

Geography Alive: Stage 3 Geography (Topic 1; Unit 2)

Lesson 4: Significance of Environments (Animals and Habitat): A Case Study of a Local Environment		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson students investigate a local environment to understand the importance of natural vegetation. They examine the features of a healthy habitat and use a checklist to determine the healthiness of habitats in their school grounds.</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Sheet 1: Google My Maps Instruction Sheet [http://www.royalnatpk-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/documents/17448645/17449532/google_my_maps_web.pdf] • Resource Sheet 2: 'Healthy Habitat' checklist. • PowerPoint 1: 'Healthy Habitat' • PowerPoint 2: 'Biodiversity action plan' template
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do environments provide for the needs of people, animals and plants? • How can we protect environments for the future? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develops inquiry questions to understand the importance of their local environment • uses a check list to survey the health of local habitats. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Select an Australian natural Environment (preferably an environment in your local area or even in your school grounds). • Step 2: Pose the Inquiry question: How does this environment provide for the needs of people, animals and plants? Ask students to think of sub questions that they could answer in such an inquiry. Examples might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Where is this environment located? – What are the features of a healthy environment? – What are the main features of this environment? – How do animals use this environment? – How can we protect this environment for the future? • Step 3: Locate your selected environment on Google Maps, Google Earth and Google Street View if available. How do you get to this environment from your house? Use 'Google My Maps' to draw a line to show the route. Instructions are available on the <i>Google My Maps</i> instruction sheet (Resource Sheet 1). • Step 4: Use the 'Healthy Habitat' PowerPoint (PowerPoint 1) to discuss the features of a healthy habitat. • Step 5: Obtain a base map of the school grounds. Go out into the school grounds and use Resource Sheet 2, the 'Healthy Habitat' checklist to survey 3–4 gardens in the school and determine if they have a healthy habitat. Mark the location of the gardens on the school map. • Step 6: Create a table that lists animals in the selected environment/habitat and explain how they use it. • Step 7: Discuss options for improvements to garden habitats and ask students to explain the reasoning behind their idea. Prioritise the improvements needed through a class vote and develop, using the PowerPoint provided (PowerPoint 2 – Biodiversity Action Plan). • Step 8: Decide on a class action to improve at least one garden.