

24 Global Connections

Every nation is connected in some way to every other nation in the world. It may be through trade, migration or tourism. We may give aid to a nation, or help each other in defence matters. We may have historical and cultural links. Some of these connections are very close, while others have weaker links.

Migration

Migration is the permanent movement of people from one place to another. It results in strong connections between countries, as people who move to a new place keep many connections with the place from which they came.

Over time some parts of their culture and way of life may become accepted and practised in their new homeland.

Tourism

People travelling overseas contribute to the economies of those countries by spending money.

They may also gain an insight into the way of life of the people in those places.

Trade

Each nation relies on others to buy some of the goods they produce, and to sell them the goods they need. Buying and selling between nations increases the contact between people of those lands. It may also help to increase living standards in poorer countries, providing them with much needed income.

Cultural Influences

Modern communication has allowed cultures to spread across all lands. We watch television shows and movies and read books from all around the world. As well as being entertained, we are finding out about different cultures.

Defence

Some nations join together to form defence alliances. Their armies, navies and air forces practise together, and may act together to protect each other in the event of a war.

International Aid

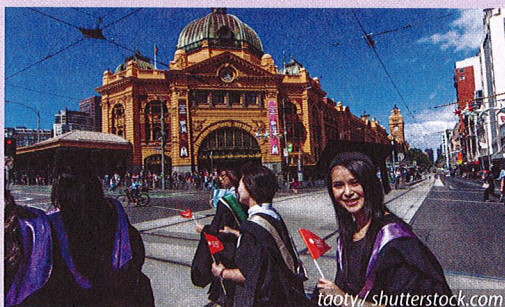
Richer nations usually help those that are less well-off by giving international aid. This can be grants of money or help with large projects such as building bridges or hospitals. Mỹ Thuận Bridge (right) is a 1.5 kilometre bridge over a branch of the Mekong River in Vietnam. It was built in 2000 with the assistance of funds from Australia.



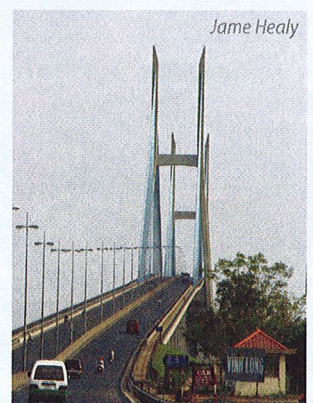
These dancers and drummers, originally from Burundi in Africa, are performing at an Australia Day parade in Adelaide.



Tourists visit the world-famous Twelve Apostles rock formations in Victoria.



Hundreds of thousands of overseas students come to Australia to study at universities and colleges.



Mỹ Thuận Bridge