

## Exploring Christmas Island

**WebQuest Description:** In this WebQuest, you will find out basic information about the geography, history, environment and culture of Christmas Island.

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** Oceania, Australia, Island, Travel, Geography, Social Studies, Christmas

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### Introduction

Winter Break is a great time of year to go on vacation! How would you like to take a trip to Christmas Island? It might sound cold, but before you decide if you want to visit, you need to find out some basic information. Where and what is Christmas Island?

### Tasks

Your job is to investigate Christmas Island and decide if it would be a good place to go on vacation. You will: 1. Explore several websites to gather some basic information on Christmas Island. 2. Answer questions using the information you find on the websites. 3. Decide if you want to visit Christmas Island or not. 4. Use the information you found to write a paragraph explaining whether or not you want to visit Christmas Island or not.

### Process

You will want to use these websites to find the answers to the questions below. Be sure to write down your answers, because you will use them to write up your explanation of why and why you want to visit Christmas Island: The World Factbook Australian Government - Check out the sections on Environment & Heritage, Traveller Information, Christmas Island GIS Map, and Photo Gallery Island Life - Check out the Map, In Brief, Inhabitants and Gallery sections.

- Where is Christmas Island?
- What is the climate like on Christmas Island?
- How much of the island is National Park?
- Is Christmas Island its own country? If not, what country is it a part of?
- What ethnic and religious groups live on Christmas Island?
- Will communicating with the people that live on Christmas Island be a challenge for you?
- How did Christmas Island get its name?
- What types of flora and fauna are found on Christmas Island?
- What are some recreational activities you might like to do on Christmas Island while on vacation? Please type up one or two paragraphs under the "Reviews" tab explaining if you want to visit Christmas Island and why. Make sure you use the information you gathered from the websites in answering the above questions to form your response.

### Evaluation

Category and Score	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Very Good 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Questions answered	Zero, one or two questions are answered.	Three or four questions are answered.	Five or six questions are answered.	Seven, eight or all questions are answered.	%25
Opinion and support	No clear opinion on visiting is stated.	An opinion on visiting is stated, but little or no supporting evidence is provided.	An opinion on visiting is stated and most of the evidence given supports it.	An opinion is given and all evidence clearly supports it.	%25
Organization	Information provided shows little or no organization.	Information is provided in a paragraph with complete sentences, but does not appear logically organized.	Most information is logically organized, but some information seems unconnected or out of place.	All information is presented clearly and logically.	%25
Mechanics	Five or more grammatical errors are present.	Three or four grammatical errors are present.	One or two grammatical errors are present.	All grammar is correct.	%25
				Total Score	%100

## Conclusion

Hopefully everyone is an expert on Christmas Island at this point in time. The internet is a great source of information on places. The maps and pictures available online can deepen your understanding of vacation destinations around the world.

## Teacher Page

I have a lesson plan to accompany this webquest. If you would like me to email it to you as a Microsoft Word document, please email me at [leah.larson@richfield.k12.mn.us](mailto:leah.larson@richfield.k12.mn.us)

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**