Note Outline on Britain’s Eastern Empire: Australia and New Zealand

1) What is notable about the geography of Australia? Considering the climate zones, in which region would choose to live in Australia. What are the major Australian cities in those regions?

2) Who are Australia’s earliest inhabitants? How did they get there? What is unique about their culture? How is their concept of “Dreamtime” associated with their traditional beliefs?

3) Which European explorers were the first to map parts of Australia? What did they call it? Why didn’t they settle there?

4) Who was James Cook and what was his contribution to the exploration of the region? How was he helped in his navigation? Which area in Australia did he identify as suitable for a settlement? Why?

5) When did a large British fleet arrive in Australia? What holiday do Australians celebrate on that day? Where did the fleet arrive? Who did they bring to settle in Australia? Why were these people chosen?

6) Reading the words to the folk song, “Moreton Bay”, how would you know that not only English were sent to penal colonies in Australia? Which other people were sent there? Can you imagine why?

7) When did free British and other immigrants begin arriving in larger numbers? How did they affect the aborigines? What event in 1851 brought even more Europeans to Australia? What new agricultural business did many engage in?
8) Examine the satellite map of New Zealand? Why do you think most New Zealanders preferred to live in the North Island (think about topography and climate)?

9) Who are the Maori? When did they settle in New Zealand and what did they call that land? Explain some features of Maori society?

10) Why did British settlement of New Zealand proceed more slowly than settlement of Australia? What impact did the missionaries have on the Maori? Which company was formed to colonize New Zealand? Why did the Treaty of Waitangi of 1840 offer hope that Maori rights would be respected? Were they?

11) Why did the Maori population decline in the late 19th century? How much had the immigrant population increased to by 1911? How did the immigrants support their families?

12) Who was Kate Shephard? What contribution did she make to women’s rights? What “first in modern world history” did New Zealand achieve in 1893?

13) During which decade did both Australia and New Zealand establish self-governing parliamentary forms of government? When did both become dominions?

14) Your opinion? Why were the British able to easily subjugate native peoples in Australia and New Zealand and throughout their empire? What would be the long-term effect of such treatment?