising. Most of the regions **mineral resources** are found here.
The low islands - formed by coral build up on underwater volcanoes.