
AN E-BOOK FROM READY-ED PUBLICATIONS

Atlas Adventures

**Practical activities to introduce
and develop atlas skills.**

(For 9 - 11 year olds)



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Atlas Adventures

An activity book to introduce and develop atlas skills.

The activities in '**Atlas Adventures**' address the atlas skills needed in primary social studies. The book is structured so that each activity focuses on a specific skill which can be treated in one lesson.

The book is produced in a way that allows easy teacher use - each skill-based activity sheet is preceded on the opposing page by a set of Teachers' Notes which give background to the skill being treated, at the same time as providing answers where these are applicable.

The Teachers' Page ...

- ☐ **States the objective of the relevant activity as a Learning Outcome/s.**
- ☐ **Provides some information that is appropriate to the skill.**
- ☐ **Outlines preparation required and materials suggested for the lesson.**

The Activity Pages themselves indicate the concept and the skill at the top of the worksheet. Students are required to be involved in a number of tasks including:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| * researching | * writing |
| * measuring | * drawing |
| * interpreting | * creating |
| * evaluating | * estimating |

To enable teachers to record students' progress and achievements a Teachers' Checklist is provided on Page 4.

Students can record their own progress by using the Student Record on Page 5.

Contents

<u>CONCEPT</u>	<u>PAGE/S</u>
Introduction	2
Teachers' Checklist	4
Student Outcomes	5
<u>ACTIVITY PAGES</u>	
The Contents Page	6, 7
Index Use	8, 9
Vocabulary	10, 11
Abbreviations	12, 13
General Symbols	14, 15
Population Symbols	16, 17
Rainfall Symbols	18, 19
Legends	20, 21
International Boundaries	22, 23
State Boundaries	24, 25
Compass Points	26, 27
Direction Application	28, 29
Direction Location	30, 31
Equator N/S	32, 33
Prime Meridian	34, 35
Grids	36, 37
Scale	38, 39
Scale Application	40, 41
Line Graphs	42, 43
Bar Graphs	44, 45
Pie Graphs	46, 47
Diagrams	48, 49
Latitude/Distance	50, 51

LEARNING OUTCOME/S

Students realize the need to select an atlas section; recognise the variety of sections in an atlas.

TEACHERS' NOTES

Discussing the pre-activity definition and the conclusion will help increase awareness of contents. Some atlases have a map reference grid on the inside cover that corresponds to the page numbers in the contents page.

PREPARATION/MATERIALS

Students will need a worksheet, an atlas.

ANSWERS

- ☆ What do you think an atlas is? **Answers will vary.**
- ☆ An atlas is divided into sections.
What sections does your atlas contain? **Answers will vary.**
- ☆ An atlas contains more than just maps.
Name some other information you can find in your atlas. **Answers will vary.**
.....
- ☆ Why do you think your atlas has more maps of Australia than of the U.S.A?
..... **Because it is for Australian schools, more details of Australia needed.**
.....
- ☆ In what ways would the American school atlas be different/the same as yours?
..... **More maps of USA, other American information, less on Australia.**
..... **Other continents may be the same.**
.....
- ☆ Use the contents page for the page number to find ...
The two longest rivers in North America Page **Answers will vary**
The neighbouring countries of China Page **Answers will vary**
The highest mountains in the world Page **Answers will vary**
The countries of Europe Page **Answers will vary**
The landforms of South America Page **Answers will vary**
The rainfall of Australia Page **Answers will vary**
Why do atlases become out of date? **Political boundaries change.**
What is the difference between a contents page and an index ? **More information on**
..... **location given in the index.**
.....
Write a better description of an atlas now that you have reviewed the contents page.
..... **Answers will vary.**
.....

NAME:

Activity Page 1

The Contents Page



SKILL: Realizing the need to select a section of the atlas from the contents page.

☐ What do you think an atlas is?

.....

☐ An atlas is divided into sections.

What sections does your atlas contain?

.....

☐ An atlas contains more than just maps.

Name some other information you can find in your atlas.

.....

☐ Why do you think your atlas has more maps of Australia than of the USA?

.....

☐ In what ways would the American school atlas be different/the same as yours?

.....

☐ Use the contents page for the page number to find ...

The two longest rivers in North America Page

The neighbouring countries of China Page

The highest mountains in the world Page

The countries of Europe Page

The landforms of South America Page

The rainfall of Australia Page

Why do atlases become out of date?

.....

What is the difference between a contents page and an index ?

.....

.....

Write a better description of an atlas now that you have reviewed the contents page.

.....



LEARNING OUTCOME/S

Students understand and use the terminology of maps.

TEACHERS' NOTES

The terms used are common in atlases. Some further word study could be done to expand on continental differences due to colloquial terms ...

- e.g. loch - lake
pampas - steppe - plain
or integrated into spelling/homophones activities ...
e.g. bight - bite
steppe - step

PREPARATION/MATERIALS

Students will need the worksheet, an atlas, and a dictionary.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Drawing a map that includes the physical shapes defined.

ANSWERS

peninsula
strait
ocean

gulf
bay
sound

cape
island
mount

reef
plain

range
desert

sea
territory

WATER

gulf
reef
sea
strait
bay
ocean
sound
.....

LAND

peninsula
cape
range
island
plain
desert
territory
mount

☆ Use your dictionary to find the meaning of these more difficult map words.

continent ***A great extent of land.***
isthmus ***A narrow neck of land joining two larger land areas.***
archipelago ***A group of islands.***
bight ***A wide bay.***
plateau ***Tableland.***
steppe ***A dry grassy plain.***

NAME:

Activity Page 3

Vocabulary



THE LANGUAGE OF MAPS

- ☐ The following terms are used on a map of Australia. Scan the map and sort them into two groups - 'Water' vocabulary and 'Land' vocabulary.

peninsula	gulf	cape	reef	range	sea
strait	bay	island	plain	desert	territory
ocean	sound	mount			

WATER

LAND

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



- ☐ Use your dictionary to find the meaning of these more difficult map words.

continent

isthmus

archipelago

bight

plateau

steppe