



**Social Studies
School Service**

www.socialstudies.com

Downloadable Reproducible eBooks

Sample Pages

These sample pages from this eBook are provided for evaluation purposes. The entire eBook is available for purchase at

www.socialstudies.com or www.writingco.com.

To browse more eBook titles, visit

<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebooks.html>

To learn more about eBooks, visit our help page at

<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebookshelp.html>

For questions, please e-mail eBooks@socialstudies.com

To learn about new eBook and print titles, professional development resources, and catalogs in the mail, sign up for our monthly e-mail newsletter at

<http://socialstudies.com/newsletter/>

*Copyright notice: Copying of the book or its parts for resale is prohibited.
Additional restrictions may be set by the publisher.*

I Think: Geography

OCEANIA



**by Sharon Coletti
and Kendra Corr**

** It is the goal of InspirEd Educators to create instructional materials that are interesting, engaging, and challenging. Our student-centered approach incorporates both content and skills, placing particular emphasis on reading, writing, vocabulary development, and critical and creative thinking in the content areas.

Edited by Sharon Coletti and Amy Hellen

Cover graphics by Sharon Coletti and Print1 Direct

Copyright © 2008 by InspirEd Educators, Inc.

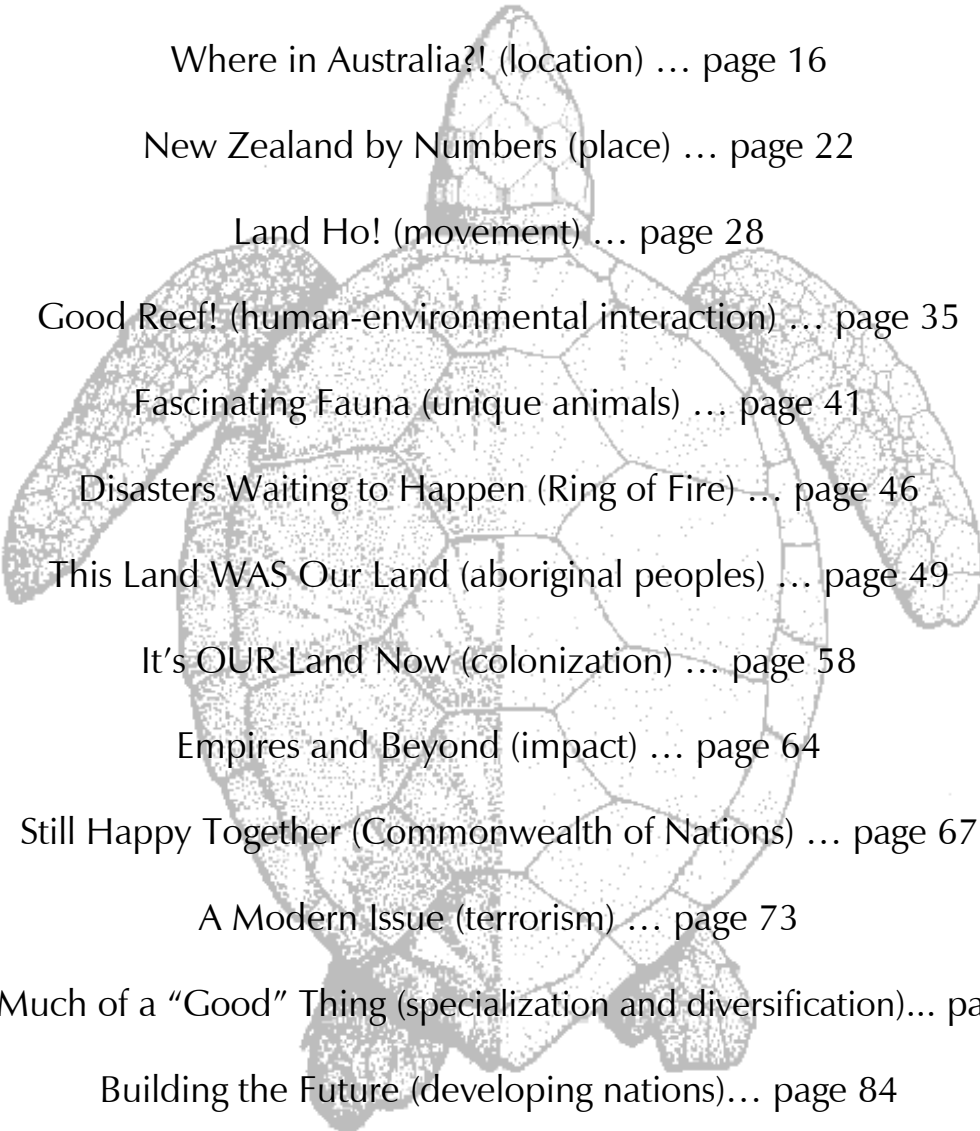
ISBN # 978-1-933558-52-3

**** FOR INDIVIDUAL TEACHER/PARENT USE ****

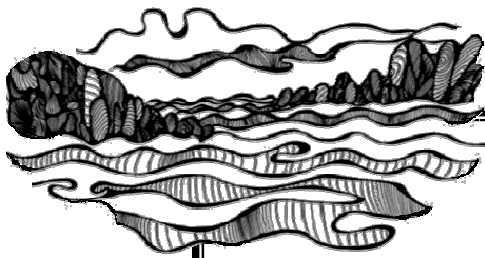
All rights reserved. It is unlawful to reproduce all or part of this publication without prior written permission from the publisher. **Student pages only** (handouts and / or transparencies) may be photocopied or created for individual teacher or parent use. It is a breach of copyright to reproduce part or whole of this publication for any other purposes. Violators will be prosecuted in accordance with United States copyright law.

Printed in the United States of America

Table of Contents



Objectives (vocabulary, questions, and answers) ...	page 6
Ocea-WHAT? (region) ...	page 8
Where in Australia?! (location) ...	page 16
New Zealand by Numbers (place) ...	page 22
Land Ho! (movement) ...	page 28
Good Reef! (human-environmental interaction) ...	page 35
Fascinating Fauna (unique animals) ...	page 41
Disasters Waiting to Happen (Ring of Fire) ...	page 46
This Land WAS Our Land (aboriginal peoples) ...	page 49
It's OUR Land Now (colonization) ...	page 58
Empires and Beyond (impact) ...	page 64
Still Happy Together (Commonwealth of Nations) ...	page 67
A Modern Issue (terrorism) ...	page 73
Too Much of a "Good" Thing (specialization and diversification)...	page 78
Building the Future (developing nations)...	page 84
People in Their Places (country project) ...	page 90
Reviewing Terms (vocabulary puzzle) ...	page 93
Differentiated Assessments (A – modified; B – average; C – accelerated) ...	page 95
Resources (bibliography) ...	page 100



Ocea-WHAT?

Springboard:

Students should follow directions and answer the questions for the “Islands in the Dream” handout.

Objective: The student will be able to describe the region of Oceania.

Materials:

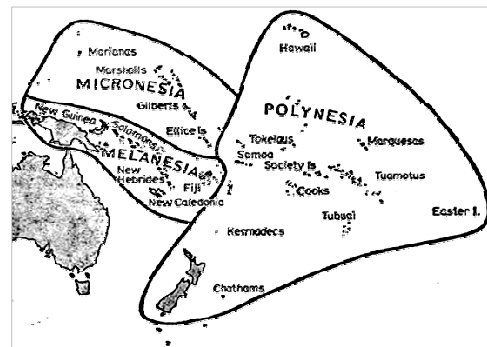
Islands in the Dream (Springboard handout)
Introducing Oceania (handout)
Emails (3 handouts)
The Regions Within (handout)
Oceania Geography (handout – see note below)

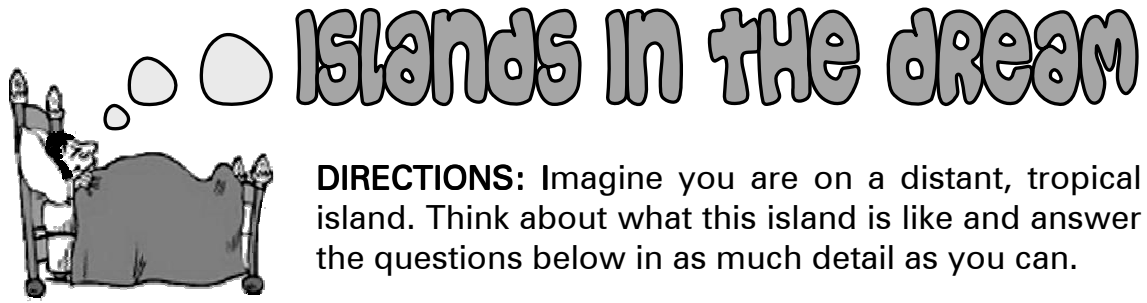
Terms to know:

coral - skeletons of tiny sea creatures forming deposits of varied shapes and colors
culture - way of life
archipelago - a chain of islands

Procedure:

- As the student(s) share their descriptions of the tropical island, explain that the information they gave describes the five themes of geography. If the student(s) are familiar with the themes, have them identify which description addresses each. If not, explain that the first tells the island's location, the second the region where it is located; the third the place, the fourth movement, and the last describes human-environmental interaction. Go on to explain that the student(s) will be examining Oceania in terms of these themes, beginning with region.
- Distribute the “Introducing Oceania” handout and have the student(s) write three descriptions of the region. *(All land masses including Australia are surrounded by water; located in the Pacific and Indian Oceans; includes Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and many small islands.)* Explain that like other world regions, there are smaller regions within Oceania to aid geographers in studying it. In this case the hundreds of small islands are grouped into three general regions.
- Distribute the three e-mail handouts and explain that you asked for help from people in a Pacific Islanders chat room, and three sent you e-mails. Have the students work individually or in pairs to read the e-mails and complete the “The Regions Within” handout.
- Have the student(s) share their solutions and important information and discuss. The map at right shows the divisions and facts may vary.
- NOTE:** This lesson and the next four introduce the five themes of geography. Then the lessons will deepen student understanding of the themes. Distribute “Oceania Geography” for the student(s) to use as a unit organizer to record examples after each lesson that fit the five themes. In addition to the objectives sheet, this makes a wonderful review resource!





DIRECTIONS: Imagine you are on a distant, tropical island. Think about what this island is like and answer the questions below in as much detail as you can.

Where is this island on a map? If you leave the island, what is nearby? _____

Is this island part of an area of other islands or near land of any kind? If so, describe the area where the island is located. _____

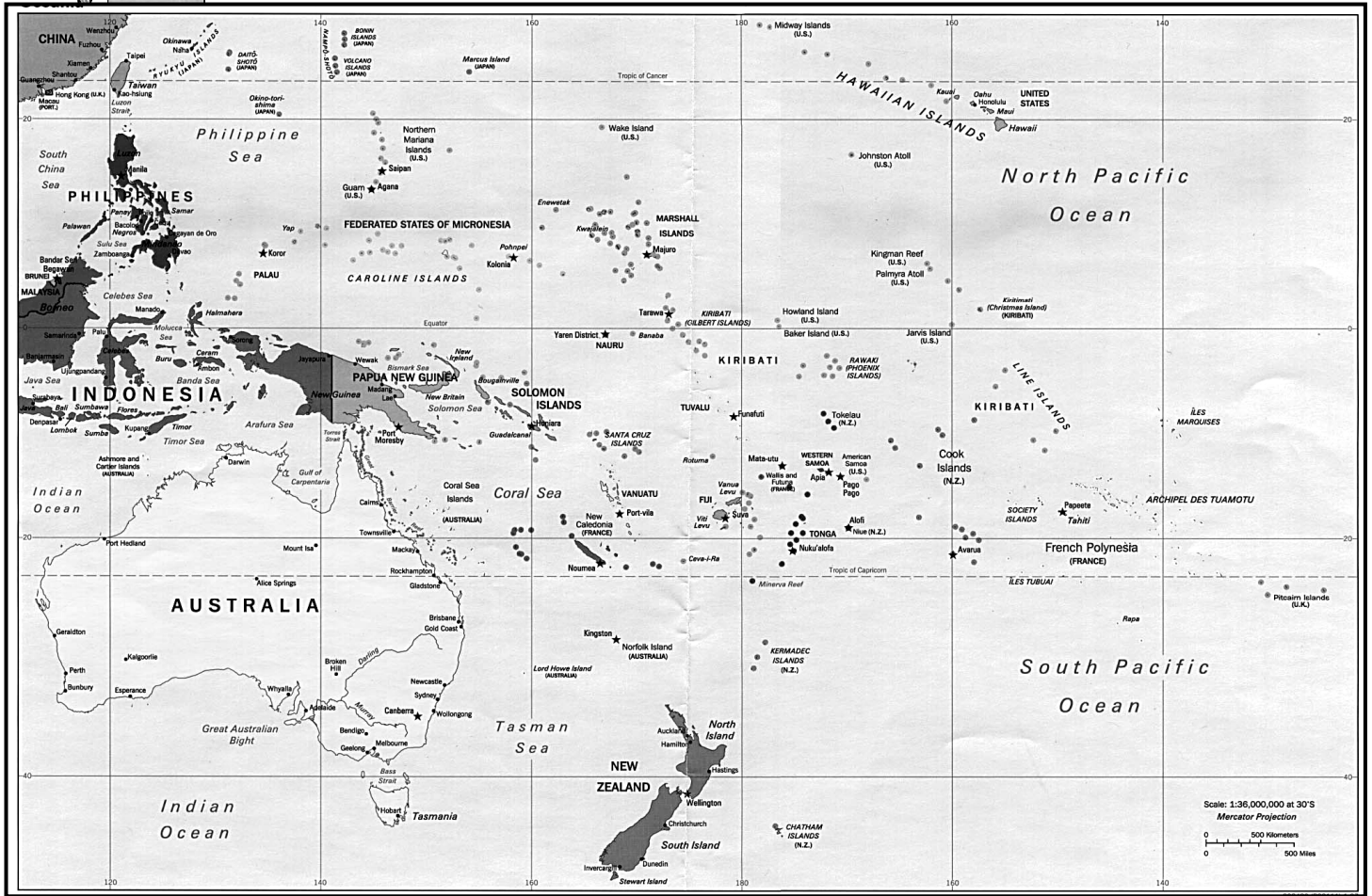
Describe what you see, hear, feel, and smell on the island. _____

What do people do on the island? How do they get there, and how do they get the things they need? _____

How and where do people live on the island? Have they changed it in any way? If so, how? _____



Introducing Oceania



Map courtesy of the General Libraries: University of Texas at Austin

This map shows the REGION of Oceania. Describe the region in three ways:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Subject: Melanesia

I noticed that you were looking for information about Melanesia, and I think I can help. My name is Oscar Kalama and I am from the country of Vanuatu in Melanesia. Melanesia was named by the French and means “Black Islands.” I am honestly not sure if the Europeans were describing the dark skin color of the people, the color of the sand, or perhaps both.

My country of Vanuatu is made up of 83 small islands and along with Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands, make up Melanesia. I live in Port Vila on one of the three largest islands in the group. My land is very beautiful and attracts tourists from all over the world, especially from Australia and New Zealand. People come to see our scenery and dive in the clear, turquoise waters. There are so many things to see and do in Melanesia. There are volcanoes, thick rainforests, high waterfalls, beaches with soft white sands, and others with black, volcanic sand. I would say the most interesting thing about the islands is that they are so different. Some are volcanoes with high mountains and others are small, coral islands.

The islands of Melanesia are alike in many ways. The people look much alike and our cultures are similar, too. Much of what we eat is root crops from plants such as taro, yams, cassava, and sweet potatoes. Many Melanesians also breed pigs. The pigs are usually killed for celebrations and the meat is given to everyone that participates in the ceremony. Of course since we live on islands, we also eat fish. Most people live in small villages, though there are some cities. But they are not as big as those in some other places, as I understand it.

As I’ve told you, many people come to our region to dive. There are thousands of kinds of fish of all shapes and sizes, but often the divers are not coming to see the fish. Most people come to Vanuatu at least to see Espiritu Santo. The Americans took over this, our largest island, during World War II, and now people come to see the old army housing and buy bullets and other wartime finds from people of local tribes. Most come to Espiritu Santo to dive and see the *USS President Coolidge*. This battleship was sunk during the war and settled to the bottom in shallow water. Divers can go inside the ship and look around. There are also hundreds of tons of supplies that American soldiers dumped into the sea. It is an odd sight to see all the fish swimming around old airplanes, jeeps, and even American cola bottles!

Still, I would have to say that the most unusual thing to see is the divers. Men and boys as young as eight climb high towers, have vines tied to their ankles, and dive to the ground. The vines are cut to the exact length for each diver to be jerked up just before his head smashes into the ground. This takes place in April and May as a way to “fertilize” the soil by just barely touching it with their heads.

Though Melanesia is a bit out-of-the-way, it is worth visiting. I hope I have been able to help you understand a little about the region where I live.

Oscar Kalama

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.

Subject: Micronesia

In response to our short “chat” online the other day I am writing to give you some information about the Pacific region of Micronesia. As I told you, I am from Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands. I am Chamorro, one of the largest groups of people in our country, but like many people here, I speak English almost all of the time when I am not at home. You see, though my country governs itself, it is really a territory of the United States.

The Northern Marianas Islands, like others in Micronesia, are small. That is why the region is called “Micronesia.” The name actually means “Small Islands.” Micronesia is made up of hundreds of small islands in the western part of the Pacific Ocean. Its main island groups are Palau, the Carolines, Marshalls, Marianas, and the Gilbert Islands. Yet these only partly match the countries and territories: Guam, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands; the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and Wake Island.

My country is an archipelago made up of sixteen tropical islands that spread out over four hundred miles along the famous Marianas Trench, the deepest place in the world’s oceans. The islands of Micronesia are beautiful and the weather is pleasant and warm all the time. Though we do not have much land for farming, we do have a great deal of fishing, and many tourists come to our region. Our most important product of many of the islands is called copra. Copra is dried coconut meat that is made into oil, which is used in many food products.

I think most people would be surprised at how much the culture in some of the islands is like America. This is probably because so much American media reaches us. We have cable TV, movies, American style radio, popular magazines, and American clothes. You can find all kinds of American products in the shops here. SPAM, a canned meat product, is especially popular and is used in many of our recipes.

The relationship between Micronesia and the United States dates back to World War II. After the war the United States helped the islands get on their feet and start governments. In exchange the U.S. was able to use the islands for military purposes. For example the Marshall Islands were used for nuclear missile tests, and Saipan was used as a training ground for the CIA.

.In the 1970’s the Northern Marianas voted to form closer ties to the United States and became a U.S. territory. Most American laws apply here, the U.S. Postal Service serves us, and we use American money. The Commonwealth is in charge of its own taxes, but U.S. taxes are also collected for our government here. Most people in this country think our relationship with the United States is a good one and we enjoy being American citizens. Today all of Micronesia, except Guam and Wake Island which are also U.S. territories, are independent nations.

That is really all I can think of to tell you about my country and the Pacific region of Micronesia. I hope this information will be helpful to you.

Margaret Sablan

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.

©Inspired Educators, Inc.

Subject: Polynesia

I enjoyed “chatting” with you online the other day and have since put together some information about Polynesia that might be helpful to you and your students. Polynesia is located in the central and southern part of the Pacific Ocean. Polynesia means “many islands,” which there are. The larger islands are volcanic, and the smaller ones are usually made of coral. Some island groups in the region are the Hawaiian Islands, the Marquesas, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Tonga, and New Zealand.

My home is in Samoa, an archipelago sometimes called “the heart of Polynesia” because it is located halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand. In Samoa we have beautiful, white sand beaches lined with coconut palm trees, magnificent waterfalls, lush rainforests, and high volcanic mountains; some are still active. Savaii is the country’s largest island, but Apai is the capital and has the most people. All of us here are very proud of our island paradise.

Almost everyone in Samoa is Polynesian, except for a few Europeans and people of mixed-blood. Samoa has the most full-blooded Polynesians anywhere, and we keep much of our ancient culture alive. For example it is quite common to see men with tattoos here. Tattooing is an ancient art, and many young men have their bodies tattooed with Samoan designs from their chest to their knees. Still, Europeans that have come to our islands have changed some things in our culture. I, like everyone else, am a Christian, and most people can speak English, although Samoan is our native language.

Samoa has been an independent kingdom since 1962. We are happy to be ruling ourselves after many years of foreign rule, first by Germany and then by New Zealand. Our country is now ruled by a native Samoan chief, but we also have a prime minister and an elected legislature. Though few people in Samoa are rich, we all seem to have what we need to live. We grow most of our food, fish, and import anything else we need to eat. Most people in Samoa are farmers but many also work in jobs that offer services like insurance, education, and hotel and restaurant jobs. Samoa also exports products from coconuts, such as copra and coconut oil and we have industries that process foods and make auto parts and building supplies. As you can see, Samoa is a mixture of ancient and modern ways.

To help you understand this mixture, I can tell you some facts and figures. About 180,000 people live in Samoa today. Most own radios and listen to our two stations, but there are fewer than 15,000 televisions. We do have cell phones, but only about 1,500 people carry them. We have Internet access from two different companies; around 1,000 people are hooked up. You can see that we are modern but not as modern as many countries. Even so, Samoa is a wonderful country and a beautiful place to visit. In fact we have almost 100,000 visitors that come to our islands each year. Perhaps one day you too can visit our tiny island paradise. I hope I have been able to help you and your students understand Samoa and Polynesia.

Thank you for asking me about my country.

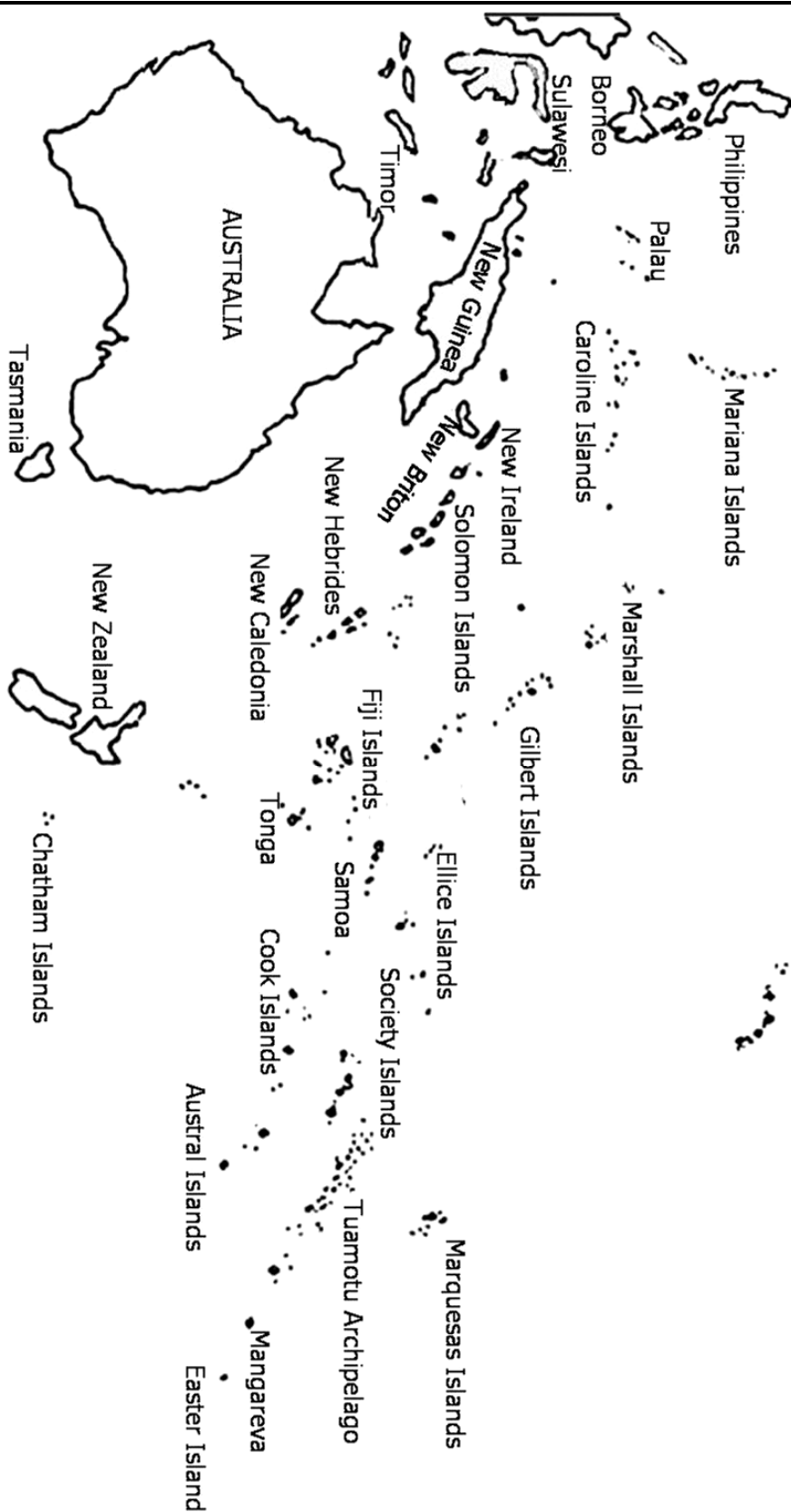
Eti Neroni

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.

THE REGIONS WITHIN

Taiwan

DIRECTIONS: Circle and label the three regions discussed in the e-mails and in the blank space nearby, write three things you think are the MOST IMPORTANT to know about each .





OCEANIA GEOGRAPHY

DIRECTIONS: During your study of Oceania, record examples of each theme of geography on the organizer below:

REGION:

LOCATION:

PLACE:

MOVEMENT:

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTION: