**Connections between Australia and Asian countries**

**Some places to start:**

* Global Education website - country profiles (in Global Issues section)
* CSIRO Asia collaboration page
* Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Country and regions: Trade and economic fact sheets.
* Department of Immigration - country profiles

**Possible connections could be through:**

* trade
* family/marriage
* migration (through many parts of history)
* science
* sport
* study/education
* conflict/war/terrorism
* tourism
* aid
* human rights
* crime - drugs/animal smuggling/Australians in prison/breaking local laws
* natural disasters
* defence
* inspiring leaders/people
* environment - climate change/pollution/deforestation
* finance - stocks/shares/commodity prices
* entertainment/arts
* health – research/epidemics

**Specific Country Links**

The following links between Australia and countries in Asia were found by teachers at Coolbinia Primary School. Some have links to the source of information and others don’t. You will need to verify information but these will give you some ideas.

**Bhutan**

* Bhutan & Australia worked together in an Asia-Pacific group on money laundering
* Common interest in climate change
* Bilateral aid program, established 1962 – agricultural research, training for police officers, Australia contributes to World Food Program’s Bhutan program
* 434 Bhutanese people have had scholarships in Australia since 2007

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/bhutan/bhutan_country_brief.html>

**Nepal**

* Australian assistance to Nepal started in 1960 – projects have included a blood bank project, forestry projects, agricultural research, aviation projects
* The Fred Hollows foundation (Australian) has been working in Nepal since 1994 on the Nepal Eye Program
* Nepal imports oil seeds, animal fats, fresh vegetables & non-electrical engines from Australia
* Australia imports hand-made carpets, pashmina shawls & jewellery from Nepal.
* Australian tourists visit Nepal – the number of people has been increasing since 2006.
* Australian companies are involved in the aviation (helicopters and hot air ballooning) and telecommunications industries as well as printing some Nepalese banknotes.

<http://www.necan.gov.np/narelations.htm>

**China**

* 2012 was the 40th anniversary of the beginning of Diplomatic relations between Australia and China
* Many Chinese people migrated to Australia during the gold rush
* Australia and Hong Kong were connected by both being British colonies
* Chinese New Year is celebrated in Australia
* There is a China town in every Australian city
* Kevin Rudd speaks fluent Mandarin
* China is Australia’s biggest trading partner
* There are direct flights between a number of cities in China – Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and cities in Australia – Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney
* There are 81 sister city relationships between Chinese and Australian cities
* Some Australian schools have sister schools in China – e.g. Mt Lawley SHS
* There are Chinese consulates in Australia
* Australia-China research fund
* 137 million people travel between the China and Australia annually
* There are 160 000 Chinese students studying in Australia
* Business partnerships include Australia China Business Council, China Chamber of Commerce in Australia

**India**

* India exports psyllium husks, computers and phones to Australia
* Bollywood films are shown in Australia
* Australian people inspired by life of Gandhi
* Some Australians have travelled to India for cosmetic surgery or organ transplants
* Agreements between Australia and India include economic cooperation agreements, free trade agreements
* Many Indian people have moved to Australia – as convicts, workers, other migrants
* Australia has provided aid to India
* India and Australia compete against one another in cricket and hockey

**Philippines**

* Australia has an embassy in Manilla
* The Philippines has an embassy in Canberra
* Filipinos remain one of the fastest growing immigrant communities in Australia
* Two way trade between Australia and the Philippines
* Both part of ASEAN-Australia-NZ free trade agreement
* Australia has assisted Philippines in the area of counter-terrorism
* Australia trains 60 Filipino soldiers in Australia every year
* Australia provided $10 million worth of aid after Typhoon Haiyan
* Australia gives aid to the Philippines

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/philippines/philippines_brief.html>

**Timor Leste (East Timor)**

* There is a dispute between Australia and Timor Leste over control of oil and gas reserves in the waters between the countries. Australia is alleged to have spied on Timor Leste in relation to this
* Refugees from Myanmar were turned away from Timor Leste whilst trying to reach Australia <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-18/rohingya-muslims-seeking-asylum-in-australia-turned-away-by-/4829342>
* Researchers in Sydney are aiming to eradicate parasitic diseases prevalent amongst children in Timor Leste <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-11/an-sydney-researchers-target-parasitic-disease-in-east-timor/4745506>
* Australian Defence Force troops were stationed in Timor Leste for 14 years during unrest. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-03-28/an-adf-out-of-east-timor/4598808>
* Some Australian mining companies allegedly owe tax to Timor Leste. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-10-01/miners-owe-east-timor-millions-in-taxes/4289612>

**Laos (Lao PDR)**

* 60 years of diplomatic relations between Laos and Australia in 2012 (longest diplomatic relationship between Laos and any country at ambassador level)
* Australia funded a bridge (The Friendship Bridge) between Laos and Thailand, across the Mekong River and provides other aid to Laos
* Both Australia and Laos are ASEAN members
* Australian exports to Laos include pumps, taps, valves, civil engineering equipment and parts
* Australia imports goods such as gold and coffee from Laos http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/laos/laos\_brief.html
* There are some Australian Rules football teams in Laos, as well as a national team that plays against other teams from Asia <http://www.worldfootynews.com/article.php/20090728200444961>

**Indonesia**

* Indonesia and Australia cooperate on counter-terrorism and defence
* Australia exports wheat, aluminium, copper, crude petroleum and gold to Indonesia
* More than 250 Australian countries operate in Indonesia
* Australia and Indonesia are both members of the World Trade organisation, the G20 and APEC. Also a regional free trade agreement.
* The Australia Indonesia Institute exists to promote understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/indonesia/indonesia_brief.html>

* Asylum seekers sometimes try to get to Australia from Indonesia
* Australian scientists collaborate with Indonesian Scientist on research in the areas of mining, animal health, food security and fisheries.

<http://www.csiro.au/Portals/About-CSIRO/What-we-do/International/International-Collaboration/CSIRO-Asia/Collaboration-in-Indonesia.aspx>

**Pakistan**

* Australia and Pakistan signed a counter terrorism pact in 2005
* Both countries have cricket, soccer and hockey teams that have played against each other
* Australia exports oil seeds, cotton, vegetables and coal to Pakistan and imports coal from Pakistan
* Pakistani and Australian defence forces have worked together
* Australia has provided aid to Pakistan
* An Australian co-founded an organisation aiming to help Pakistani people get access to energy in areas where they aren’t connected to the electricity grid. <http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/10/17/australia-and-pakistan/>
* Some refugees in Australia are from Pakistan
* Pakistan has been interested in buying uranium from Australia <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-11-15/pakistan-puts-hand-up-for-aussie-uranium/3673234>