## STAGE 2 (YEARS 3 & 4): TOPIC 1: PLACES ARE SIMILAR AND DIFFERENT

### UNIT 1: ARE WE THERE YET? AUSTRALIAN DIVERSE PLACES AND ENVIRONMENTS

#### Content focus:
Students investigate the diversity of Australia’s places and environments starting with the picture book-based study: *Are We There Yet?* They then have the opportunity to plan their own journey. In doing so, they investigating what is special about the places they plan to visit.

#### Syllabus content area:
The Australian continent
*Students investigate Australia’s place geography and its major natural and human features.*

#### Key inquiry questions:
- In what ways are Australian places and environments similar and different?

#### Outcomes:
A student:
- examines features and characteristics of Australian places and environments
- describes the ways people, places and environments interact
- acquires and communicates geographical information using geographical tools for inquiry.

#### Inquiry skills:
- **Acquiring geographical information**
  - pose geographical questions
  - collect and record geographical data and information
- **Processing geographical information**
  - draw conclusions based on interpretation of geographical information
- **Communicating geographically**
  - present findings in a range of communication forms
  - reflect on their learning and suggest responses to their findings

#### Geographical concepts:
- **Place:** the significance of places and what they are like. For example: places students live in and belong to and why they are important.
- **Space:** the significance of location and spatial distribution, and ways people organise and manage the spaces that we live in. For example: location of a place in relation to other familiar places.
- **Environment:** the significance of the environment in human life, and the important interrelationships between humans and the environment. For example, how and why places should be looked after.
- **Interconnection:** no object of geographical study can be viewed in isolation. For example: local and global links people have with places and the special connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples maintain with Country/Place.
- **Scale:** the way that geographical phenomena and problems can be examined at different spatial levels. For example: various scales by which places can be defined such as local suburbs, towns and large cities.

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#### LESSONS AND WORKSHEETS:
- **Lesson 1:** *Are We There Yet? Picture Book Study*  ·  Resource Sheet 1  ·  Worksheet 1
- **Lesson 2:** *Are We There Yet? Getting started comprehension*  ·  Worksheet 1  ·  Worksheet 2
- **Lesson 3:** *Are We There Yet? Exploring Western Australia*  ·  Worksheet 1
- **Lesson 4:** *Are we there Yet? Group-based investigation of places visited*  ·  Worksheet 1
- **Lesson 5:** Planning and researching a journey around Australia  ·  Resource Sheet 1
- **Lesson 6:** *My Journey Writing Task*  ·  Worksheet 1