**Приложение № 6.**

**Fact File**

Official name: the Commonwealth of Australia. Other names: Kangarooland, Down Under. Area: 7.7 mln sq km. Dates from history:

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| 40000 years ago | the Aborigines arrived in Australia from Asia |
| 1606 | the first Europeans (the Spanish) visited Australia |
| 1616 | the Dutch came and called it New Holland |
| 1699 | the first Englishman, William Dampier (a pirate), visited the continent |
| 1770 | the expedition of James Cook landed at Botany Bay and claimed New South Wales a British colony |
| 1788 (January 26) | the First Fleet arrived and Captain Arthur Phillip founded the first English colony at Sydney Cove |
| 1851 | gold was discovered |
| 1901 | the separate colonies united and became the Commonwealth of Australia, a federation of 6 states |
| 1913 | the construction of Canberra, the capital city, began. |

Population: 18 mln people from almost 200 countries (1,5 % of them - the Aborigines)

Head of state: the Monarch of Great Britain represented by Governor-General

Status: constitutional monarchy

Parliament: the House of Representatives and the Senate; sits in Canberra.

Australian national flag: the Union Jack, 5 stars of the Southern Cross and the Federal Star

Coat-of-arms: kangaroo, emu and a twig of wattle.

National anthem: "Advance, Australia Fair", "Waltzing Matilda" (unofficial)

National colours: green and gold

Language: English

Climate: from tropical in the north to cool temperate in the s-e; the driest continent with much

sunshine

States/Territories and their capitals:

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| NSW (New South Wales) | Sydney |
| QLD (Queensland) | Brisbane |
| SA (South Australia) | Adelaide |
| Tas (Tasmania) | Hobart |
| Vic (Victoria) | Melbourne |
| WA (Western Australia) | Perth |
| ACT (Australian Capital Territory) | Canberra |
| NT (Northern Territory) | Darwin |

Flora and fauna: 700 species of wattle (acacia), 1200 species eucalypti (gum) trees, palms, ferns, vines, oaks, cedar, pine, varied wild flowers (red and green kangaroo paws).

Marsupials (kangaroo, koala, Tasmanian devil, wombats), dingo, egg-laying mammals: platypus and echidna, crocodiles, rabbits, sheep.

Emu, lyrebird, kookaburra, cockatoos, parrots.

Celebrations and holidays:

January 1: New Year's Day

January 26: Australia Day, the birthday of the nation

April: Easter

April 25: Anzac Day (honours the soldiers who died in WWI)

December 25-26: Christmas Day, Boxing Day.