

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Oceania Facts

	Polynesia	Micronesia	Melanesia
Meaning of name	Many islands	Small islands	Dark islands
Location	Mostly south of the equator, east of the International Date Line	in the Northwest Pacific Ocean	in the south and west part of the Pacific Ocean, south of the equator, east of Australia.
Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inside a triangle of Hawaii to the North, Rapa Nui (Easter Island) to the southeast, and New Zealand to the southwest. (Polynesian Tuvalu and Norfolk are outside the triangle)</li> <li>Part of Melanesia (Fiji) lies inside the triangle.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>largest island is Guam 200 square miles in area.</li> <li>Four groups of islands – Mariana, Carolines, Marshalls, Gilberts. Also Nauru</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most islands are large</li> <li>several are continental islands</li> </ul>
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People are taller than Micronesians.</li> <li>Lighter skin than Melanesians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many ethnicities</li> <li>descended from a mixture of Melanesians, Filipinos, and Polynesians.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skin color of the people is the darkest of all Pacific Islanders.</li> <li>Almost 4.5 million people, more than Micronesia and Polynesia put together.</li> </ul>
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One basic language. Languages are very much the same.</li> <li>The vowels are the same – a,e,i,o,u, and the consonants are always followed by a vowel.</li> <li>Almost all Polynesians can understand each other.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>speak 20 languages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More languages and different groups of people than Micronesia and Polynesia.</li> <li>Speak pidgin</li> </ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism, and money sent home from relatives living in other countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fishing, tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cash crops, minerals, tourism</li> </ul>
Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of resources stressing the economy.</li> <li>Old ways of life changing as the islands develop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of resources and large distances between the islands.</li> <li>Depend on money from the U.S.; need to develop their economies so they can take care of themselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malaria and other diseases.</li> <li>Islands undeveloped</li> <li>Lack of resources</li> </ul>