



States of Australia

How big is each state/territory in Australia?



1. In your mind, visualise a map of Australia.
2. Locate Victoria.
3. Think of the size of Victoria in relation to all other states/territories in Australia.
4. Create a data table as indicated:

State/Territory	1 st Try	2 nd Try	Actual	Area: km ²
Vic	1			
NSW				
Qld				
SA				
WA				
NT				
Tas				
Act				

5. Give the size of Victoria a unit of 1. Using Victoria as a reference point, estimate the size of each of the other states/territories in relation to Victoria. That is, how many times bigger/smaller than Victoria is each other state/territory. Write your estimate in the 1st Try column. (Do not attempt to locate a map of Australia for assistance at this point).
6. Share your estimates with others around you, but don't feel the urge to alter your estimate.
7. Now, consult a map of Australia.
8. In the 2nd Try column, write your revised estimate of each of the other states/territories, still using the size of Victoria as a unit of one.
9. Share your estimates with others around you.
10. Complete column three in the data table when you have been given the actual size of each state/territory compared to Victoria.
11. In the final column, write in the size of each state in square kilometres.
12. Here is a web address of a site that will give you details of the size of each of the states/territories of Australia:

<http://www.ga.gov.au/education/facts/dimensions/areadime.htm>



State/Territory	1 st Try	2 nd Try	Actual	Area: km ²
Vic	1			227 600
NSW			3.5	801 600
Qld			7.6	1 727 200
SA			4.3	980 000
WA			11.1	2 525 500
NT			5.9	1 346 200
Tas			0.3	67 800
Act				2400



Taken from: Lovitt, C., & Clarke, D. (1992). *Mathematics Curriculum and Teaching Program (MCTP) Professional Development Package Activity Bank Volumes 1 & 2*. Carlton, Victoria: Curriculum Corporation.