

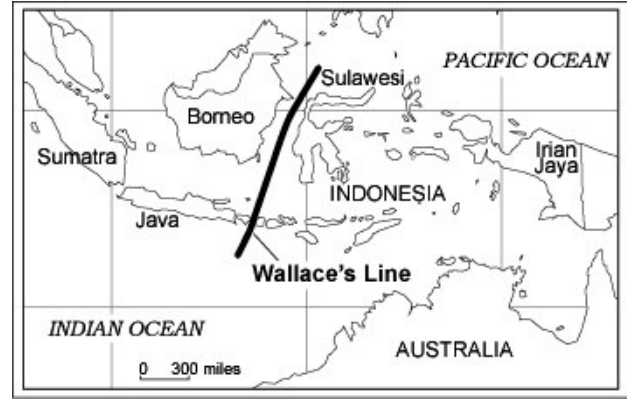
## Where Did The Immigrants Come From? Graphing Migration to Australia

### Reading

#### Background

Australia is a land of immigrants. Animals could walk on dry land from Asia to Australia during times of low sea level in the past. Human beings took the same route and arrived in Australia long before they crossed the Bering Strait from Asia to the Americas.

When sea level rose, however, the land between the islands was under water. Migration from other regions slowed to a trickle, and Australia began to develop its own unique mix of plants, animals, and human cultures.



On the Australian side of Wallace's Line, forests became dominated by trees like the Eucalyptus, which were unknown in other parts of the world until people began to travel across the oceans. Animals also developed independently, with marsupials like the Kangaroo becoming the most important large animals (a marsupial is an animal that carries its young inside a pouch of skin for the first months or even years of their lives).

Like the plants and animals, the original human cultures of Australia developed with few influences from other parts of the world. The Polynesian people on the islands to the north were expert navigators, but there is little evidence that they sailed to mainland Australia. The native languages of Australia have few words in common with other languages in Asia or elsewhere in the world. By contrast, many of the languages of Europe, North Africa, or East Asia are quite similar to their neighbors. For example, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian are distinct languages, but they have similar sounds, share the same alphabet, and often borrow words from each other. Likewise, Japanese and Chinese are distinct languages, but Japanese people used Chinese characters in their writing.

In the early 1400s, Chinese fleets under Admiral Zheng Ho had as many as 60 large ships and traveled to many parts of South Asia and East Africa. Some of those ships probably reached the coast of Australia, but those explorers were looking for treasures to take back to China, and they spent most of their time in places like Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Arabia.

British sailors "discovered" Australia more than 300 years later, but their goal was to find colonies to settle. Some of the first colonies in Australia were basically prisons: mining and tree-cutting camps where the workers were prisoners from England. Later, English and Irish people moved to Australia to make farms and towns, like the ones they started in East Africa and North America. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, immigration laws were changed, and people began to move to Australia from India, Vietnam, and other parts of Asia.

To investigate the changes in migration patterns that have occurred as a result of these changes in laws, you will make graphs of immigration through time.

## **Push Factors**

People move for a variety of reasons. Forces or events that make people want to move away from a place are termed "pushes." For example, a crop failure or a disease might persuade some people to move. Others migrate to escape religious persecution. Many leave because they do not want to work for a landlord any more. Others choose to move rather than get drafted into an army.

## **Pull Factors**

Migrants could choose to move to many different destinations, but something (good land, jobs, relatives, easy access by ocean or land transportation) usually attracts them to one particular place rather than another. Such reasons for choosing a specific destination are termed "pulls."

Migrations to Australia up to about 1970 are collectively referred to as the Old Migration. The annual flow of migrants was small until the mid-1800s, when large numbers of people from northern and western Europe began moving to both Australia and the United States.

America had another major "wave" of immigrants in the late 1800s. This consisted of people from eastern and southern Europe, who were recruited to work in factories and mines. This migration was not very important in Australia, because the country was far from international markets, and people did not build many factories there. Migration to both countries declined sharply during the Depression of the 1930s and World War II.

The next wave of migration came in the late 1900s. Some people sought refuge from wars in Southeast Asia. Others left to get away from repressive governments. Many came just to work; these people send money home to help support relatives left behind, and they plan to return to their home country when they have earned enough money.

It is not always easy to identify the particular pushes and pulls that cause a particular group of people to migrate at a particular time. The first step is to identify the major "pulses" or "waves" of migration – the years when especially large numbers of people moved from a particular source region. One strategy for doing this is to make a time-graph of migration from various world regions. You can get data from the United Nations Demographic Yearbooks, country almanacs, and various web sites. The Data Sheet below lists the migrants to Australia from two major source areas.

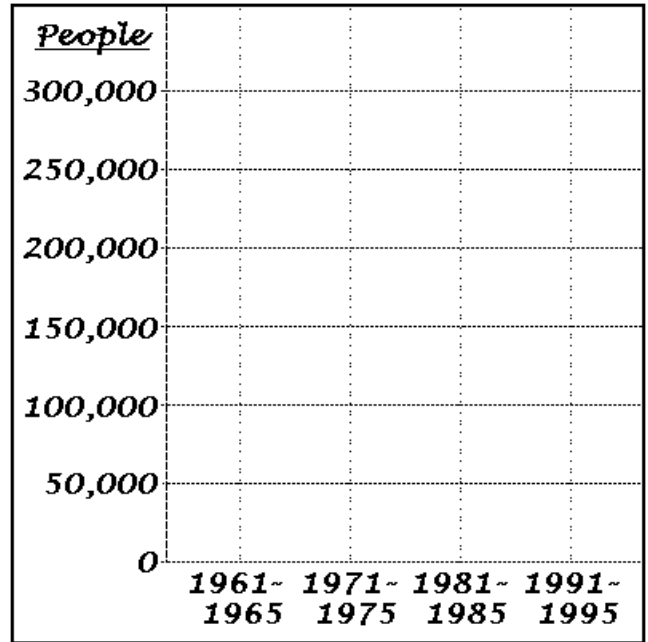
## **Data Table – Origins of Migrants to Australia**

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Origin of Immigrants</b>	
	<b>UK &amp; Ireland</b>	<b>Asia</b>
1961-65	267,300	0
1971-75	227,200	<1000
1981-85	116,800	62,600
1991-95	59,400	113,800

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Activity

**Situation**

You are a Census analyst who has been asked to brief some politicians about ethnic groups in Australia (definition: an ethnic group consists of people who think of themselves as belonging to the group and share a number of features, such as family origin, language, home country, or religion). Many Americans and Australians think of themselves simply as Americans or Australians. But in 1980, when the United States Census Bureau asked people to list their heritage, more than 70% of the population (almost 165 million people) declared an ethnic identity other than American. Likewise, more and more Australians are claiming “roots” that reach back into another world region. This raises several questions: Where did these people come from? When did they migrate from their homelands? Why? Where did they go in Australia?



**Procedure**

Using the grid above, graph immigration from the UK and Ireland, as well as Asia, using the data table on the previous page. Plot each set of data in a different color or pattern, clearly labeling them. Then answer the questions on the next page.

## Questions

1a) What were the major time periods of migration and their corresponding source regions? How have the sources and rates changed over time? Is this similar to the immigration history of the United States?

1b) Why might this be? What was happening in those countries and the rest of the world during each time period that might explain this pattern? What were their “push factors”?

1c) Why did the immigrants choose the countries they did? What were their “pull factors”?

2a) What “push factors” would motivate you to leave your home and everything you know?

2b) How would you choose a new country? What “pull factors” would influence your decision?