

## Geography Alive: Stage 1 Geography (Topic 2; Unit 1)

Lesson 3: Finding places on maps – distances, locations		
<p><b>Content focus:</b></p> <p>This lesson aims to improve the skills of using maps; in particular the use of location aids and scales on maps. Students become accustomed to using many different maps and different scales, both paper-based and electronic.</p>		<p><b>Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple maps of Australia in a Junior Atlas</li> <li>• Electronic maps (for example, Google maps) on devices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key inquiry questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we make the best use of electronic maps?</li> <li>• Which maps are best for different purposes, such as locating, finding distances, seeing patterns?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• learns how changing the scale and legend on an electronic map gives different information</li> <li>• learns about the range of maps that can be found in atlases.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lesson sequence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Step 1:</b> Building on the earlier lesson on places in Australia, the teacher discusses the distances between some of the places. Students may be able to contribute information about this from their own experience or family discussions.</li> <li>• <b>Step 2:</b> Students are given the task of finding the approximate distance between pairs of locations by using a number of methods: a piece of paper, a piece of string, automatic electronic calculations.</li> <li>• <b>Step 3:</b> A piece of paper can be made into a simple scale by lining it up with the scale on a simple map and copying the distance marks onto the edge of the paper.</li> <li>• <b>Step 4:</b> A piece of string can be used by putting one end on a map location, tightening the string and holding the place where it meets the other place location on the map. Then this length of string can be measured against the simple scale next to that map.</li> <li>• <b>Step 5:</b> Automatic electronic calculations can be made with apps such as Google Maps. When a starting point and finishing point of a journey are entered, the distance and approximate time of a journey are automatically calculated.</li> <li>• <b>Step 6:</b> After students use each of these methods they can talk about the differences between them.</li> <li>• <b>Step 7:</b> The class can be split into groups, each of which is given a junior atlas. Each group is asked to find maps which could be used for each of these purposes: finding the location of places near where they live; planning a trip to a nearby state; planning a trip around Australia; finding the names and locations of rivers and mountains in Australia; finding the names of Australia's neighbouring countries.</li> <li>• <b>Step 8:</b> Using an electronic map on a computer or hand-held device, students are asked to change the scale of the map so that it shows: details of streets in the local area; the whole town or city where they live; their own school grounds and buildings; other towns near their location.</li> </ul>