

# Year 7 - Unit 2: Place And Liveability

Aligned with the Australian National Curriculum



- Section 1:  
The Location  
Of Indigenous  
Australians
- Section 2:  
Liveability
- Section 3:  
Around The World
- Section 4:  
Centrality
- Section 5:  
Other Factors  
That Affect  
Where We Live
- Section 6:  
Living Now And  
In The Future



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## Teachers' Notes

*Year 7 - Unit 1: Resources In The World* and *Year 7 - Unit 2: Place And Liveability* have been specifically written for Year 7 students studying Geography in Australia. The books have been written by the same author and are both part of the *Australian Geography Series* which comprises nine books in total. *Year 7 - Unit 2* is divided into six sections which clearly link to the Australian National Curriculum.

The first section investigates the factors which have influenced the location of Indigenous Australians over the years. It traces their movements and the reasons behind these movements.

The second section entitled *Liveability*, explores the reasons why people live where they do in Australia, and compares Australian life in urban, rural and remote places. *Around The World* is the title of the third section of the book and it makes a comparison between Australia and other countries.

*Centrality* is the name of the fourth section of the book as it explores urbanisation. The fifth section examines many factors which contribute to people's decisions to live in certain places, and the final section considers future living.

As students complete the activities in this book, they will learn to describe the significance, interconnection and characteristics of places, and identify the relationships between them. They will use concepts relating to location, distribution and pattern, to describe their observations and findings.

Each activity sheet is designed to engage the students and help them to develop an appreciation of why people live where they do.

Students will be encouraged to develop Geography skills by: observing, questioning, planning, collecting, evaluating, processing, analysing, interpreting and drawing conclusions.

# National Curriculum Links

## **Geographical Knowledge and Understanding**

### **The factors that influence the decisions people make about where to live and their perceptions of the liveability of places (ACHGK043)**

- investigating their and others' interpretations of the concept of liveability and choices about where to live, for example, connections to cultural groups, adolescent 'bright lights' attraction, retiree tree-change and families with children locating near schools, and other facilities
- discussing the concept of liveability and the ways it is measured and comparing objective measures such as transportation infrastructure, with subjective measures such as people's perceptions
- comparing student access to and use of places and spaces in their local area and evaluating how this affects perceptions of liveability
- discussing that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples choose to live on their Country/Place or might prefer to if they had the choice

### **The influence of accessibility to services and facilities on the liveability of places (ACHGK044)**

- comparing accessibility to and availability of a range of services and facilities between different types of settlements (urban, rural and remote) in Australia and other countries, for example, access to clean water, sanitation, education and health services
- examining the role transport plays in people's ability to access services and participate in activities in the local area
- comparing transportation and accessibility in Australian cities with cities in countries of the Asia region or Europe

### **The influence of environmental quality on the liveability of places (ACHGK045)**

- researching the effects of air pollution on the liveability of cities
- explaining the importance of water quality to the liveability of places
- investigating the concept of environmental quality and surveying the environmental quality of their local area and its effect on liveability

### **The influence of social connectedness, community identity and perceptions of crime and safety on the liveability of places (ACHGK046)**

- discussing the different types of places where people can feel included or excluded, safe or threatened, and evaluating how this affects perceptions about liveability of places
- investigating the extent to which people in their place are socially connected or socially isolated and its effect on liveability

### **The strategies used to enhance the liveability of places, especially for young people, including examples from Australia and Europe (ACHGK047)**

- researching methods implemented in Australia and Europe to improve the liveability of a place, and evaluating their applicability to their own locality
- developing a specific proposal to improve an aspect of the liveability of their place, taking into account the needs of diverse groups in the community, including young people
- discussing the impact of housing density on the liveability of places, examining whether liveability and environmental sustainability can be enhanced at the same time

# Distribution Of Indigenous Australians 1

- Read the text below then complete the task.



Torres Strait Islanders are people whose heritage and culture comes from a group of islands to the north of Queensland. Torres Strait Islanders are a part of Australia's indigenous population. In 2012 it was estimated that 6% of Indigenous Australians were Torres Strait Islanders.

Australian Aboriginals are also a part of Australia's indigenous population. In 2012 it was estimated that Aboriginals made up 2.6% of the Australian population.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are believed to have come to Australia over 45,000 years ago. How and where they lived then, is different to how and where they live in modern times.

When Aboriginals first arrived in Australia, they lived all over Australia, however, the coastal

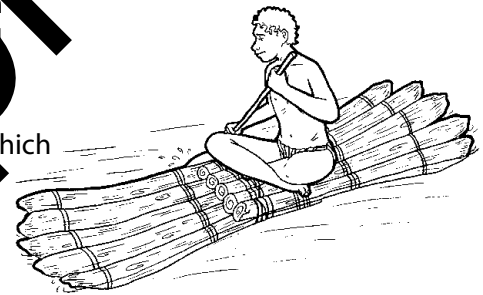
areas were the most highly populated. After European settlement, Aboriginals were driven away from coastal areas and began to live in inland Australia.

Prior to colonisation, Aboriginals moved from place to place according to the seasons in order to manage the environment. For example they would move from area to area in order to allow the land and its resources to replenish, so that it never became depleted of life giving foods, water and shelter.

The Aboriginals who lived in inland Australia hunted and gathered in the bush and the desert. They burnt the undergrowth of the bush which encouraged the growth of new vegetation and attracted the animals that they hunted for food. They

were also experts in seeking out water. Where Aboriginals lived in Australia pre-colonisation was determined by the resources that the land provided for them.

When the Europeans came to settle in Australia in 1788 it was estimated that there were between 300,000 and 750,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples living in Australia. This number began to rapidly decline due to the introduction of foreign diseases and fatal disputes with the Europeans.



- Aboriginals obey certain laws. The adherence to these laws determine their movements around Australia. Read the laws below.

## Physical World "Our Land Our Life"

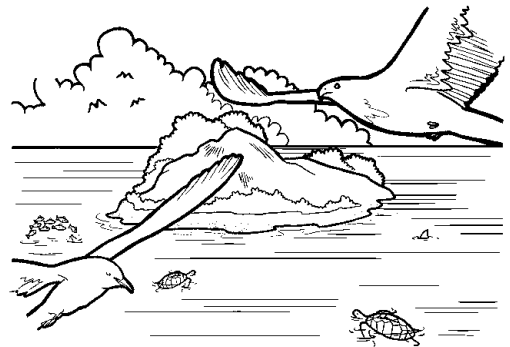
*'We don't own the land, the land owns us.'*

*'The land is my mother, my mother is the land.'*

*'Land is the starting point to where it all began. It is like picking up a piece of dirt and saying this is where I started and this is where I will go.'*

*'The land is our food, our culture, our spirit and identity.'*

*'We don't have boundaries like fences, as farmers do. We have spiritual connections.'*



- A. After reading the above information, explain in your own words what determined where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples lived before and after colonisation. Write on the back of this sheet or in your workbook.

# Where Australians Live 1

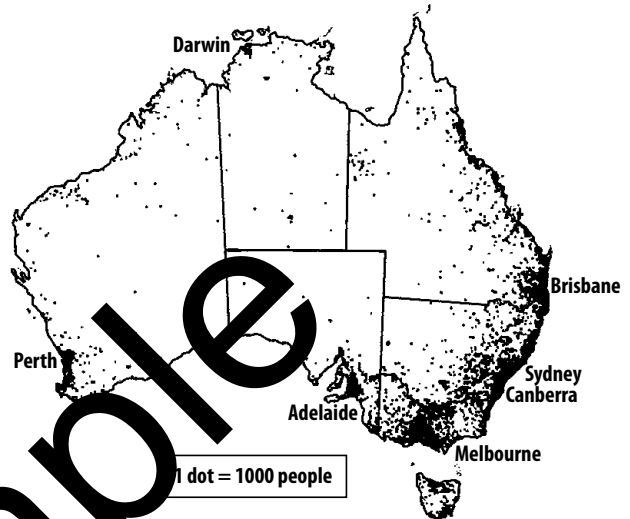
Read the information then complete the tasks on this page and on page 18.



Pre-colonisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples inhabited mainly the coastal areas of Australia, and a lesser number, the interior of Australia. European settlers focused on coastal settlements in order to access fresh water and food, and drove indigenous Australians inland. Today more than three quarters of Australia's population live in coastal areas, mostly along the south-east and south-west of Australia. The population within these regions is concentrated in urban areas, particularly in the state and territory capital cities.

Over the past 100 years, even with the enormous technological advancements in irrigation, agriculture and mining, 89% of Australians live in coastal regions, and only 11% live in rural and remote locations.

Population Distribution In Australia



## Population Density

Population density refers to the number of people living per unit in an area. It measures how densely populated an area is. Australia's population density is currently 2.9 people per square kilometre (sq km). The states' and territories' population statistics are presented below.

STATE OR TERRITORY	PEOPLE PER SQ KM	POPULATION	AREA (KM SQ)
Australian Capital Territory	162.1	370,700	2,280
Victoria	23.54	5,574,500	227,146
New South Wales	9.05	7,247,700	800,642
Tasmania	7.48	511,700	68,401
Queensland	2.6	4,513,000	1,730,648
South Australia	1.67	1,645,000	983,482
Western Australia	0.94	2,387,200	2,529,875
Northern Territory	0.17	232,400	1,349,129

A. Answer the questions about the distribution of the Australian population.

1. Is the population evenly or unevenly spread?

---

2. Where do most people live?

---

3. What is the least populated area?

---

4. Why do you think this is?

# Remoteness 1

Read the information, then complete the tasks on pages 24 and 25.



The population in Australia decreases the further away it is from an urban centre. Areas in Australia can be categorised as urban, rural and remote.

**Urban:**

an area characterised by a higher population density and built features than the area around it.

**Rural / Regional:**

an area that has a low population density and where the land is typically used for agriculture.

**Remote:**

describes a geographical area where a community is located over 350 kilometres from the nearest service centre having year-round road access.

1. Major cities of Australia
2. Inner Regional Australia
3. Outer Regional Australia
4. Remote Australia
5. Very Remote Australia
6. Migratory (preparing to leave Australia)

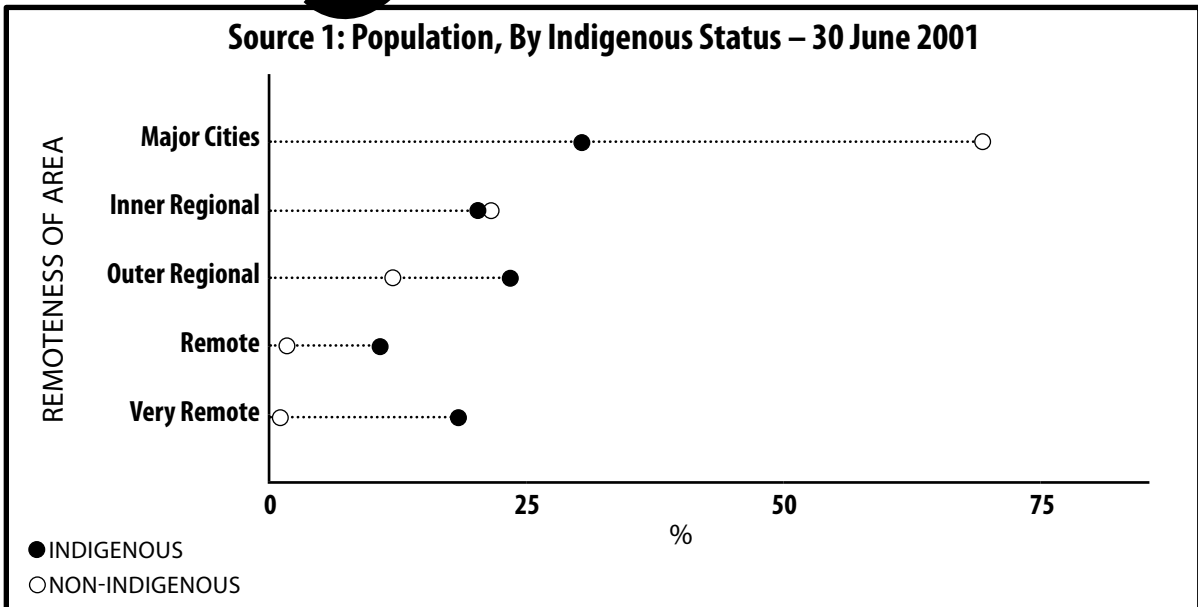
In 2012, the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated that 66% of Australia's population lived in urban centres, 31% lived in inner and outer regional areas and only 3% in remote or very remote areas. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of people living in remote (21%) and very remote (24%) areas. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) had the least, with 99.8% of the population living in urban areas.

Look at the source below. It shows that in comparison to the general population, a relatively high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples lived in rural and remote areas in 2001. However, at this time, urban areas were home to the majority of indigenous people.



The Remoteness Structure of Australia developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics further classifies Australia into six regions. They are:

Source 1: Population, By Indigenous Status – 30 June 2001



# Remoteness 2

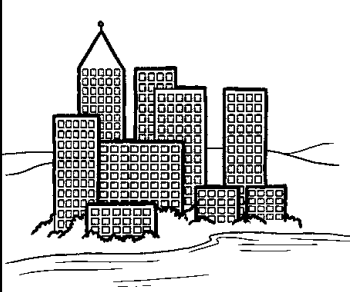
After reading the information on page 23, complete the tasks below.

A. Sort the words into the correct boxes.

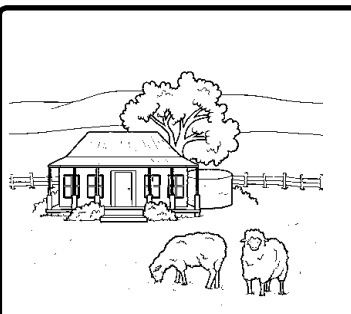
**List of Words**

- swimming pools
- city skyscrapers
- highways
- roads
- storage sheds
- dams
- houses
- apartments
- stables
- traffic lights
- hotels
- bus stations
- train stations
- airports
- cafés
- petrol stations
- parks
- skate parks

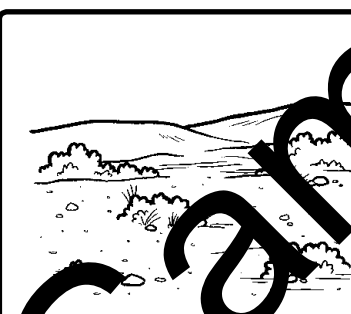
**Urban Population**



**Rural Population**



**Remote Population**



B. Complete the table by listing ten towns in order of distance from your closest capital city. Start with your closest capital city and finish with a remote town.

Name Of City/Town	Distance From Capital City (KM)	Classification: Urban, Rural Or Remote
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		



# Australian Urbanisation 1

Read the text, then complete the tasks on page 39.



## Population Growth And Decline

In Australia the highest numbers of people can be found in areas surrounding the main capital cities. Australia has a high level of urban sprawl. Until recently the majority of Australians have chosen to live in residential areas with family housing, parks, recreational facilities and shopping centres.

In the 2010s in Australia a new trend emerged with people in their early 20s seeking to live in the heart of the CBD (Central Business District). Record numbers of apartment buildings were built to accommodate this trend. Abandoned docklands in Sydney, Perth and Melbourne were transformed into state of the art housing highly sought after by a new generation of city dwellers. For example in Perth from 2007 to 2012, large scale supermarkets appeared in the centre of the city as well as health clubs, recreation centres and medical facilities, some of which were accessible 24 hours a day.

One reason for this shift in historic population trends is the rise of materialistic values and a focus on the individual within a community. As well as the inner city living trend, cities have seen a shift in young families moving to inner city suburbs and choosing to live on smaller blocks of land closer to cafés and amenities.

## Demand For Housing, Sanitation, Transport Or Service Provisions

Urban centres face an ever increasing demand for housing, waste disposal, transport and services such as: public transport, hospitals and medical facilities. Town planners and engineers work together to upgrade infrastructure such as: sewage connections, water supplies, electricity and gas supplies in order to accommodate the ever increasing number of people living in urban centres.

## The Positives And Negatives of Urbanisation

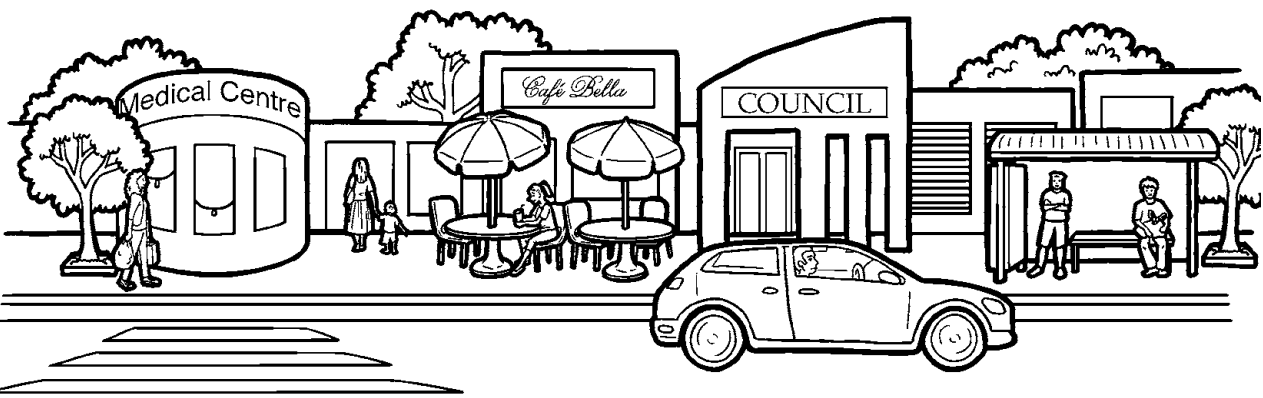
There are both positive and negative aspects of living in urban centres.

### Advantages

1. Jobs for people
2. Wealth
3. Public transport
4. Services
5. Specialised health care
6. Educational facilities
7. Recreational facilities
8. Water and sewage services
9. Speciality shops
10. Wide variety of entertainment

### Disadvantages

1. Poverty
2. Overcrowding
3. Diseases
4. Affordability of housing
5. Increased time away from home in traffic
6. Multicultural differences
7. Infrastructure breakdown
8. Lack of community values
9. Homeless population
10. Loneliness



# Technology Can Determine Where We Live 1

Read the information below, then complete the tasks on the next three pages.



## The Rise Of Technology

Technology has changed the way in which people work and live. In the early 1990s, only a few thousand people owned a mobile phone. In 2012, it was estimated that Australia had the highest rate of phone ownership per capita in the world. In 1990 only 15% of households had a home computer, at this time ADSL internet access had just become available and a small percentage of households were accessing it. In 2012 75% of Australian households had a personal home computer with broadband internet access.



## How Technology Affects Where We Live

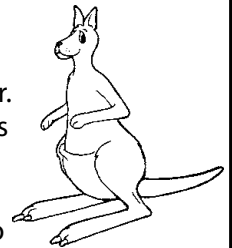
Prior to the last 15 years, people needed to live within reasonable travelling distance to their workplace. The majority of people had to physically be at a specific workplace in order to do their job. In 2012 with the rise in home internet usage, Skype, FaceTime, email and texting, over one million people worked either full-time, part-time or casually from home. The ability to work from home and not be dependent on having to travel to a workplace has given people greater flexibility when choosing where to live.

Work is not the only area that technology has made more flexible. Access to Skype, the internet, mobile phones and iPhones with FaceTime, has also meant that people can live further away from family members and friends and still maintain meaningful contact with them.

## Accessing The Internet In Rural And Remote Areas

The internet and technology has created greater flexibility for people when choosing where to live because it has made communication easier, people feel less isolated and made information and products more accessible. But what did people do before internet access reached their homes?

In the 1940s the School of the Air (SOA), was set up by the Australian Government so that children living in remote areas could access an education without having to be sent away to boarding school. At first, students had to use pedal-powered radios to receive their lessons, they could not communicate back to the teacher. Later, high frequency transceivers which both sent and received messages made it easier for students living in remote areas to communicate. The School of the Air became famous worldwide when the TV series 'Skippy' featured the use of it in the 1960s.



The School of the Air operated in conjunction with Correspondence Schools in each state. Correspondence Schools were set up by the Australian Government in the early 1900s to assist in the education of not only children but also adults wanting to complete teacher training. Educational opportunities were still quite limited for students in rural and remote areas until the development of the internet.

In Western Australia in 1995 the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) was formed when the Correspondence School, (by then renamed the Distance Education Centre) and the School of the Air amalgamated. SIDE focused on using the internet to provide more interactive and engaging lessons for remote and isolated students - the electronic classroom was born. Students today join in state of the art, interactive lessons with many other students, regardless of their location.

Overall the SIDE and other similar schools all over Australia give people the choice of staying in rural and remote areas rather than having to move to larger towns or urban centres.



# Future Living 2

Read the information, then complete the tasks on pages 50, 52 and 53.



'Smart growth' is a concept which has been around over the past twenty years.

'Smart growth' is an urban planning and transportation theory which focuses on the sustainable futures of cities and urban centres. It encourages: various modes of public transport, walk and cycle ways, mixed-use development, and a range of affordable housing choices.

## Neighbourhoods

Creating neighbourhoods which are compact and liveable is essential to the 'smart growth' concept. Urban sprawl is a term given to the spreading of suburbs away from a central focal point, such as a capital city. Urban sprawl uses more land and requires more infrastructures to be put in place at great cost to state governments. Redeveloping already existing areas by changing zoning structures can contribute to existing infrastructure being used and upgraded rather than using valuable resources to build new structures. In the future, we may see less detached housing of individual blocks, less surface car parks and less one-story shopping centres.

Under the 'smart growth' concept, residential and commercial areas will be designed to incorporate public transport as an integral part of its success and sustainability. Providing more frequent buses and trains through high density areas is key to the success of these new areas.

Terms such as 'sustainable development' and 'best practice' are of great importance to future urban centres. Other terms such as: 'new community design', 'new urbanism', 'traditional neighbourhood development', 'land preservation', 'conserving open space', 'creating a sense of

place', 'preservation development', 'human, natural and financial capital' and 'Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Accounting – People, Planet, Profit' are all central to the 'smart growth' concept.



Urban centres in the future may well focus on making new businesses more competitive by providing alternate places to shop, work and play. It is believed that people will be encouraged to

work where they live if a place provides jobs for residents, a place for families and improved access to quality education.

In the future would you like to be a part of an environmentally sustainable community that focuses on achieving a sense of community and place? If your answer is yes then you might consider a career in urban planning. Remember to consider the principles of 'smart growth' listed below.

## Principles Of Smart Growth

1. Mixed land uses;
2. Take advantage of compact building design;
3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices;
4. Create walkable neighbourhoods;
5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place;
6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas;
7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities;
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices;
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective;
10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.

