

**3.1.1- Australian before humans**

**The questions in the following document must be satisfactorily completed in order to successfully meet the requirements of this unit of work.**

**Work Requirement & Review Questions.**

1. **Setting the scene:  
   List** some of the key factors that make Australia unique:

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1. **Define** the four main phases that led to the formation of Australia. *Ie: land formation, climate, flora and fauna.*

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1. **Identify** three pieces of evidence for the connection between the countries that once made up Gondwana.

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1. There are three key characteristics that shape and define the unique Australian environment.

**Define** each characteristic:

***BIOLOGICAL ISOLATION***

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***GEOLOGICAL STABILITY***

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***CLIMATIC VARIATION***

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1. ***Biological Isolation*.**

**Explain,** using an example or evidence, where we see this characteristic displayed within the Australian environment.

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1. ***Geological Stability*.**

**Explain,** using an example or evidence, where we see this characteristic displayed within the Australian environment.

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1. ***Climatic Variation*.**

**Explain,** using an example or evidence, where we see this characteristic displayed within the Australian environment.

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1. Fill in the table below regarding the ***adaptations*** of Australian Flora and Fauna.

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|  | **Describe** an *example* of an adaptation | **Analyse** the *effectiveness* of this adaptation |
| **Flora**  Plant |  |  |
| **Fauna**  Kangaroo |  |  |

1. **Explain** how fire has played a significant role in developing the uniqueness of the Australian Environment.

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1. Provide a definition of ‘Megafauna’.

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*Megalania prisca-* At 7m long, was the largest lizard known to have existed.

1. Megafauna were still present when the first indigenous people arrived in Australia and they lived alongside them for a long period of time before they disappeared.

**Outline** when the Megafauna become extinct and what led to their extinction.

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**TAKE THE QUIZ:** What do you know about megafauna?

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/games/quizzes/2009/megafauna/>

**3.1.1 –Australia before humans Practice Exam Questions**

**2022 Exam *Question 1***

Until approximately 10,000 years ago, megafauna were common in many parts of Australia. Megafauna included species such as giant kangaroo that could reach leaves 3 m off the ground and a giant wombat that was the size of a car.

Recently discovered fossil evidence suggests that both the last ice age and human interactions contributed to the extinction of the megafauna.

1. Describe how two characteristics Australian outdoor environments before humans could have contributed to the extinction of the megafauna. (4 marks)

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**2016 Exam *Question 1***

Select one of the following characteristics of Australian outdoor environments before human settlement by ticking (☑) the box beside it:

☐ biological isolation

☐ geological stability

☐ climatic variation

Briefly explain how your selected characteristic influenced flora and fauna before human settlement in Australia. (3 marks)

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