

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

Lesson 5: My Place: Environmental change		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson students focus on environmental change. Of particular interest is how the activities of people have transformed the natural environment of the area and the nature of these changes with a particular focus on air and water quality in the creek/canal. Also addressed is the role played by the 'big tree' in the life of those living in the home central to <i>My Place</i>.</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class set of <i>My Place</i> • Worksheet 1: The big (fig) tree
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the principal features and characteristics of specific places and environments? • How do people, places and environments interact? • How do the activities of people affected water quality. 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates a developing appreciation of the concepts of place, change, connections and environment • describes some ways in which people, places and environments interact. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: To begin the lesson, revise the concept of environment with the class. Note that the environment consists of our total surroundings. It includes elements that are natural (physical) and those that are the product of human activity. • Step 2: Starting at the back of the book, ask students to read through <i>My Place</i>, tracking the changes taking place in the environment over time. Focus on questions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How have the elements of the natural environment been modified by the activities of people? – What happens to the water in the creek? What causes the water to change? – What happens to the air quality? What causes the air quality to change? • Step 3: The 'big tree' referred to on the last page of the book is featured throughout <i>My Place</i>. It plays a symbolic role, linking the lives of those featured in the book. Using Worksheet 1 ask students to study the relevant pages and fill in the boxes for the selected years. Ask them to briefly outline the role played by the 'big (fig) tree' in the life of the character featured on the double-page spread. In what ways does the 'big (fig) tree' cater for the needs of children? Think in terms of imaginative play, a place of solitude and reflection, and sense of continuity in a changing world. Why has an element of the natural environment been selected for such a role? • Additional task: <i>My Place</i> makes a point about the long-term impact that people have had on the natural environment. Ask students to interview someone (family or friend) about how the area in which they live may have looked in the past. Have students compare their findings with those of their classmates.