Why is Australia called the Land down Under? Because most of Australia’s settlers come from north of the equator, they called it “the land down under.” Australia is also the only Inhabitable continent that is totally south of the equator. Most of the people in Australia live in cities around the edge of the island. These cities were built near the water because seaports make cities easy to reach by boats. The land in Australia that doesn’t border the ocean is called the outback. Ayers Rock found in the Australian outback is the largest rock in the world. It rises about 1000 feet. The top is almost completely round because of erosion. Some of the people who live in the outback are sheep herders or cattle ranchers. Outback ranches are so big that people are very far away from their nearest neighbors. They don’t even have telephones! People use two-way radios to talk to their friends. Can you imagine life without your mobile phone?