

LEARNING PURPOSE:

Explore what it means to be a good geographer.

- Consider immediate outdoor environment to think about own questions and search for answers.

- Apply observation skills and reflect on what is discovered.

- Identify what could be improved in immediate outdoor environment.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM LINKS

HASS Geography

The importance of environments, including natural vegetation, to animals and people (ACHASSK088)

Inquiry Skills: Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues (ACHASSI073)

Locate and collect information and data from different sources, including observations (ACHASSI074)

Draw simple conclusions based on analysis of information and data (ACHASSI079)

Science

Science involves making predictions and describing patterns and relationships (ACSHE061)

Represent and communicate observations, ideas and findings using formal and informal representations (ACSIS071)

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Magnifying glasses (optional)
- Paper and pens to record information
- Binoculars for bird watching (optional)
- Maps of the school (optional)

KEY LEARNING INTENTION

We are exploring what it means to be a good geographer.

Consider - What you like to explore about our outdoor environment?

- Where are we now? (*what is our environment like?*)
- Where do we want to be? (*What do we want it to be like?*)

Act - Use observation skills and think about what is discovered.

- What is happening in outdoor environment?
- What needs to happen?

Reflect - Identify what can be improved in the immediate outdoor environment.

- What do I need to change

FURTHER RESOURCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

Observing Habitats:

- <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/observing-recording-habitats/>

About Fieldwork:

- <http://www.geogspace.edu.au/support-units/fieldwork/fi-overview.html>

How Wolves changed the rivers:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysa5OBhXz-Q>
- www.natureplay.org.au

INTRODUCTION

Geography is about curiosity, exploration and discovery. It gives the power to see places in new ways, even imaginary ones.

Geography helps us to understand, make sense of the world and solve problems. It allows people to consider and design improvements to the environment based on what is already happening - it is responsive. When we are outside we are thinking, looking and using all our senses - this helps to make us feel good.

PREPARATION:

ACTIVITY 1: WHOLE CLASS WORK

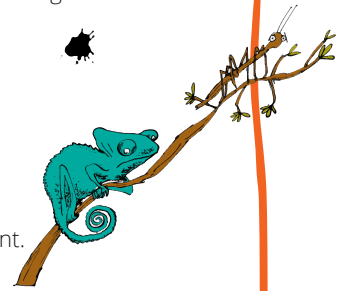
Geography is all about 'ings':

- Discuss the many 'ings' of geographers: smelling, swimming, mapping, drawing, comparing, imagining, sharing, asking, feeling, searching, finding, observing...
- Ask students to think about a time when they have used one of the 'ings'
- Get students to work in pairs or small groups to add to the list and create a class chart.
- Create a whole class 'min-mission' to go outside and practise using some of the geographer's 'ings'.

ACTIVITY 2: INDIVIDUAL WORK

Follow an Insect:

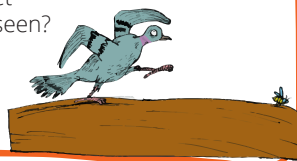
- Follow an insect and keep a record on what you think it is thinking, for example "I'm looking for food because I am hungry":
 - Thought 1:
 - Thought 2:
 - Thought 3:
 - Thought 4:
 - Thought 5:
- Consider how the insect is interacting with the environment. What is helping or hindering them as they move along? Share your thoughts with someone else.



ACTIVITY 3: SMALL GROUP WORK

Watcher Bird:

- Get from A to B without being seen by a single bird.
 - Place A:
 - Place B:
 - Rough Distance:
 - Win Fail
- What did you notice about the birds? What would/did help you get from A to B without being seen?



ACTIVITY 4: PARTNER WORK

Developing the geographer's curiosity:

- Students work in small groups to design a question around what they would like to find out about in their outdoor environment.
- Plan for discovery considering the 'ings' of a geographer.
- Put plan into action and share reflections.

GOING BEYOND:

- Document your learning as a geographer to share with others - use surveys, graphs and diagrams to build understanding.
- Consider changes that could be made to improve people's interaction with outdoor space- prepare a proposal that could be used to share with a school leader to make a change.

