

CHAPTER 11

Geographical inquiry: What is my place like?

11.1 Overview

11.1.1 Scenario and task

Task: To create a blog that presents demographic characteristics of your local place.

Every person has their own idea of what their local place is like. For some people, this area can be very large; for others, it can be quite small. It really depends on where you go in your everyday life. For example, homes of relatives or friends, sports clubs, shops and parks. This means that it does not matter if your map representing your place is a different size or shape to those of friends who live in the same area. The differences simply reflect what you do and think as an individual person.

When you draw a mental map of your local place, you identify the features that you think give your neighbourhood a sense of place. All local areas have these special features that create the character or personality of the place. Many of these features can be identified on maps of the area. But there are also characteristics of your local area that you may not know about. How do you find out about these?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the Commonwealth Government's organisation that has the responsibility to collect, collate and report information about Australia's people. Every five years, the ABS conducts a major survey of all Australians, as they are living on one specified day of the year. This is called the census. The ABS then compiles this information and releases it for publication, which is when it is used by governments, businesses, companies and individuals to plan for the future.



Your task

Create a blog that presents demographic characteristics of your local place. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) website (www.abs.gov.au) provides a pathway for you to find out the demographic characteristics of your chosen postcode area.

11.2 Inquiry process

11.2.1 Process

- Open the ProjectsPLUS application for this chapter located in your eBookPLUS. Watch the introductory video lesson and then click the 'Start Project' button and set up your project group. You will write your blog entries individually, but you could work in groups of three to share your research in the ProjectsPLUS Research Forum and create your blog. Save your settings and the project will be launched.
- **Planning:** You will need to research the demographic characteristics of your chosen local place. Locate and print a map of your chosen place to accompany the data you find. Navigate to your Research Forum. Use the research topics to select the characteristics you are interested in exploring for your place. Note that if you would like to focus on a particular issue that is not on the list, obtain permission from your teacher before starting the task.



11.2.2 Collecting and recording data

For this inquiry, go to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) website (www.abs.gov.au) and select the 'Census' page. Click on 'Data & analysis' in the menu at left and choose 'QuickStats'. Under 'QuickStats Search', select the most recent census year, type your postcode or place name into the search box and select 'Go'. This will bring a map of your local area and related data onto the screen. Choose either People, Families or Dwellings to gather information about.

• Going further:

- Compare the changes to your place over time. Choose the same topic for different census years and compare the data.
- Compare your local area with another local place in your region or city. The other place could be next to yours or a long distance away.

11.2.3 Processing and analysing your information and data

Having collected the information about your local place, you now need to study the data and describe the patterns you have found.

1. Describe the pattern of distribution on each of the maps that you have produced. How does your place compare with the neighbouring places?
2. What do the combinations of characteristics you have chosen tell you about the community in your postcode?
3. What do the charts tell you that you did not know about the different places in the region where you live?
4. If you have looked at change over time, compare the two charts and describe how the distribution of that

characteristic changed over the years. Suggest reasons to explain these changes.

- Visit your Media Centre and download the blog planning template to help you develop your blog. You will also see a sample blog on which you can model your own task. Your Media Centre also includes images, videos and audio files to help bring your blog to life.

11.2.4 Communicating your findings

Use an online blogging site to set up your group's blog and then enter all of the required blog entries. Be sure to create a headline for your article and add relevant tables, graphs, images and videos. Your article should emphasise the important facts, and how and why they have changed over time

11.3 Review

11.3.1 Reflecting on your work

Think back over how well you worked with your group on the various tasks for this inquiry. Determine strengths and weaknesses and recommend changes if you were to repeat the exercise. Identify one area where you were pleased with your performance, and an area where you would like to improve. Write two sentences outlining how you might be able to do this.

- Print out your Research Report from ProjectsPLUS and hand it in with your blog and reflection notes.

Your ProjectsPLUS application is available in this chapter's Student Resource tab on your eBookPLUS. Visit www.jacplus.com.au to locate your digital resources.

Suggested software

- ProjectsPLUS
- Microsoft Word
- Online blogging site

Media Centre

Your Media Centre contains:

- a blog model
- a feature article scaffold
- a selection of images and audio and video files to add richness to your blog
- weblinks to research sites and blogging websites
- an assessment rubric.

