

Springboard^{into} Comprehension

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Main Idea Are You There?

Sequencing How Photography Changed the World

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Compare and Contrast Leading the Way

Fact and Opinion April Fools' Day

Cause and Effect Big Ted and the Mystery
of the Black Barn



Leading the Way



Written by Robert MacDowell

Leading the Way

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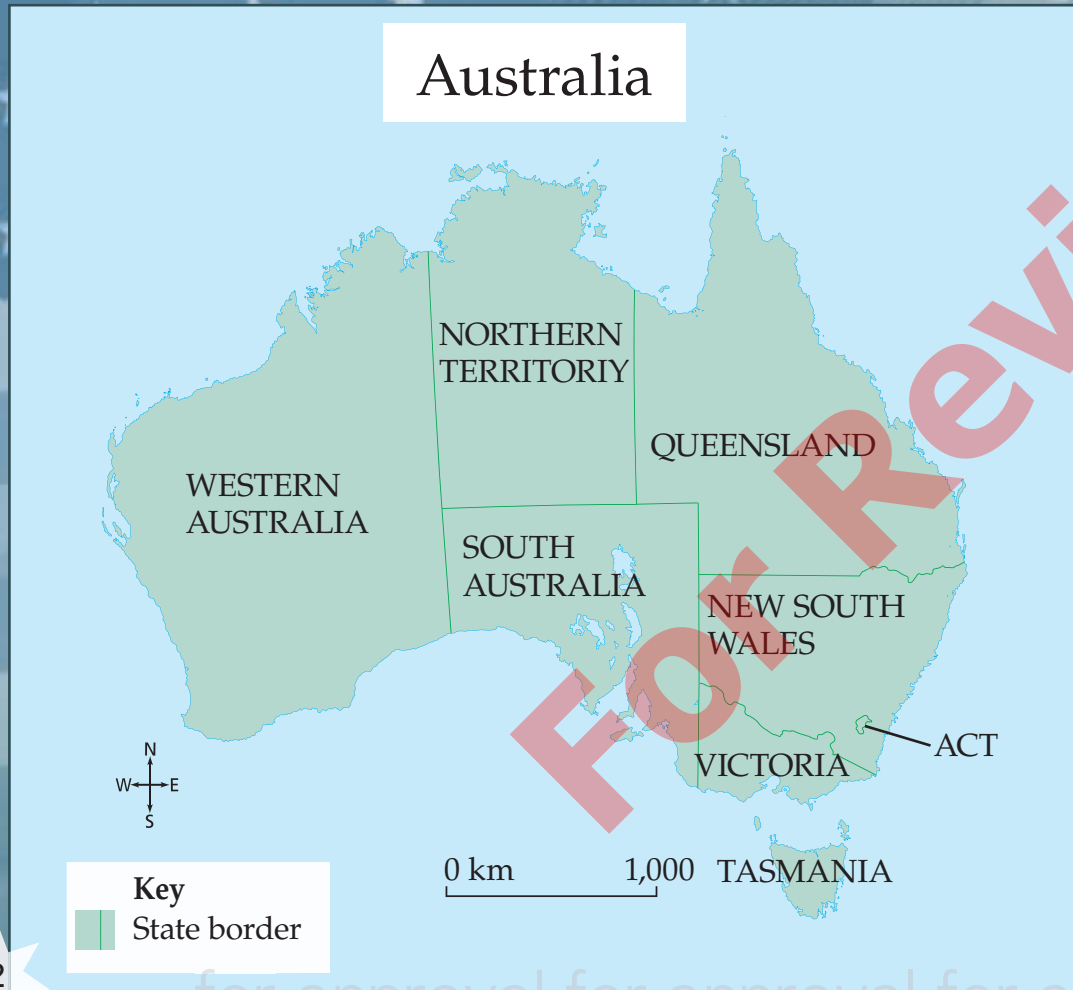
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Introduction

Each country has its own system of leaders. Australia and the United States have different systems. However, in some ways they are similar. They are both countries made up of states.

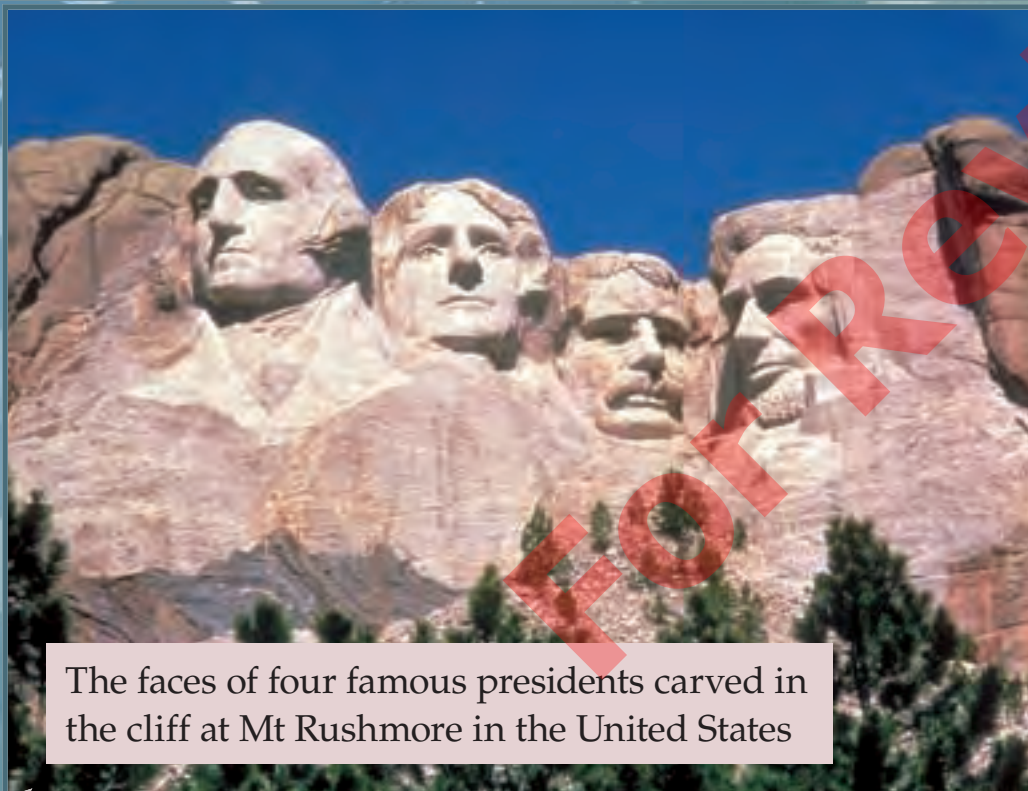
Countries made up of states are **federal countries**. In a federal country, each state has its own leader. There is also a leader who leads the whole country. This leader has more power than the leaders of the states.



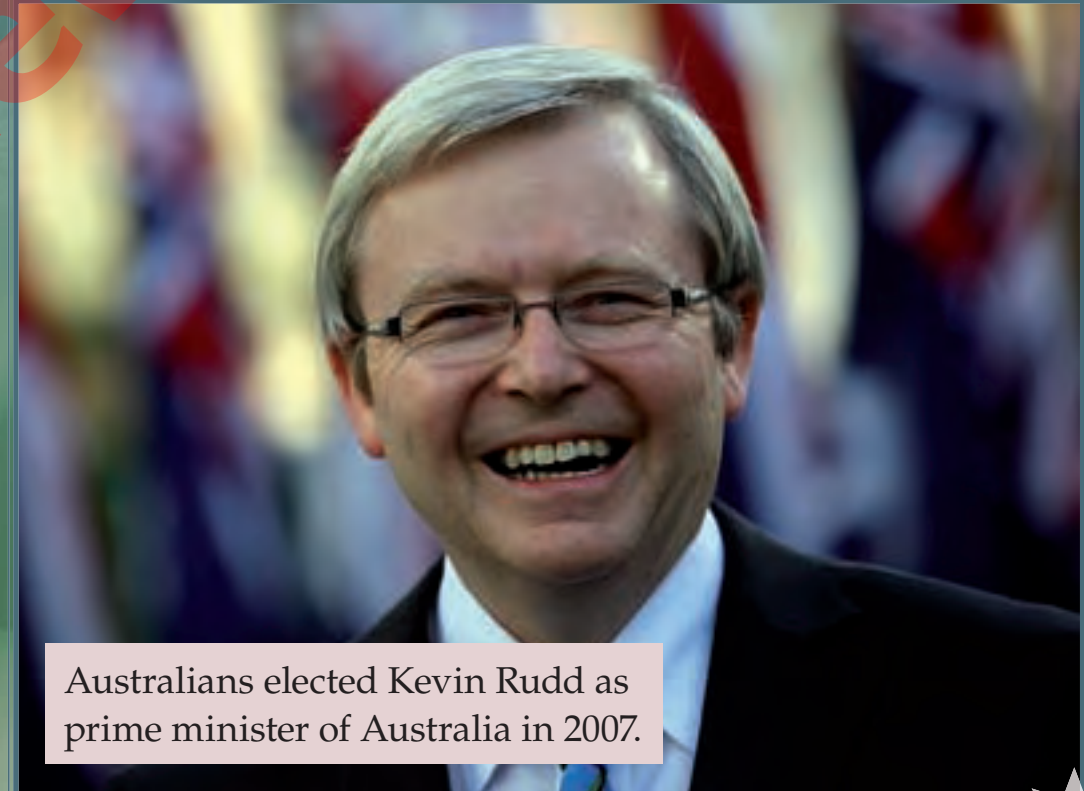
The official leader of a country is the **head of state**. In the United States, the head of state is the **president**. He or she is the most powerful leader in the United States. In Australia, the head of state is the king or queen of Britain. However, the king or queen does not have any real power in Australia. In Australia, the leader with the most power is not the head of state. It is the **prime minister**.



Queen Elizabeth II is the Australian head of state. Her face appears on the \$5 note.



The faces of four famous presidents carved in the cliff at Mt Rushmore in the United States



Australians elected Kevin Rudd as prime minister of Australia in 2007.

The First President and Prime Minister

The first president of the United States was George Washington. The first prime minister of Australia was Edmund Barton. Both became leaders after taking part in an important event. They both helped create a law that decided the legal system of their country. A law like this is called a **constitution**. It decides the basic rules of a country. It says who the leader will be. In the United States, the constitution says there will be a president. In Australia, it says there will be a prime minister.

George Washington,
US president 1789–1797



Edmund Barton, Australian
prime minister 1901–1903

