

The Australian Curriculum Geography





Year 4

The Earth's environment sustains all life focuses on developing students' understanding of sustainability which is about the ongoing capacity of the environment to sustain human life and wellbeing. Students recognise that people have different views on how sustainability can be achieved. They learn that sustainability means more than the careful use of resources and the safe management of waste, and they develop their understanding of the concept by exploring some of the other functions of the environment that support their lives and the lives of other living things. They investigate the custodial responsibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to their Country/Place and their past and present views on the sustainable use of resources. Students' mental maps of the world and their understanding of place are further developed through learning the location of the major countries in South America and Africa and investigating their types of natural vegetation and native animals on those continents.

The inquiry process provides opportunities to consider the sustainable use of environments and resources and to apply this information to develop a plan for appropriate action that people could take to improve environmental quality.

The content of this year level is organised into two strands: Geographical Knowledge and Understanding and Geographical Inquiry and Skills. These strands are interrelated and should be taught in an integrated manner, and in ways that are appropriate to specific local contexts. The order and detail in which they are taught are programming decisions.

Key inquiry questions

- A framework for developing students' geographical knowledge, understanding and skills is provided through the inclusion of inquiry questions and specific inquiry skills, including the use and interpretation of maps, photographs and other representations of geographical data.

The key inquiry questions for Year 4 are articulated below.

- How does the environment support the lives of people and other living things?
- How do different views about the environment influence approaches to sustainability?
- How can people use places and environments more sustainably?

Year 4 Content Descriptions

Geographical Knowledge and Understanding

The location of the major countries of Africa and South America in relation to Australia, and their main characteristics, including the types of natural vegetation and native animals in at least two countries from both continents (ACHGK020)



The types of natural vegetation and the significance of vegetation to the environment and to people (ACHGK021)



The importance of environments to animals and people, and different views on how they can be protected (ACHGK022)



The custodial responsibility Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have for Country/Place, and how this influences their past and present views about the use of resources (ACHGK023)



The natural resources provided by the environment, and different views on how they could be used sustainably (ACHGK024)



The sustainable management of waste from production and consumption (ACHGK025)

Geographical Inquiry and Skills

Observing, questioning and planning

Develop geographical questions to investigate (ACHGS026)



Collecting, recording, evaluating and representing

Collect and record relevant geographical data and information, for example, by observing, by interviewing, conducting surveys and measuring, or from sources such as maps, photographs, satellite images, the media and the internet (ACHGS027)



Represent data by constructing tables and graphs (ACHGS028)



Represent the location of places and their features by constructing large-scale maps that conform to cartographic conventions including scale, legend, title and north point, and describe their location using simple grid references, compass direction and distance (ACHGS029)



Interpreting, analysing and concluding

Interpret geographical data to identify distributions and patterns and draw conclusions (ACHGS030)





Communicating

Present findings in a range of communication forms, for example, written, oral, digital, graphic, tabular and visual, and use geographical terminology (ACHGS031)



Reflecting and responding

Reflect on their learning to propose individual action in response to a contemporary geographical challenge and identify the expected effects of the proposal (ACHGS032)

