

TOPIC 13

Geographical inquiry: What is my place like?

13.1 Overview

Numerous **videos** and **interactivities** are embedded just where you need them, at the point of learning, in your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. They will help you to learn the content and concepts covered in this topic.

13.1.1 Scenario and your task

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

13.2 Process

13.2.1 Process

- You will write your blog entries individually, but you could work in groups to share your research and create your blog.
- **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.

13.2.2 Collecting and recording data

- For this inquiry, use census data. Go to the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au) and select the 'Census' page. Click on 'Data & analysis' and choose 'QuickStats'. Under 'QuickStats Search' select the most recent census year and type your postcode or place name into the search box. 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.

13.2.3 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 that you have produced. How does your place compare with neighbouring places?
2. What do the combinations of characteristics you have chosen tell you about the community in your postcode?
3. What does the data tell you that you did not know about the different places in the region where you live?
4. Compare and describe the changes in the data from different census years. Suggest reasons to explain these changes.
5. Visit the Resources tab 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. Use images, videos and audio files to help bring your blog to life.

13.2.4 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, maps and videos. Your article should emphasise the important facts, and how and why they have changed over time.

13.3 Review

13.3.1 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. Submit your blog and any reflection notes.

