Geography Alive: Stage 1 Geography (Topic 1: Features of Places)

Lesson 3: Observing and recording weather

Content focus:

In this lesson students focus on recording their weather-based observations. Initially they do this without the use of instruments. In the second part of the task they use a widely available weather app to investigate and record weather data.

Resources:

- Worksheet 1: Five-day weather observation record sheet
- Worksheet 2: Five-day app-based weather record

Key inquiry questions:

How does the weather experienced by a place change over time?

Outcomes:

A student:

- demonstrates the ability to observe and record weather conditions at a particular place and time
- demonstrates the ability to record and interpret weather related data available on a weather app.

Lesson sequence:

- Step 1: Recap the key ideas from Lesson 1 including the difference between 'weather' and 'climate' and the various ways in which weather impacts on our routines.
- Step 2: Weather Observation Task 1. Using Worksheet 1 student use words and symbols to describe the weather experienced over the course of a five-day school week. This task should be completed at the same time each day.
- Step 3: Weather Observation Task 2. Using Worksheet 2, ask student to record the key weather statistics sourced from a weather app. Students should access the data the same time of day over a five-day period. Suitable weather apps include Weather Live. The app requires iOS 9.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad and iPod touch. Other apps are available. The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) also provides a range of data for places throughout Australia.
- Step 4: At the end of the five-day period students have the opportunity to graph some of the data recorded in Weather Observation Task 2. For example, students could use a line graph to show temperatures and a column graph to show rainfall. Discuss with students weather experienced over the five-day period. Which was the warmest day? Which was the coldest day? Which days had rainfall? Which day was the windiest? etc.

