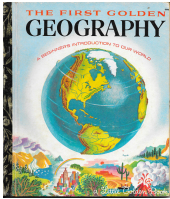# Geography Alive: Stage 1 Geography (Topic 1; Unit 1)

Lesson 1: Natural and human features

Content focus:

This lesson introduces and consolidates the concepts of natural and human features – concepts central to an understanding of geography and the environment.

Resources:

- *[Resource 1 (PPT): A collection of photographs depicting examples of natural (physical) and human environments](#)*
- *[Resource 2: Four sheets of photographs illustrating a range of natural (physical) and human environments](#)*
- Watson, J. & Sayles, W. (1955). *The First Golden Geography*: *A Beginners Introduction To Our World.* Golden Press Sydney.
- Access to aerial photographs of the local area on Google Earth.

Key inquiry questions:

- What features of places are natural and which is the product of human activity?

- How are natural features formed and shaped?

- How are natural features altered by humans and human features altered by nature?

Outcomes:

A student:

- describes features of places and classifies them as natural or human

- identifies ways in which people interact with and care for places.

Lesson sequence:

- **Step 1:** The teacher shows students photographs of a variety of both human and natural features (**Resource 1 – PPT**). Students, with teacher guidance, identify those that are dominated by natural features and those that are the work of people (human).

- **Step 2:** Small groups of students are given one of four photo cards (**Resource Sheet 2**) and asked to select those that are human features and those that are primarily physical in nature.

- **Step 3:** Each group of students is then asked to make a list of other features (not in the photographs) which could be classified as natural or human.

- **Step 4:** The class could then suggest how some of the natural features were caused – forces such as rivers, ocean waves, ice, earthquakes, wind, floods, volcanoes could be mentioned briefly.

- **Step 5:** If available, read students *The First Golden Geography*: *A Beginners Introduction To Our World*. Points to emphasise include: The world is spherical in shape and moves through space; mountainous landscapes; volcanic activity; the work of rivers; oceans and seas; islands; lakes and ponds; cold and hot lands; and deserts.

- **Step 6:** The groups then look at a Google Earth image of the school's local area on a screen device. They are asked to select places and features which can be classified as mainly natural or human.