# Introducing landscapes and landforms

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**An introductory 2–3 lesson sequence for Year 7 Geography which addresses the NSW Syllabus for the Australian curriculum**

At St. John the Evangelist Catholic High School in Nowra, the Year 7 HSIE teachers decided to introduce this topic by creating a learning experience based on the creation of play dough models. The initial aims of the lessons were to introduce students to the variety of landscapes (natural and manmade) which exist in our world.

Students formed groups of three and were asked to produce a model of a landscape and its associated landforms (if natural). A series of laminated images were provided to stimulate students. It soon became apparent that students enjoyed this activity as it gave them an opportunity to express their prior knowledge visually and work collaboratively. Students began to speculate about what the landscapes would look like in the future given that certain geographic processes persisted. Students also began to build a vocabulary of new terms associated with this topic. The activity enabled groups of students to share their understanding with other students and receive feedback from their peers in a positive manner.

### Lesson Plan

1. Divide class into groups of three. Number each group. Organise desks in groups.

2. Issue play dough (8 colours – see recipe below) and laminated images.

3. Teacher nominates two landscapes per group.

4. Students create two landscapes on their desk.

5. Place models in photocopier paper box lids. (easy to store/ pass around classroom)

6. Students make paper labels for 10 key features of their landscapes eg river, beach, headland etc

7. Students photograph models and upload photographs to shared Google Doc. with table. (See page 70.)

8. Students from each group will examine two models from another group and write a constructive evaluation of the model via the shared google doc. The evaluation will be 50 words. Teacher to review verbally with class the meaning of evaluation.

9. Each group researches and writes brief (50 word) answers to questions i) and ii) in the shared Google Doc. SEAL (Statement, example, analysis, link) paragraphs.

10. Finally, each group discusses their model and learning in front of the class. Teacher to project Google Doc Table with OHP.

### Play dough recipe

*Ingredients*

1.5 cups of flour, 1/2 cup of salt, 2 tbs of cream of tartar, 1 tbs of oil, food colouring, 1 cup of boiling water.

*Directions*

Mix all ingredients except the boiling water together into a large mixing bowl. Add the boiling water and mix well (Note, the food colouring will mix in better if added to the boiling water) Please take care when using boiling water around children. Stir well until the mixture is well combined. Roll it out on a flat surface and you are ready for some playdough FUN!
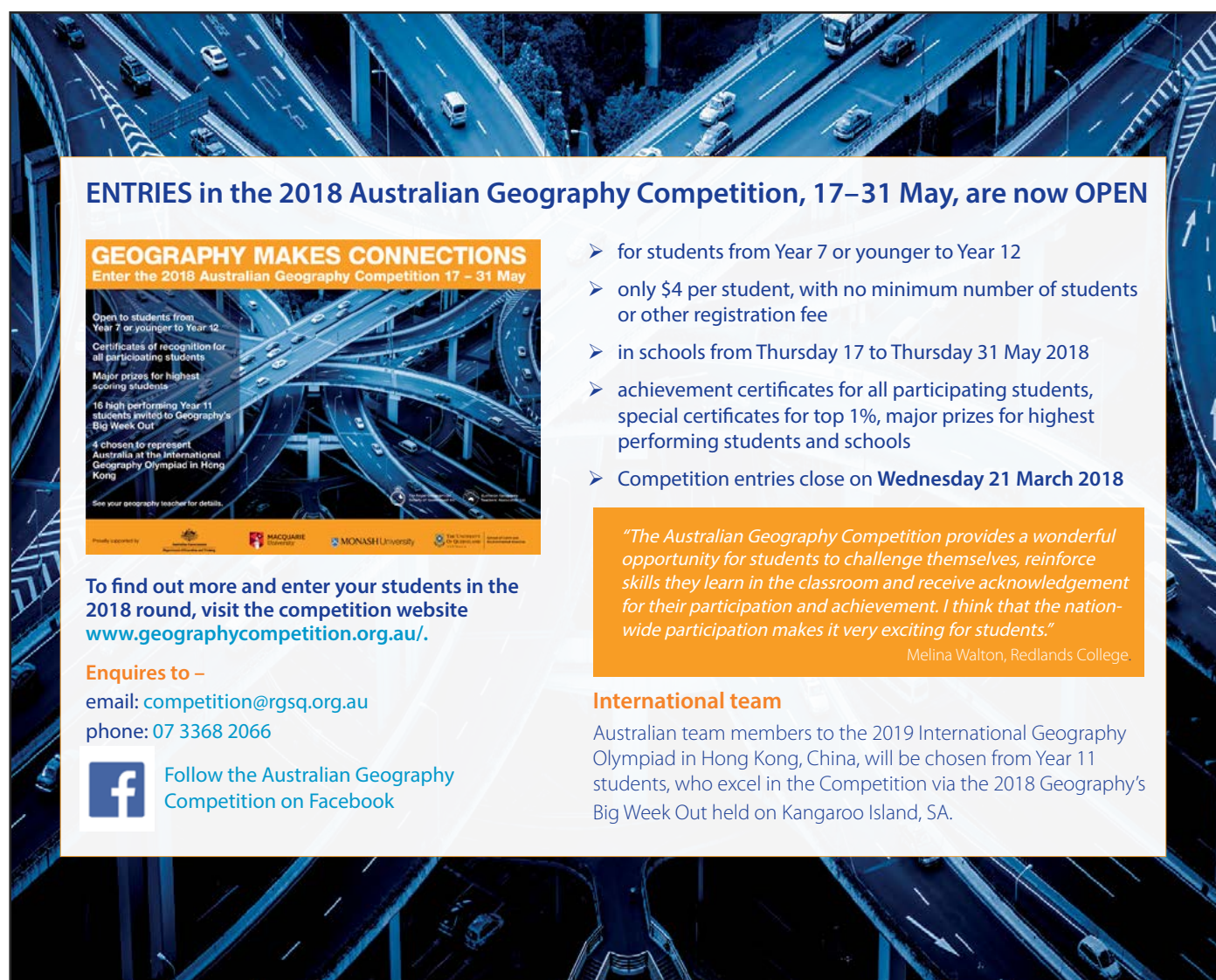
# Landscapes

**Select eight different landscape images such as those shown here to create a stimulus resource for the initial class discussion.**

## Suggested Google Doc table

| Group Number | Title of Landscape | Photograph of Models | i) How was the landscape formed? | ii) How will the landscape change? | Evaluation by another Group |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |