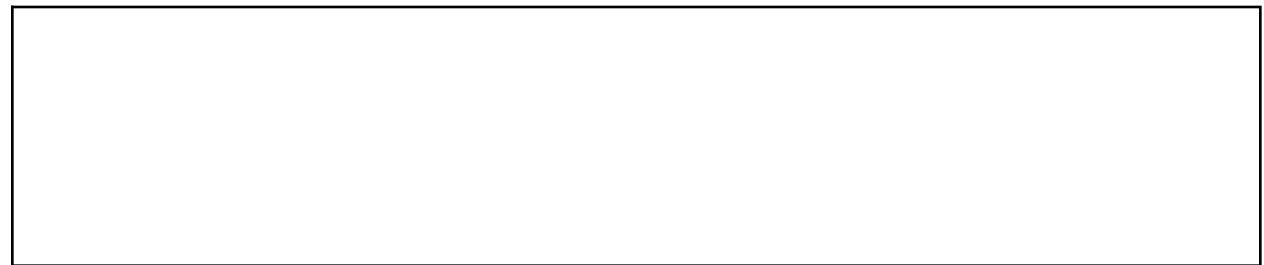


# Expert Group: Melbourne, Australia

## Location

Melbourne is a city in southeastern Australia. Melbourne is in the Australian state of **Victoria**. English is the primary language in Australia. The Aboriginal people of Australia have a culture that stretches back more than 60,000 years. Australia is the largest island in the world.



## Culture

People wear shorts, t-shirts and hats during the summer months, and tracksuits and sweaters during the winter months. Australian Aboriginals sometimes eat food caught in the countryside, or "**bush**." This is called "**bush tucker**" and includes lizards and kangaroos. People use the **Australian dollar** to buy things. The most popular sport in Australia is **rugby**. The **didgeridoo** is a traditional Aboriginal instrument that many people learn how to play.



## **Beliefs & Values**

There are many religions in Australia, but the main one is **Christianity**. **Australia Day** is on January 26 when people celebrate the establishment of the country. The people of Australia value tolerance, sincerity, and being principled. Most kids go to school every day, from 9:00am - 3:30pm. School runs from January through December, and summer vacation is during December and January.

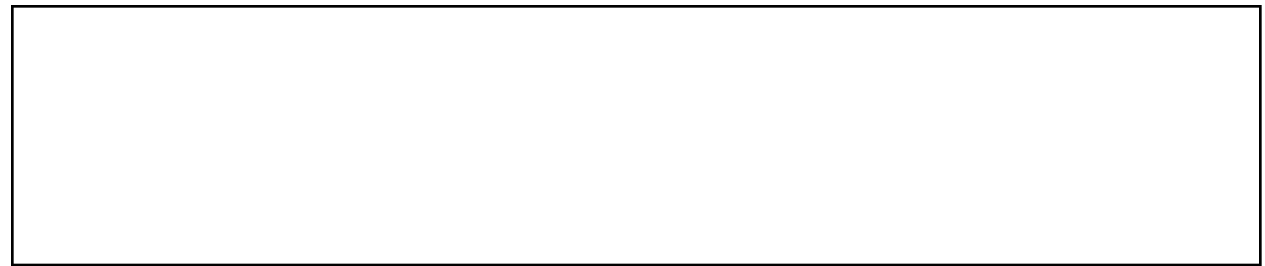
## **Relationships**

Australians place a high value on relationships. It is a small country and you never know when you may see someone again. Greetings are casual and relaxed and people say hello by saying "**G'day Mate!**" People often take care of each other's children, treating them like members of their own family, and the children call each other "cousins."

## Expert Group: Botswana, Africa

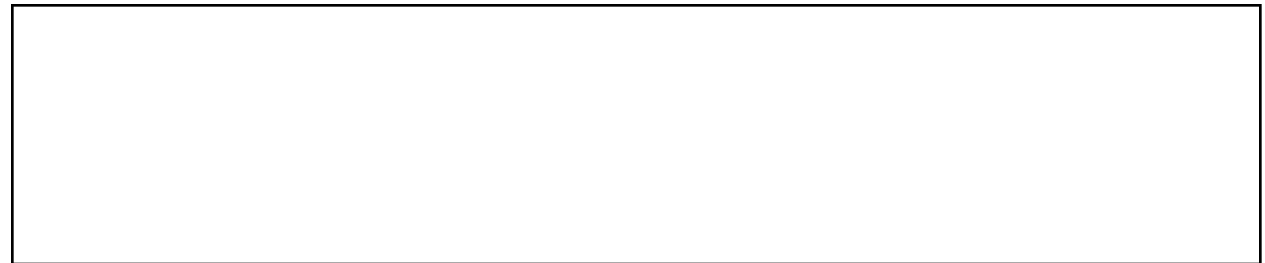
### Location

Botswana is a country in Africa. **English** is the official language of Botswana. The **Setswana** language, also known as **Tswana**, is spoken widely in Botswana and other parts of Southern Africa. There are 1.2 billion people living in the 54 countries that make up Africa. Africa is enormous. It is the second-largest continent in the world.



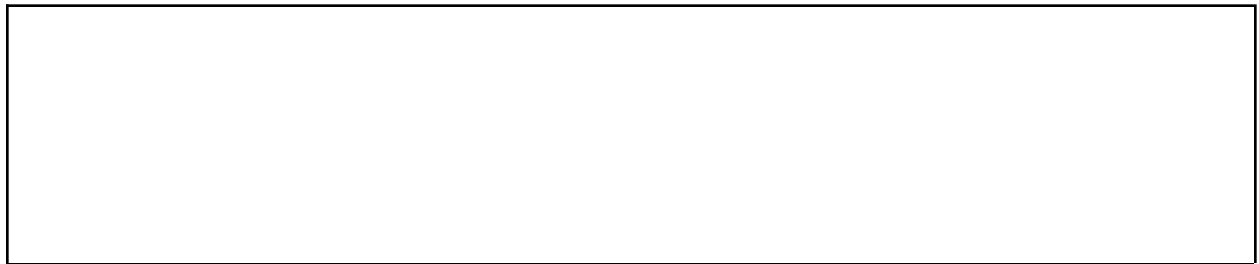
### Culture

Many people wear a scarf around their heads to protect themselves from dust and wind. Jewelry-making is a common job for many African people. You can tell where a person is from based on the colors and design of their jewelry. People eat whatever they can find in the area, which is mostly a kind of porridge, and meats such as chicken, goat and caterpillar. Botswana **Pula** is the type of currency in Botswana.



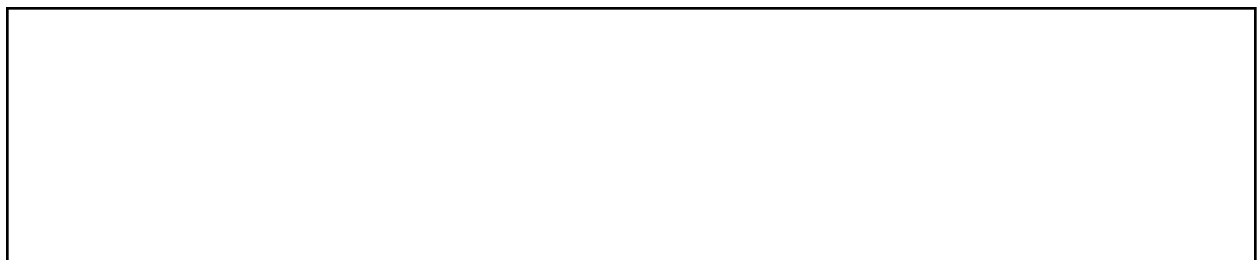
## **Beliefs & Values**

Many children who live in villages walk to school. Some must walk a very long way, even when it is hot or raining. The majority of the country is ***Christian***. Many people play drums and do traditional African dances. Traditional dances are done to try to heal the sick, celebrate a good hunt, or even to bring the rain.

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## **Relationships**

Families live together in mud huts or brick houses with metal roofs. Mothers and older sisters carry infants almost everywhere in slings tied across their backs. Greeting someone in their language is very respectful. In Botswana people say hello by saying “dumela” (do-MEL-ah).

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## Expert Group: Mongolia, Asia

### Location

Mongolia is between Russia and China. The Mongolian language is the official language of Mongolia. There are 4.4 million people living in the 48 countries that make up Asia and Southeast Asia. Asia is the largest continent in the world, covering about 30 percent of the Earth's land surface.

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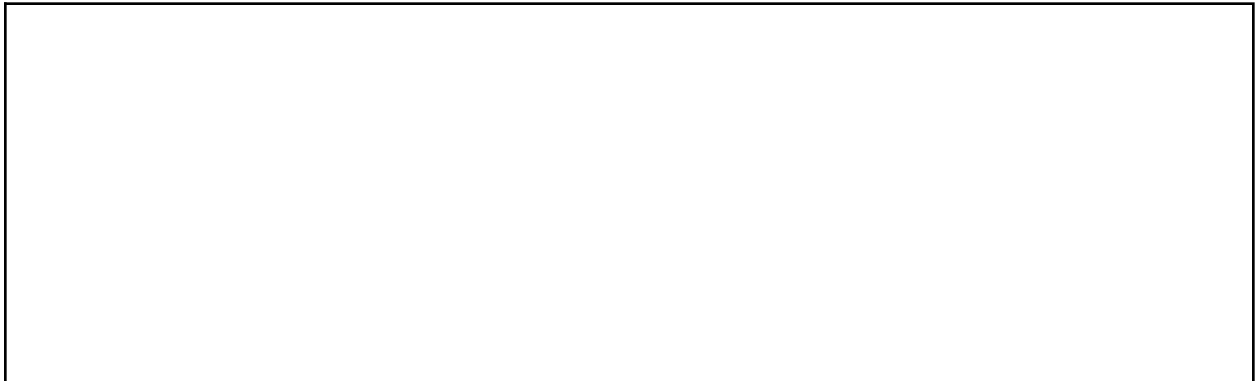
### Culture

People often eat *khuushuur*, which are dumplings filled with ground meat or potato. Boiled meat is also popular. Clothing is strong and flexible because people often ride horses or sit on the floor in a *yurt* (a large, round tent that can quickly put up and taken down again). The color and design of clothes represent a person's age and region where a person is from. Money in Mongolia is called Mongolian *Tugrik*.

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## **Beliefs & Values**

Many Mongolian people practice Buddhism. The Mongolian New Year is the first celebration of the year. People wear traditional costumes and exchange silk scarves to celebrate the holiday. Education is a priority for all families. Children start going to school at six-years old.



## **Relationships**

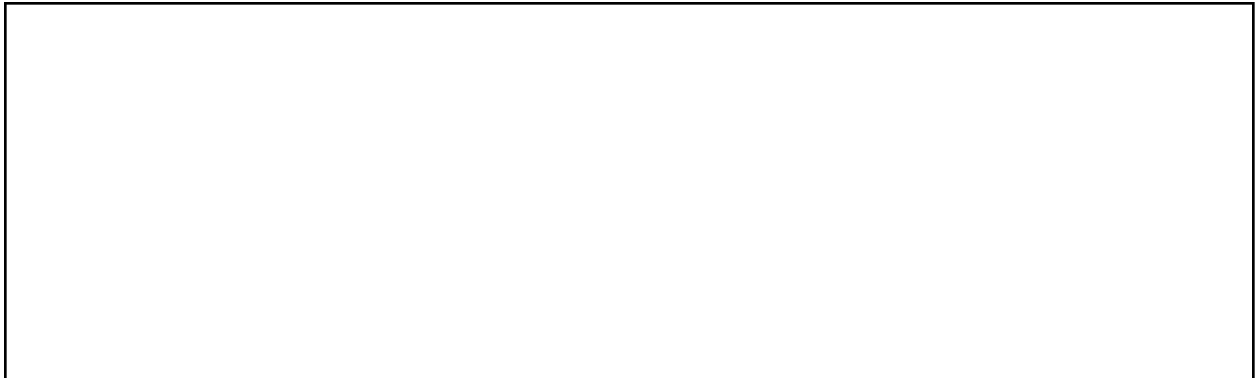
Value is placed on the family unit: mom, dad, and children. Mongolians are superstitious. For example, Mongolians don't whistle indoors because they think it will bring a natural disaster. "Sain-uu" is the way people say hello to one another. Mongolians are very quiet, but also very hospitable.



## Expert Group: Germany, Europe

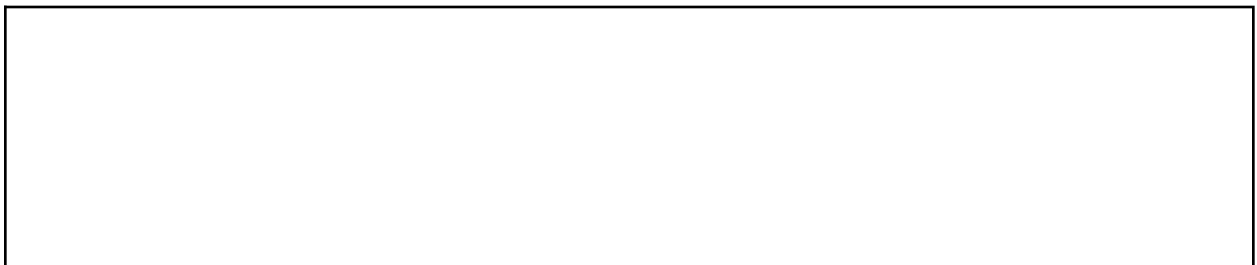
### Location

Germany, the seventh-largest country in Europe. Europe is a continent of contrasts, where modern skyscrapers stand alongside buildings from the time of the ancient Greek and Romans. There are 715 million people living in the 47 countries that make up Europe. Europe borders Asia to the east and Africa to the south.



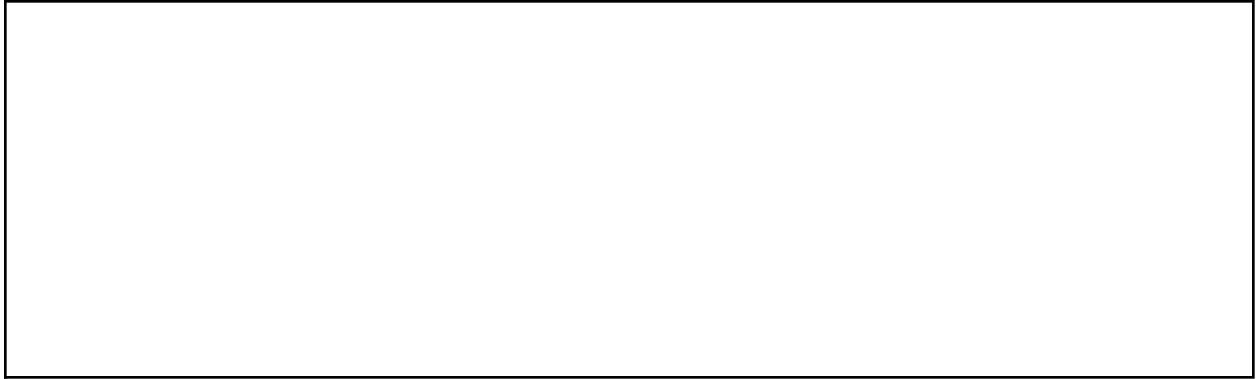
### Culture

German love to eat special savory potato dumplings called **Wickelklöse**, with red cabbage, mushrooms, chives and pork. Traditional German clothing includes **Lederhosen**, or leather trousers (pants). Money in Germany is called the Euro, which is used everywhere in Europe.



## **Beliefs & Values**

Most of the people in Germany are **Christian**. There are many Christmas markets in the country around the holiday time, and the first one was held in the year 1393! All German children attend school and must go to college. There is a lot of homework given to students, and the most important subjects are reading, writing and math.



## **Relationships**

Germans take great pride in their homes, and they are neat and tidy at all times. Only close friends and family are invited over to someone's house. Germans focus a lot on planning, organization and structure. People are hard workers and like things to be perfect at all times.





## Expert Group: Brazil, South America

### Location

Brazil is the largest country in South America. The people in Brazil speak Portuguese. Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo are the largest cities in Brazil. There are about 425 million people in the 12 countries that make up South America. South America is connected to North America by a thin strip of land at the top of Colombia.



### Culture

Brazilian people love to eat *feijoada*, a dish of rice and black beans cooked with various kinds of meat and sausage. Brazilians wear traditional clothing for the *Carnaval* or national celebrations, such as *baiana* dress and other costumes. In the south, the cowboys (*gauchos*) wear a distinctive dress including baggy trousers, called *bombachas*, ponchos, wide straw hats and boots. Money in Brazil is called Brazilian *Real*.



## **Beliefs & Values**

Most Brazilians are Roman Catholic. Brazil has a large number of traditions and celebrations such as the festivities of ***Carnaval***, ***Semana Santa***, and many other Catholic holidays. Soccer is the most popular sport. Brazilians also are famous for ***Capoeira***, a home-grown martial art, based on self-defense practices.

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## **Relationships**

Families are usually large, and even extended family members are close with one another. Children usually live with parents until they marry. Brazilians are usually rather affectionate, tactile people. Men shake hands with one another, while women will kiss each others' cheeks in greeting. They will start with the left cheek and then kiss the right.

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## Expert Group: Quebec, Canada, North America

### Location

North America is situated between the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. North America stretches from the plains of Canada to the jungles and deserts of Central America and the islands of the Caribbean. There are about 579 million people living in North America. Canada has a total of 10 provinces and Quebec is a French-speaking province of Canada.



### Culture

Traditional clothing in Canada correspond with the weather conditions and climate. That's why traditional Canadian pieces of clothing are: parkas, tuques, ojibwa shirts, mittens, earmuffs and so on. *Poutine* is a popular dish in Quebec. It's made of fries with cheese curds and light gravy, and it tastes great with grilled chicken wings. People use the Canadian dollar to buy things.



## **Beliefs & Values**

There are many religions in Canada like, ***Roman Catholic, Christianity, Muslim*** etc. Canada Day is celebrated on July 1, and ***Thanksgiving Day*** is the second Monday in October. Canada has long been recognized for its peacekeeping role around the world. Canadians are seen as polite, and often say *sorry* or *excuse me* even when other people bump into them. By law, children in Canada must go to school. Schools in Canada usually begin at the end of August and finish around the end of June.



## **Relationships**

Canadian children are usually permitted to express themselves and to be independent from a young age, and may speak to adults, even teachers or parents, in the same casual way they do to friends. Canadians usually shake hands to introduce themselves, and may shake hands before departing, as well. Short hugs are more common for closer friends, particularly women. Canadians are generally taught to be friendly, polite and respectful to both friends and strangers alike.

