

Geography

City And Remote Living



For Upper Primary

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Preview

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How We Are Distributed

Read the information, then complete the activity sheets which follow.

City And Coastal Living

Australia is a country of city dwellers. 89% of Australians live in cities and their suburban centres which cling to the coastline. Over 60% of the total Australian population of 24.77 million (2018) live in the five major cities of: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. People live in coastal cities because there are employment opportunities and resources.

Australia isn't on its own when it comes to living near the coast. It is estimated that by 2020, two-thirds of the global population will be living within 60 kilometres of the world's oceans and seas.

The Empty Heartland

In contrast to Australian cities, the population of the interior of Australia is sparse. This is because the weather is more challenging and services and job opportunities are limited. Since 1975, people have been moving out of the heartland of Australia and towards the coast. Many regional towns have lost as much as 40% of their permanent residents! The attitude of most Australians is that the outback is a land of beauty, riches and opportunities; but not a place to live. People who do work in remote areas often prefer to commute by plane rather than settle there.

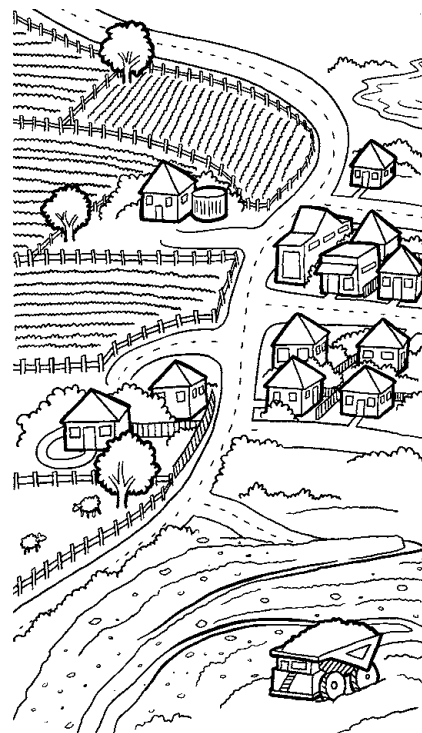


Broken Hill, NSW

Some places, like Broken Hill (New South Wales) built their community on the wealth of massive silver, lead and zinc ore deposits that have been mined since the 1890s. But Broken Hill's mining days are over and operations are closing down. Younger people have left to find work elsewhere. Older residents are moving to urban centres that provide better health services and retirement activities and are not as prone to natural hazards.

Shire Of Northampton, WA

Wheat farmers in the Shire of Northampton near Geraldton (Western Australia) have been steadily moving off their properties. In 1986, this area boasted 10,371 residents. In 2011, the population had reduced by 65% to 5,139. One reason for the loss of residents is that smaller farms were bought up by larger agricultural companies.

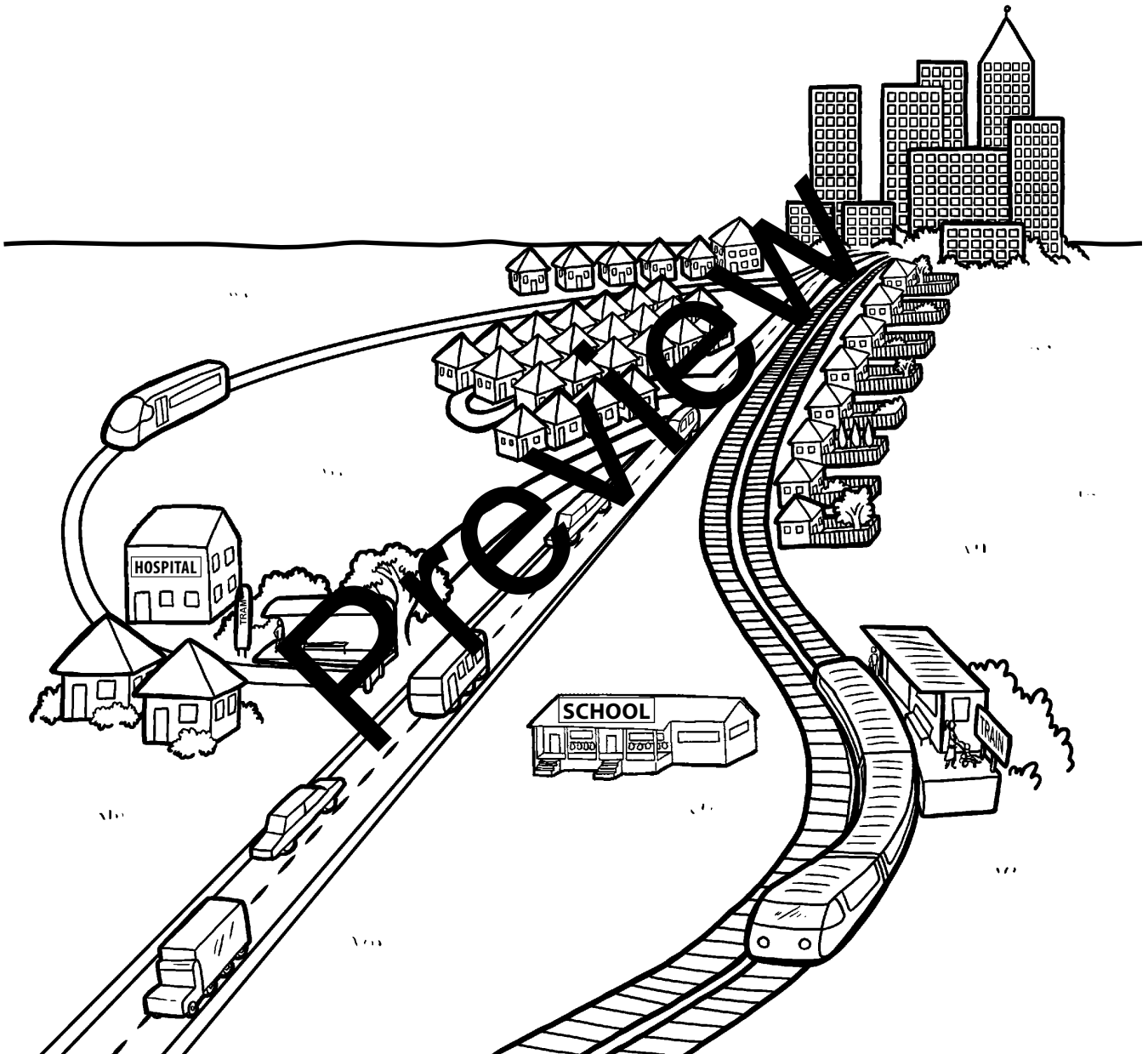


Activity

Where We Live 1

Use the information on page 3 to complete this activity sheet.

- ☐ Look at the coastal city below. Annotate the picture with reasons why people might live in this city by the coast.



Use the information on page 3 to complete this activity sheet.

1. What could the government do to encourage people to stay in Broken Hill?
Complete the think-pair-share.

Think by myself	Share in a pair	Share in a group

2. What could the government do to encourage people to stay in the Shire of Northampton? Complete the think-pair-share.

Think by myself	Share in a pair	Share in a group

3. Mining companies who employ people to live in the regional town of Kalgoorlie in WA have introduced a rule that if you accept a job in Kalgoorlie then you must live there. There are no workers permitted to commute. Complete the plus and minus chart to show your thoughts about this rule. Work in a pair.



Plus	Minus

Answers

Page 4

Possible annotations: there are houses close to a school, hospital, train routes, main roads; the city nearby would create many jobs; people in this city would have to travel less to access facilities; living near the coast often means the climate is cooler; people use the ocean as a means of recreation

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1. Possible answers: build more facilities in the area; make old mining sites into a tourist attractions to create jobs; build a museum to attract people to visit the area and bring in money
2. Possible answers: encourage people to buy from WA small businesses – introduce tax breaks to small farms
3. Plus: money made in the town is spent in the town; increases population; miners' children might settle and stay
Minus: workers have to relocate their whole family which is expensive and disruptive for children; contract could be cut short and relocation short-lived; hard to adjust to remote lifestyle

Preview