

# Sydney

With a population of nearly 4.5 million, Sydney is the largest city in Australia. It is built on hills surrounding a large natural harbour on Australia's south-east coast. It is a cosmopolitan and multicultural city and the main destination for immigrants to Australia.

Evidence suggests that the area around Sydney was inhabited by **Aboriginal people** at least 30,000 years ago, but the city of Sydney grew when the British established a penal colony for British and Irish convicts at Port Jackson in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The settlement was named Sydney after the British Home Secretary, Lord Sydney.

In 2008 2.7 million international tourists visited Sydney. The most popular attractions were Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House.



*Sydney Harbour Bridge, known locally as the 'Coat Hanger' because of its shape. The bridge took eight years to build and was completed in 1932.*



*The Sydney Opera House in Sydney Harbour is considered to be one of the wonders of the modern world. Designed by Jorn Utzon and opened in 1973, it is the home of Australian dance, theatre and music.*

## Warm up

1 Look at the photographs of Sydney. What do you think the city is like?

## Reading

2 Read about Sydney and make notes about:

- Location
- Population
- Number of tourists
- Main attractions

3 Tick (✓) these statements true (T) or false (F). Correct any false statements.

- 1 Aborigines were the first inhabitants of the area around Sydney. T F
- 2 Sydney was originally a colony for exported criminals. T F
- 3 The Sydney Opera House is used only for opera. T F
- 4 Sydney Harbour Bridge is a modern construction. T F