NSW SYLLABUS for the Australian curriculum

GEOGRAPHY K–10 SYLLABUS
CONTENT FOR STAGE 2

OVERVIEW OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

In considering the intended learning, teachers will make decisions about the sequence, the emphasis to be given to particular areas of content, and any adjustments required based on the needs, interests and abilities of their students. Content including knowledge and understanding, concepts, skills and tools should be integrated to provide meaningful learning experiences for students.

Where appropriate, students are to be provided with opportunities to investigate a wide range of places and environments from local to global scales.

THE FOLLOWING GEOGRAPHICAL CONCEPTS ARE TO BE INTEGRATED THROUGHOUT STAGE 2:

- **Place**: the significance of places and what they are like eg natural and human features and characteristics of different places and their similarities and differences; how people’s perceptions about places influence their responses and actions to protect them.
- **Space**: the significance of location and spatial distribution, and ways people organise and manage spaces that we live in eg settlement patterns within Australia, neighbouring countries and other countries.
- **Environment**: the significance of the environment in human life, and the important interrelationships between humans and the environment eg how climate and environment influence settlement patterns; interconnections between people and environments; differing ways people can use environments sustainably.
- **Interconnection**: no object of geographical study can be viewed in isolation eg interconnections between people, places and environments; influence of people’s values on the management and protection of places and environments and the custodial responsibilities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- **Scale**: the way that geographical phenomena and problems can be examined at different spatial levels eg types of settlement across a range of scales; the influence of climate across a range of scales.
- **Sustainability**: the capacity of the environment to continue to support our lives and the lives of other living creatures into the future eg ways in which people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, use and protect natural resources; differing views about environmental sustainability; sustainable management of waste.

THE FOLLOWING GEOGRAPHICAL INQUIRY SKILLS ARE TO BE INTEGRATED THROUGHOUT STAGE 2:

**Acquiring geographical information**

- develop geographical questions to investigate (ACHGS019, ACHGS026)
- collect and record relevant geographical data and information, for example, by observing, by interviewing, conducting surveys, or using maps, visual representations, the media or the internet (ACHGS020, ACHGS027)

**Processing geographical information**

- represent data by constructing tables, graphs and maps (ACHGS021, ACHGS028)
- represent information by constructing large-scale maps that conform to cartographic conventions, using spatial technologies as appropriate (ACHGS022, ACHGS029)
• interpret geographical data to identify distributions and patterns and draw conclusions (ACHGS023, ACHGS030)

Communicating geographical information
• present findings in a range of communication forms, for example, written, oral, digital, graphic, tabular and visual, and use geographical terminology (ACHGS024, ACHGS031)
• reflect on their learning to propose individual action in response to a contemporary geographical challenge and identify the expected effects of the proposal (ACHGS025, ACHGS032)

THE FOLLOWING GEOGRAPHICAL TOOLS ARE TO BE INTEGRATED THROUGHOUT STAGE 2:

Examples may include:
Maps – M
• large-scale maps, world map, globe, sketch maps
• maps to identify location, direction, distance, map references, spatial distributions and patterns

Fieldwork – F
• observing, measuring, collecting and recording data, conducting surveys or interviews
• fieldwork instruments such as measuring devices, maps, photographs

Graphs and statistics – GS
• tally charts, pictographs, data tables, column graphs, simple statistics

Spatial technologies – ST
• virtual maps, satellite images, global positioning systems (GPS)

Visual representations – VR
• photographs, illustrations, diagrams, story books, multimedia, web tools
PLACES ARE SIMILAR AND DIFFERENT

OUTCOMES

A student:
› examines features and characteristics of places and environments GE2-1
› describes the ways people, places and environments interact GE2-2
› examines differing perceptions about the management of places and environments GE2-3
› acquires and communicates geographical information using geographical tools for inquiry GE2-4

KEY INQUIRY QUESTIONS

• How and why are places similar and different?
• What would it be like to live in a neighbouring country?
• How do people’s perceptions about places influence their views about the protection of places?

CONTENT FOCUS

Students examine natural and human features of Australia and the diverse characteristics of Australia’s neighbouring countries. They explore the different climates, settlement patterns and demographic characteristics of places and use this information to imagine what it would be like to live in different places. Students consider how people’s perceptions of places are the basis for actions to protect places and environments.

CONTENT

The Australian continent
Students:
• investigate Australia’s major natural and human features for example: (ACHGK014, ACHGK015)
  – description of natural features of Australia eg deserts, rivers, mountains STVR
  – location of Australia’s states, territories and major cities M
  – identification of Countries/Places of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples M

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Australia’s neighbours
Students:
• investigate Australia’s neighbouring countries and their diverse characteristics, for example: (ACHGK016)
  – location of Australia’s neighbouring countries
  – examination of the natural and human features of neighbouring countries
  – comparison of the natural and human features of a city in Australia with a city in a neighbouring country

Climate of places
Students:
• investigate the climates of different places, for example: (ACHGK017)
  – discussion of how weather contributes to climate
  – comparison of climates in different places

Similarities and differences between places
Students:
• investigate the settlement patterns and demographic characteristics of places and the lives of the people who live there, for example: (ACHGK019)
  – examination of the varying settlement patterns and demographics of places
  – comparison of the daily life of people from different places

Perception and protection of places
Students:
• investigate how the protection of places is influenced by people’s perception of places, for example: (ACHGK018)
  – description of how and why people perceive places differently
  – discussion of how people’s perceptions influence the protection of places in Australia eg sacred sites, national parks, world heritage sites
THE EARTH’S ENVIRONMENT

OUTCOMES

A student:
› examines features and characteristics of places and environments GE2-1
› describes the ways people, places and environments interact GE2-2
› examines differing perceptions about the management of places and environments GE2-3
› acquires and communicates geographical information using geographical tools for inquiry GE2-4

KEY INQUIRY QUESTIONS

• 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?

CONTENT FOCUS

Students explore the climate, natural vegetation and native animals of places in Australia and Asia. They examine the importance of natural vegetation and natural resources to the environment, animals and people and learn about the ways people value environments, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Students identify sustainable practices and recognise that there are differing views on how sustainability can be achieved.

CONTENT

Different environments
Students:
• investigate the natural characteristics of Australia and a country in Asia, for example: (ACHGK020)
  - comparison of climate, natural vegetation and native animals GSVR

Significance of environments
Students:
• investigate the importance of natural vegetation and natural resources to the environment, animals and people, for example: (ACHGK021, ACHGK022, ACHGK024)
  - identification of types of natural vegetation eg forests, grasslands, deserts VR
  - explanation of the importance of natural vegetation to animals and the functioning of the environment eg provision of habitats, production of oxygen F
discussion of the importance of natural vegetation and natural resources to people
eg provision of food, medicine, fuel, timbers, fibres, me

Perception of environments
Students:
• investigate the ways people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, value environments, for example: (ACHGK022, ACHGK023, ACHGK024)
  – discussion of why people value environments differently eg cultural, agricultural, commercial, recreational values
  – description of how custodial responsibility for Country/Place influences Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples’ views of the environment

Protection of environments
Students:
• investigate sustainable practices that protect environments, including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, for example: (ACHGK023, ACHGK024, ACHGK025)
  – examination of how environments can be used sustainably eg sustainable agricultural, commercial and recreational practices
  – discussion of ways waste can be managed sustainably
  – examination of how the practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples support the sustainable use of environments eg use of resources