



Foundation to 10 Australian Curriculum: Geography

The Foundation to Year 10 *Australian Curriculum: Geography* provides students with an opportunity to explore, analyse and understand the characteristics of the places that make up our world, using the concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change.

Using an inquiry approach, the completion of field-work and the use of spatial technologies is encouraged in order to assist students in making meaning of the world and being able to respond to questions in a geographically distinctive way.

The curriculum will enable students to develop a wide range of general skills and capabilities that can be applied in everyday life and at work. Students will also develop an appreciation of different perspectives, an understanding of ethical research principles, a capacity for teamwork and an ability to think critically and creatively.

How is the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Geography structured?

The Foundation to Year 10 *Australian Curriculum: Geography* is organised in two interrelated strands. This is consistent with the other subjects of the Humanities and Social Sciences learning area:

- *Geographical Knowledge and Understanding*
- *Geographical Inquiry and Skills*

Both of these strands are integrated in to the development of a teaching and learning program to promote students' understandings and use of geographical inquiry methodologies.

Students will be taught to apply their skills as they build their knowledge and understanding.

For both strands, there is important content described at each year level. The content descriptions are what students will be taught and the content elaborations are examples only to illustrate the content descriptions.

The general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities are explicitly included in the content descriptions and content elaborations across the strands as appropriate.

At each year level, an achievement standard describes the broad learning (understanding and skills) expected of students as they are taught and as they learn the content for that year level.

What are inquiry questions?

Each year level from Foundation to Year 10 includes up to four key inquiry questions that provide a framework for developing student's geographical knowledge and understandings and skills. The questions highlight the central importance of the concept(s) investigated in the study of Geography for that year level.

What is the purpose of the underpinning concepts?

The Foundation to Year 10 *Australian Curriculum: Geography* has seven underpinning concepts that weave throughout the content. The underpinning concepts are integral to the development of geographical understanding and ability to think geographically.

The underpinning concepts are: place; space; environment; interconnection; sustainability; scale; and change.



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The concepts are gradually introduced across Foundation to Year 6, therefore, particular year levels emphasise one or more concepts. By the time students commence the study of Geography at a Year 7 level, they are thinking about and investigating all seven concepts in an integrated way.

How is knowledge about Australia and the world developed in the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Geography?

Through the study of Geography, students will develop a sense of wonder, curiosity and respect about places, people, cultures and environments throughout the world.

This is achieved through highlighting particular countries and/or regions of the world to study as a rich example of content.

Across Years F-6, students will focus on the local area (F-2), extending out to a study of Australia and its neighbouring countries (Year 3), South America and Africa (Year 4), Europe and North America (Year 5), and the Asia region (Year 6) – however, other areas of Australia and the world can be included for study as appropriate.

Apart from Australia and countries of the Asia region, students will also have the opportunity to specifically focus on either West Asia (Middle East) and/or North Africa, in addition to Europe, the United States of America and China across Years 7-8. Throughout Years 9-10 there is less specificity about areas of the world to study but students are encouraged to focus on the Pacific Islands, Africa or South America in relation to human wellbeing.

It is important to remember that across all year levels, areas of the world other than those specified can be included for study as appropriate.

What flexibility is there for schools when developing teaching and learning programs?

The Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Geography specifies the content and achievement standards for each year level or band of years. Beyond that it does not specify how the curriculum will be packaged and delivered. Those are decisions made by teachers and schools depending on their context and the students in the classroom.

The curriculum is written in such a way that it also provides some flexibility for teachers to integrate local contexts and contemporary developments. This makes the curriculum alive and relevant for young Australians across the country.

Schools and school authorities will make policy decisions regarding time and sequences of learning when implementing the curriculum.

What international references have been drawn upon in developing the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Geography?

The process of developing the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Geography has included a review of national and international curriculum documents including Ontario, Finland, the International Baccalaureate and the United Kingdom.

For more information please go to: www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Geography