

# Geography:

## Unit 1: Natural Environments

This unit investigates the geographic characteristics of natural environments and landforms and the natural processes that shape and change the Earth's surface. It investigates how the interactions between natural processes and human activities can also change natural environments. Students must investigate **at least two** natural environments in each area of study. The natural environments selected for investigation may be the same in each area of study. Each environment selected for investigation must focus on physical geography at two different scales.

## Unit 2: Human Environment

This unit investigates the characteristics of rural and urban environments which are developed by human activities and their interactions with natural environments. Rural and urban environments vary significantly from place to place and across a variety of scales. Rural and urban environments are significant because they are the locations where people live. Their presence creates settlements which vary in size and complexity from individual farm houses to small villages, regional towns, large metropolitan cities and mega cities. Students must investigate at least two human environments in each area of study. The environments selected for investigation may be the same in each area of study, but one of the environments must be a rural environment and one an urban environment; one must be from Australia and one must be from another country. Each environment selected for investigation must focus on human geography at two different scales.

## Unit 3: Regional Resources

This unit investigates the characteristics of resources and the concept of region. A resource is anything which occurs naturally or is created by humans provided that people use it to satisfy a need or want. Resources found within regions mean different things to different people over place and time. A study of resources is about the processes and relationships operating in the past, in the present, and those which will operate in the future. The availability and utilization of water resources influences settlement patterns, infrastructure development and decision making in many Australian regions. Problems of supply and debates about the water resources of rural and urban communities mirror processes that are happening elsewhere on the Earth. There are competing demands for water resources within and between regions at local, national and international scales. Students must investigate a regional resource and a local resource in Australia. The regional resource will be water in the Murray-Darling Basin region. Students will use fieldwork to investigate a local resource.

## Unit 4: Global Perspectives

This unit investigates the geographic characteristics of global phenomena and responses to them. Global phenomena are major natural or human events, processes or activities. Such phenomena are distributed globally and possess the capacity to affect the globe or significant parts of the globe and require more than a local or national response. Human population studies are significant to understanding the challenges facing our globalized world. This unit investigates the distribution patterns of selected global phenomena. It considers the causes, dimensions and impact of global changes and analyses policies and strategies, including those that promote sustainability, to enable a better world in the future.

Students must investigate two global phenomena in each area of study, one of which must be human population.

