Micronesia

Polynesia

Australia
New Guinea 316,615 sq. miles
New Zealand 103,736 sq miles
Australia 2,945,359 sq miles
Polynesia (excluding New Zealand) 9,965 sq. miles
Melanesian Islands (excluding New Guinea) 48,271 sq miles
Micronesia 1,336 sq miles

Island types
- Island-arc islands (western Pacific)
- Mid-plate islands (central Pacific)
Andesite Line: Continental vs. Oceanic Islands

Basic vs. acidic igneous rock; basaltic vs. andesitic lava; gentle vs. explosive volcanism

Island Types (Thomas 1965)

Continental island

High Volcanic island

Makatea or raised coral reef

Atoll

Coral Reefs

Fleshy polyps
Climate
– humid tropics to temperate zones

Pacific Wind/Current Systems

Rainfall
Wallace’s Line/Wallacea

Alfred Russell Wallace
19th century naturalist
flora and fauna of the Australia-New Guinea region and Southeast Asia

Sunda & Sahul

Island Biogeography

- Macroscopic and microscopic biota
- Near Oceania
- Remote Oceania
- Malaria
- Hookworm
- Intestinal parasites
Island Ecosystems

- Isolation
- Limited size
- Human presence
- Stowaways (rats)
- Habitats for humans

Human Settlement of the Pacific

- Sheer vastness of Pacific
- Great diversity of physical & biota
- Isolation
- Bottleneck effect
- Nutritional imbalances
- Parasitic infection
- Culture