

## Geography Alive: Stage 2 (Topic 2: The Earth's Environment)

Lesson 1: Planet Earth – An Introduction		
<p><b>Content focus:</b></p> <p>In this lesson, students are introduced to planet Earth and the processes responsible for the physical characteristics of its surface. These include the processes with the earth's tectonics movements – mountain building, volcanic activity and earthquakes. In completing this unit, students develop skills in acquiring, processing and communicating geographical information.</p>		<p><b>Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2ORT0GgOB4">YouTube video clip: An Introduction to Earth Science. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2ORT0GgOB4].</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">PowerPoint 1: Planet Earth: An Introduction to the Geography of Planet Earth</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Teacher Resource 1: PowerPoint transcript</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Worksheet 1: Planet Earth</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Key inquiry questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key processes shaping the physical character of the Earth's surface?</li> <li>• How are mountain building, volcanic action and earthquakes all related?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifies and describes key natural features and characteristics of places and environments</li> <li>• explains, in simple terms, the processes responsible for the formation of natural features of the earth's surface</li> <li>• acquires and communicates geographical information using geographical tools for inquiry.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lesson sequence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Step 1:</b> Show students the YouTube video: <i>Introduction to Earth Science</i>. This HD dramatic video choreographed to powerful music introduces the viewer/student to the wonder of Earth Science. There is no need to focus on the 'Earth Science' label. Best to just explain that Earth Science is part of what we study in Geography. Ask students to brainstorm words that describe their response to what they have seen in the video. Write these on a whiteboard.</li> <li>• <b>Step 2:</b> Determine students' prior knowledge of the Earth's physical geography. Suitable questions might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What is Earth's shape?</li> <li>– What is the inside of the Earth like?</li> <li>– How were the Earth's mountains built?</li> <li>– What are volcanoes?</li> <li>– What causes an earthquake?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Step 3:</b> Using <b>PowerPoint 1</b> (supported by <b>Teacher Resource Sheet 1</b>) read students the text (presented in a narrative form) that accompanies the images used. When finished ask students to recall as many of the features of the Earth's environment that they can recall. These might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The relative size of the Earth and its revolution around the sun</li> <li>– The shape of the Earth and its physical appearance from space</li> <li>– The nature and importance of the atmosphere</li> <li>– The structure of the Earth including its molten core, solid crust and the plates that crash into each other.</li> <li>– Mountains and glaciers</li> <li>– Volcanic activity</li> <li>– River valleys</li> <li>– Coastal landforms and islands</li> <li>– The diverse nature of Australia's environment</li> <li>– Deserts and their characteristic landforms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Step 4:</b> Explain to students that they will look at the movement of the Earth's plates, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes in more detail and that all this will form the basis of a subsequent focus on the climate, natural vegetation and native animals of places in Australia and elsewhere.</li> </ul>