UNIT 2 PLACE AND LIVEABILITY

TOPIC 7
Where do Australians live?

7.1 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.

Why does your family live in the place, state, city, street or house that it does? Why do many Australians live in big cities near the coast? Have you thought about the reasons why your parents selected the place or environment in which you now live? People living in Australia have been making choices about where to live for many thousands of years. Has the region of Australia around Port Jackson in modern Sydney always been the most heavily populated part of Australia? Do people choose to live in places they feel are the most liveable? Let’s try to work out why Australians choose to live in the places they do.

Starter questions
1. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?
2. If your answer to question 1 is not in Australia, which part of Australia do you think is the most similar to the place you chose?
3. What are the geographic features of the place you would ideally like to live in? Geographic features can usually be mapped, and include climate, landscape, environment (either built or natural), jobs, culture, infrastructure, wealth and safety. Find an image of this place and annotate its geographic features.
4. Look at the image on this page. List the positive and negative aspects of living in this place.
7.2 What creates a sense of place?

7.2.1 A sense of place

**Places** are central to the study of geography. This is because geographers are interested in where things are found on Earth and why they are there. But what exactly is a place?

To understand what a place is, think about **location** and **region**. Each place has a unique identity that makes it different from other places. A combination of characteristics is specific to that place, making it individual. A sense of place comes from being aware of what makes that location significant and seeing its special qualities.

The characteristics of a place can come from:
1. natural features
2. human features — that is, built by people
3. a combination of the two.

Eventually, one or more of these features becomes a symbol of that place in people’s minds.
**FIGURE 3** Rio de Janeiro, taken from a helicopter, showing the Corcovado in the foreground with the statue of Christ on it and Sugarloaf Mountain, or Pao de Acucar, in the background, to the right.

**FIGURE 4** Disney World, Orlando, Florida, United States

**FIGURE 5** Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa

**FIGURE 6** The Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco Bay, United States

**FIGURE 7** The Great Wall of China
7.2 Activities

To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Remember
1. Study figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Describe five characteristics in the environment of each feature that create its individual sense of place. Consider natural as well as human features.
2. Of all these characteristics, which one do you believe to be the most important in creating an identity for that place in the minds of people?
3. Suggest reasons why these places have become famous around the world.

Discover
4. Conduct a survey of your class to find out each person’s top five favourite places in Australia. Collate the results in a table like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Student A</th>
<th>Student B</th>
<th>Student C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Barrier Reef</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uluru</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My grandparents’ farm near Ballina, NSW</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table could also be set up electronically, using a spreadsheet program.
5. Graph the results to show the ranking of the places by percentage of the class; for example, 45 per cent of the class named Uluru in their top five places in Australia.
6. As a class, discuss the patterns shown by the graph. Suggest reasons to explain why people like or dislike certain places.

Think
7. Do you think that people’s top five favourite places would vary with the age of the individual? Explain your answer. (You might need to interview a few people of different ages to help you work out an answer to this.)
8. No matter where we live, we all live in the one place: Planet Earth. From what you have learned so far, define what a place is in your own words. What do you think would be the characteristics of a place that would appeal to anyone, wherever they come from? (Hint: What feelings do you have when you are in a place that you like?)

7.3 Why do people live in certain places?

7.3.1 Push and pull

People choose to live in specific places for a wide range of reasons. These reasons can be broadly divided into pull factors and push factors. The combination of reasons varies from person to person, and what is an advantage for one person may be seen as a negative by someone else.

It is also true, though, that the reasons people choose to live in a place often change over time. Sometimes, these reasons might even be connected to the very existence of the place — or its changing nature.

There are four factors that influence the liveability of places or why people decide to live there:
1. available resources (money)
2. employment
3. relationships with other people (for example, wanting to be near family or moving for a partner’s job)
4. lifestyle.

Many of these factors change throughout a person’s life. For example, where a 20-year-old single person wants to live is often quite different from where someone in their forties, or someone with a partner and two teenage children, may want to live.

In other situations, the reason for living in a place may disappear. The town of Rawson, near Mt Erica in Victoria, was built for the people building the Thomson Dam in the 1970s and early 1980s (see figure 1). After the project was finished in 1983, nearly every family left the town because there was no longer any work there. Its community identity had to change. The few people left in Rawson now provide services for people using the area for recreations such as bushwalking and skiing.

Walkerville is a small coastal settlement on the coast of Victoria, just east of Inverloch and Venus Bay near Wilsons Promontory (see figure 1). Walkerville is a good example of the way people’s reasons for living in a place can change over time.

Walkerville was built to provide a place for the workers who were to produce quicklime from the limestone cliffs. Cement was in great demand for building in Melbourne at this time, and lime could be transported there easily by ship. The town itself disappeared when the limestone cliffs were all mined out.

The modern settlement of Walkerville is now a small, isolated holiday location, popular with fishermen, and located next to the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. Much of the original settlement of Walkerville no longer exists, but the ruins that remain, along with the old cemetery, give us a good picture of what the place used to be like (see figure 3).

Many of the towns in the north-eastern United States were established as manufacturing towns. At first they were located near major ports or iron ore and coal deposits, and some closed down when these resources ran out. In more recent times, factories such as the one shown in figure 2, which is near Baltimore, have closed down because the owners could no longer compete with the goods produced at a lower cost in China and other south-east Asian countries. With no other jobs available, people left the area, which has fallen into a state of urban decay.
7.3 ACTIVITIES

To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Think

1. Study figure 3 (c) and research the changes over time that have occurred in Walkerville as a place. Was the decline of the original township of Walkerville due to push or pull factors? How did these influence people’s choice of where they would live? Justify your answer.
2. Identify and justify the push and pull factors that exist for people thinking about whether they should move to Walkerville today.
3. In groups of three, discuss the difficulties that would have been faced by the lime-burners who lived in the original settlement of Walkerville, given its location.

Explain

4. Study figure 2. Identify some of the specific signs that indicate an area is in urban decay.
5. Suggest reasons why some people continue to live in decaying urban environments, and why others might choose to move.

Discover

6. Survey the members of your class and find out the reasons why their families chose to live in the place or location where they do. Classify the responses using the four categories named on this spread in a table like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Relationships</th>
<th>Lifestyle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gina</td>
<td>Near major shops</td>
<td>Near my dad’s work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miguel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Near my mum’s work</td>
<td>Close to my family who came to Australia earlier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Close to my father’s best friend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Near the sea, as we all sail or surf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Present the answers using a column graph, correctly and fully labelled.
8. As a class, discuss the pattern of reasons shown by the graph, and the possible explanations for this. For example, how important to people are social connections?
Predict

9. Look up on Google Earth the location of the current settlement of Walkerville. Calculate the distance between Walkerville and the settlements around it. Study the land use and features of the environment around the settlement. Identify and list the advantages and disadvantages of Walkerville as a holiday location, using evidence from your Google Earth study.

10. A developer has proposed to the local shire council and the state government that the farmland around Walkerville should be rezoned to allow the building of a large holiday resort. In your opinion, would this be a good or bad policy for the future of the residents of Walkerville? Give reasons for your answer, referring to features that you can identify on the Google Earth map.

7.4 Where do you live and why?

7.4.1 How did I get here?

When we first learned to write our address, we often included our house number, street, town, city, state, country, continent, hemisphere, planet and universe. You could also identify your location with GPS coordinates, a grid reference or by use of latitude and longitude. Knowing the place where you are is important but so is how you got there.

FIGURE 1 Australians born overseas

Source: Spatial Vision
Cindy: When I lived in Beijing I was called Jing-Wei. I came to Sydney in 1988 to study economics at university. I became an Australian citizen in 1993. I now have three Australian children.

Andrew: I came to Perth with my wife and three children in 1993 just before Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa. We were concerned for our safety in Johannesburg and were keen to start a new life in a country with a similar climate and language. Now two of my brothers also live in Australia.

Lucy: My brother moved from Palmerston North in New Zealand to Melbourne for work in 2006 and I followed him the next year. I like living in a larger city. There is more going on and I get paid a lot more. One day I might return to New Zealand.

Deepak: My family moved from Delhi in 1988 when my father was offered a job in a computer company in Adelaide. There were not many Indian kids in my school but I studied hard and went to university. I now have three children and live in Newcastle.

Did you and your family arrive by boat, plane or car, or were they born here? What decisions were made by your parents or grandparents which resulted in your family living in your place, house, state, country or hemisphere? Over 25 per cent of Australia’s population was born overseas, and it is estimated that most will move homes between 11 and 12 times during their lifetime.

What is your story?
Activity question 1 allows you to investigate why you live in your place. It is a task of discovery, and will take you some time to complete. Your aim is to discover your family’s migration story and why you live where you do. Does your family have a recent migration story or did your family migrate with the First Fleet? Do you have Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage? Did your grandparent build the house you live in or did your parents or carers build your house? How has the place your family lives in changed over time and space?

7.4 Activities
To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Discover
1. This task allows you to discover your family’s migration story and why you live where you do.
Step 1
What can you find out for yourself?
Your place
• What is your address? Write out your full address, including your hemisphere, latitude and longitude.
• Use Google Maps or Whereis to locate and identify your house in your street. Download an aerial view and a street view of your house.
• Annotate your aerial photo or map to identify who lives in your house, including pets, and which parts of the house they use. You could illustrate the people who live in your house in a cartoon — like the stickers, or decals, of families that people put on their cars.
• Ensure that your map has a compass, approximate scale and appropriate title.
Step 2
Your neighbourhood
- Using Google Maps or Whereis, download an aerial view of your street or at least the eight closest houses or dwellings.
- Using the family decals, annotate each house to show who lives in it.

Step 3
How long have you lived at this address?
If you have previously lived somewhere else, list and map your past addresses. How many times have you moved? Share with your class the information that you have collected so far.

Step 4
How did you get here?
To investigate the rest of your story, you will need to speak to your parents and possibly your grandparents. As you collect information about where your parents and grandparents were born, create a family tree of places. Try to find out why and when your relatives came to Australia. Figure 2 illustrates how this may look.
- Where were your parents/carers born?
- How did they travel from where they were born to the place you now live?
- Why did your parents move to where you now live? Would they prefer to live in another place that is more liveable?
- Why did your grandparents and great-grandparents move from their place of birth?

Use the Family tree template weblink in the Resources tab to create your family tree.

FIGURE 2 An example of what your family tree may look like

FIGURE 3 Immigrants arriving in Australia by plane, 1967
Think

2. Use your family tree, along with the transport your family used, to create a map that shows this interconnection.

Things to think about before starting your map:

- What scale and size of map will you need?
- Would you be better off having two maps? In the example shown in figure 2, Daniel's parents and grandparents mostly came from New South Wales and Queensland but most of his great-grandparents came from Europe. To map this information, he should use a world map plus a larger scale break-out or inset map of New South Wales and Queensland.
- How will you show the type of transport? Coloured arrows might work well.
- What is an appropriate title for your map?
- Would you like to illustrate your map with images of your relatives, their houses, flags of the countries they came from or images of the transport that they used? If you wish to add images, you will need to have a larger scale base map than if you just used symbols.
- You could annotate the map with the reasons your relatives moved.

7.5 Why do Australians live in remote places?

7.5.1 Settling inland Australia

For over 100 years, a small percentage of Australians have been moving away from large cities and coastal regions to live in more remote locations. They are often searching for new farmland or the mineral resources of the inland. Why do some people choose to live in places where their nearest neighbour is 50 kilometres away and it takes six hours to get to the closest supermarket? Why do they find remote places more liveable?

The potential to relocate people inland has never been faster or easier. The interconnection provided by modern transport and the high speed communication provided by phone and internet should mean that technology has reduced remoteness.

The general shift of Australia’s population for the last 100 years has been towards the major cities and away from the country. The average age of farmers in Australia is about 53 years and getting older. Most children of farmers leave the country and seek education and work opportunities in large cities. Figure 1 shows how quickly the inland of Australia was occupied after 1825.

Over the past 100 years, there have been many attempts by governments and private industry to encourage people to occupy the more remote places of Australia. Soldier settlement programs and mining developments are two such schemes.
Soldier settlement schemes

After both World War I and World War II, the state and federal governments of Australia began a program of providing land to returned soldiers. This was to give these soldiers work, but it was also seen as a way of attracting people to otherwise sparsely inhabited places.

After World War I, soldier settlements included Merbein and Mortlake in Victoria, Griffith and Dorrigo in New South Wales, Murray Bridge and Kangaroo Island in South Australia and the Atherton Tableland in Queensland. The settlers were expected to stay on their land for at least five years and to improve the quality of the land they were farming. Many of these settlements were not successful because the soldiers were not always suited to farming, the farms were often too small, and farmers did not have enough money to invest in stock or equipment.

After World War II, a similar scheme was much more successful, because farms were bigger, and roads, housing and fences were supplied. Over 25000 soldiers were resettled after World War I.

Remote mining communities

Karratha Broken Hill and Tom Price are examples of current mining towns that are just as remote as were the gold-drush towns of Bathurst and Ballarat in the 1850s and 1860s.

Today it takes less than five hours to fly directly from Brisbane to Tom Price, yet it can be difficult to attract workers to mines in this region. Wages are high; for example, a truck driver can earn $150 000 per year. There are now fewer jobs because the mining boom has passed, but skilled workers are attracted to these remote places. Some workers fly in and fly out (FIFO) for their shifts. They live with their families in less remote places such as Brisbane and fly in for a shift that may last several weeks, eventually flying home for their days off.
7.5 Activities
To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Remember
1. What makes a place remote?
2. How does FIFO reduce remoteness?

Explain
3. Describe the change in the speed of settlement of inland Australia that is illustrated by figure 1.
4. (a) Compare figure 2 with figure 1. When were the soldier settlement places first settled?
   (b) Use your atlas to compare the location of soldier settlements with a rainfall map of Australia. Were soldier settlements located in places that receive good rainfall for farming?
5. The soldier settlements of 1917 were established on remote, underused land. One hundred years later, would these places still be considered remote? Refer to figures 2 and 3 in your answer.

Discover
6. Research a local soldier settlement scheme. When was it established? How successful was it? How did this scheme help to populate a remote place? Map its geographic features by using Google Maps. Use the Soldier settlement weblinks in the Resources tab to help with your research.

Predict
7. How might people be encouraged to move from the coastal fringe to the more remote places of Australia? What could make you or your family move or relocate? Produce a short film, snappy slide show, or an advertising campaign that highlights the pull factors which might make people change the place where they live.

Deepen your understanding of this topic with related case studies and questions.

Try out this interactivity: Remote living
Use this interactivity to explore remote areas Australians live in.
Searchlight ID: int-3090

Explore more with this weblink: Soldier settlement
7.6 SkillBuilder: Using topographic maps

**WHAT ARE TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS?**

Topographic maps are a type of map that provides detailed and accurate information of features that appear on the Earth's surface. They show features of the natural environment, such as forests and lakes, and features of human environments, such as roads and settlements. Relief is often shown using contour lines.

**Go online to access:**
- a clear step-by-step explanation to help you master the skill
- a model of what you are aiming for
- a checklist of key aspects of the skill
- a series of questions to help you apply the skill and to check your understanding.

### learnON RESOURCES — ONLINE ONLY

- **Watch this eLesson:** Watch this video to learn more about how to use topographic maps
  
  Searchlight ID: eles-1641
- **Try out this interactivity:** Use this interactivity to learn how to use topographic maps.
  
  Searchlight ID: int-3137

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7.7 What draws people to rural areas?

7.7.1 Rural settlement

Some people live in rural areas because they are involved in primary industries. Others provide services.

Griffith is a large town (population 17,000) in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area in New South Wales. The climate in this area is semi-arid (warm, with unreliable rainfall). The land became productive farmland after irrigation was provided in 1912. Reliable water and available farmland attracted many people to this area.

There are two main types of farm in this area.

- **Type A farms** are usually about 220 hectares in size (a hectare being 10,000 square metres). Each year they grow a combination of rice, corn, wheat, vegetables and pasture, and graze beef cattle. Irrigation water is usually used.
- **Type B farms** are horticulture farms, and are usually about 20 hectares in size. They grow a combination of permanent crops that may include grapes, peaches, plums, and citrus fruit such as oranges. Many of these plants last for many years, and irrigation is always needed.
7.7 Activities

To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly. For all the following activities, refer to figure 2.

Remember
1. (a) What is the main use for farmland in the area surrounding Griffith?
   (b) Sketch the symbol of this land use.
   (c) Is this an example of farming type A or type B?

Explain
2. (a) Compare the pattern made by irrigation channels and natural waterways, such as Mirrool Creek.
   (b) Why is irrigation useful in semi-arid areas? At what time of the year do you think it would be mainly used?
   (c) How can you tell from the map that it is not hilly in the areas where there is irrigation farming?

Discover
3. (a) Imagine you travelled in a southerly direction for 2.5 kilometres from the city centre. Now select one square kilometre at this location. Count the number of buildings there are in your chosen square kilometre.
   (b) Continue out from the city edge for at least another 7 kilometres. Choose another square kilometre and count the buildings in your chosen area.
   (c) Compare your results. In which area would you be closer to your neighbours?
   (d) Which one represents intensive farming?

4. There are many farms in the Griffith region, which means there are many people in the area to support shops, businesses, schools and cultural activities. However, in some parts of Australia, farms are very big and it is a long way to the nearest neighbours. Anna Creek, a beef cattle property in northern South Australia, is 24,000 square kilometres (2,400,000 hectares). The property is in a semi-arid region of South Australia, where vegetation is sparse and the nearest town for supplies is 170 kilometres away.
   (a) Use the scale to calculate the number of square kilometres covered by the map in figure 2.
   (b) How does this compare to the single farm of Anna Creek?
   (c) At which location, Anna Creek or Griffith, could you most likely satisfy each of the following wishes: to play in a sport team every week, to regularly buy clothes, to collect data about lizards, to grow a lush lawn, to safely learn to drive, to have a private airstrip?

THINK
5. Identify two natural factors and two human factors that might have influenced people to choose to live in the Griffith area.

7.8 Are rural communities sustainable?

Access this subtopic at www.jacplus.com.au

7.9 What are ‘lifestyle’ places?

7.9.1 Lifestyle

In the years after 1990, the healthy state of the growing Australian and world economies meant that more and more people had jobs and were earning higher incomes. This gave them greater choice as to where and how they wanted to live, and the type of life that they wished to lead, because they had the resources (money) to allow them to choose.
For some people, ‘lifestyle choice’ means escaping the rush of the modern urban society by choosing a sea change or tree change. For others, it means using their new-found wealth to fulfil their wants and desires, no matter how wild. Others choose to live in inner-city areas, close to shops, cinemas, restaurants and galleries. Because of this last group of people, governments and businesses have been able to take older areas near the city centre and turn industrial zones into new activity centres where employment, residences, recreation and services can be found in one location. Such places are in great demand by those who can afford it, particularly young professionals who want to be near the entertainment and facilities of the inner city.

For example, the Docklands development in Melbourne was designed to be the face of a new-look Melbourne: a new community identity of restaurants, entertainment and apartment living (see figure 1). Docklands is a suburb of Melbourne, located two kilometres west of the central business district (CBD). It has a population of over 5700 people. It was planned that Docklands would be a 24-hour city for visitors and local residents. It occupies 200 hectares — an area bigger than Melbourne’s central business district (which is about 175 hectares).

The local residents of this 24-hour city rely on public transport, as few have cars (see table 1). Most residents are professionals (see table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1 Number of cars per dwelling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of registered motor vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One motor vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two motor vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or more vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of motor vehicles not stated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2 Selected occupations of people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and personal service workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technicians and trade workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machine operators and drivers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![FIGURE 1 The future by 2022 and beyond: Docklands Community and Place Plan](image)

Source: Spatial Vision
FIGURE 2 Lifestyle choices for those who have the resources. (a) Modern condominiums at Canary Wharf in the centre of London — a lifestyle that has arisen from the old docks (b) The historical apartments above the shops in Mala Strana in the centre of Prague, Czech Republic

FIGURE 3 The contrast between the shantytowns, or favelas, of Rio de Janeiro and their more affluent neighbours is very clear: who has the greater lifestyle choice?
FIGURE 4 Contrasting lives in India (a) The growing middle classes in modern India often purchase modern apartments, like those in this building in New Delhi. (b) For many poor Indians in urban areas, their home and way of life is on the street. Land for housing is expensive in cities such as New Delhi, and beyond the means of many people.

FIGURE 5 (a) and (b) The perfect sea change? These houses in the canal district next to Venice Beach, California, give their owners perfect peace and tranquility. (c) … or do they? (d) The beachfront houses on Venice Beach (e) Condominiums on the cliffs of the Pacific Ocean, in the well-off suburb of Santa Monica, California (f) Many homeless people in California opt to live on Venice Beach because of the climate.
7.9 Activities

To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

1. Study figures 2, 3, 4 and 5. Identify the features in the photographs that indicate that the people living in these places have the resources to choose to live in such environments.

2. Create a cartoon that summarises the differences between a sea change and a tree change.

3. Compare the images in figures 3 and 4. What similarities and differences can you see in the ‘lifestyle’ choices of these residents of Rio de Janeiro and New Delhi? How much real power do they have to decide where they will live?

4. Refer to table 1.
   (a) Identify two key facts the table reveals about the number of cars Docklands residents have compared to the average for other Australian suburbs.
   (b) Think of a reason to explain this.

5. Refer to table 2.
   (a) Identify two key facts the table reveals about Docklands residents compared to the average for other Australian suburbs.
   (b) Think of a reason to explain this.

6. Refer to figure 1. Which features (existing or proposed) would make Docklands a 24-hour suburb?
7.10 Where is my place?

7.10.1 My place

What is your neighbourhood or local place like? All of us live in a community, and these are often centred around the place where we live, go to school or work.

Teenagers have different types of local places that have special meaning for them, each one at a different scale: their bedroom, home and neighbourhood.

When you live in a neighbourhood, you become familiar with all the things that help to create the character of the place. Sometimes a neighbourhood is made up of people who have similar interests and beliefs, whether these be cultural, sporting, environmental or job-related. Other neighbourhoods have a mixture of people from different backgrounds, creating a vibrant, multicultural community identity. The fact that Australian neighbourhoods can be so different is what makes Australia such an interesting place to live in.

Neighbourhoods have always existed in Australia. The ‘country’ that is special to the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations is often based on language. For instance, the Kulin Nation consists of five Victorian Aboriginal communities who lived in what is now the Melbourne region before Europeans invaded. Each community spoke its own language and controlled a region that had definite boundaries (see figure 1). Within each community, there were different dialects that overlapped. These dialects were spoken by different clans — groups of related families. Thus, these nations saw, and often still see, their neighbourhood as the region in which people spoke the same language and had the same customs, such as marriage rituals. People were, and are, socially connected.

Because nearly 90 per cent of Australians live in towns and cities, most people are likely to live in a street that is part of a suburb, town or city, and which itself is part of a state or territory. On the other hand, there are Australians who do not live in urban areas, but still live in their own communities that are just as distinctive as neighbourhoods in towns and cities. How can we describe where our local place is and what it is like? Sometimes, people try to use words to do this, but it is not an easy task. Geographers have no such trouble, however; they can use maps.
FIGURE 1 The places belonging to Indigenous Australian peoples

FIGURE 2 Mental map of Jayden’s local place (a) by Jayden and (b) by Annette, Jayden’s mother
7.10 Activities

To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Think
1. Figures 2 and 3 show two mental maps of the same neighbourhood place. One is drawn by Jayden, a year 7 boy, and the other is drawn by his mother. Compare the two maps by drawing up a table like the one below and filling in the spaces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features that are different</th>
<th>Features that are similar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street layout</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative sizes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names of places</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explain
2. Suggest reasons to explain the major similarities and differences between the maps drawn by Jayden and his mother. Think about factors such as age, duties during the day, transport and friendships.

Discover
3. Create a mental map of your neighbourhood or local place. Locate your house in the centre of the sheet and work outwards from there. The map should be as detailed as possible. Include features such as:
- streets and their names
- houses of friends or family
- shops, parks, trees, post boxes, telephone boles, pedestrian crossings, railway lines and stations
- anything you can remember, but the map must be drawn from memory.

Present the map using geographical rules (BOLTSS). Since you are not drawing the map to a scale, write ‘Not to scale’ in the correct position. Remember to use conventional colours and symbols as far as possible.

Compare your mental map to an actual map of your neighbourhood.
(a) In what ways was your map accurate?
(b) Which features did you not mark on your map?
(c) Which parts of your neighbourhood did you know well and which did you not know well?
(d) Think of reasons to explain your answers to (c).

7.11 Where would you like to live?

7.11.1 What makes this place so liveable?

Where is your favourite place in Australia? Have you been to a holiday paradise, one that you think would be the perfect place to live? Is the climate perfect, the scenery spectacular? Is it safe, fun and the place for adventure? Is this place in a city, in the wilderness or in the next street? Is it paradise because your friends or family live there or because of the natural or built environment?
Among the most popular and beautiful tourist destinations in Australia are the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, Melbourne, Sydney, the Gold Coast, the Great Ocean Road, Monkey Mia, Kakadu, the Tasmanian Wilderness, the Blue Mountains, Port Arthur, Byron Bay, Kangaroo Island and Ningaloo Reef. Many of these places have unique landscapes, located within naturally stunning environments. Four of these are predominantly built environments: Sydney, Melbourne, the Gold Coast and Port Arthur. The remaining 11 places are best known for their natural, often remote, and almost wilderness environments.

Some of these wonderful places are found in or close to cities and large towns; some have significant local populations; and some are quite remote. They are all places that attract large numbers of visitors every year. People come to see or experience an aspect of the local environment that brings them pleasure. These places are often perfect for a holiday but they may also be a place to live. Is it mostly the excitement of a big city, natural beauty, or some other factor that makes you decide which place is the most liveable?

**FIGURE 1** Five of Australia’s most popular places for tourists

1. Monkey Mia is an environment where you can experience natural wildlife by interacting with dolphins. Monkey Mia is located in Shark Bay on the coast of Western Australia, 850 kilometres north of Perth. For over 40 years, a small pod of dolphins has come ashore to connect with beachgoers. The Department of Environment and Conservation provides staff who supervise the feeding of fish to these dolphins each day. It is an unusual opportunity for people to see wild dolphins up close, quite near to the shore. Monkey Mia is a place of great natural beauty without a huge tourist resort attached. Most visitors camp. It is an important stop on the around-Australia tourist trail. Fewer than 800 residents currently live near the Monkey Mia Resort.
2 Kangaroo Island is a place of natural beauty. It is Australia’s third largest island, found about 160 kilometres south of Adelaide. It is a wildlife lover’s paradise, being home to many native Australian animals in their natural habitats, including koalas, kangaroos, seals and penguins. It has remote, unspoiled beaches and interesting rocky outcrops. Although first settled in the late 1830s, its present population of over 4200 is the highest it has ever been. It was originally settled as a fishing and farming community but today is better known as a tourist destination.

3 Melbourne is the second-largest and most liveable city in Australia (2011–2015, the Economist magazine). It is the capital of Victoria and home to about 4.4 million residents. It is an attractive destination for tourists, who enjoy visiting its major sporting and cultural events, shops, restaurants and theatres. Melbourne is located beside Port Phillip Bay and on the Yarra River. It is not a city known for its beautiful natural environment, but it has become known for its distinctive laneways, bars and café culture.
4. Sydney is a built environment in a beautiful setting and is Australia’s largest and oldest city. It is often called the ‘Harbour City’. Sydney is popular with both domestic and international tourists and is home to 4.8 million residents. It has many attractions, including restaurants, beautiful beaches, theatres, galleries and iconic landmarks. It has a beautiful natural environment with varied experiences provided by the built environment. This makes it an extremely popular destination for everyone.

5. Byron Bay is a beachside town in northern New South Wales, located 160 kilometres south of Brisbane. Byron Bay is a very relaxed place with a local community that includes many artists and retired hippies. It is an important surfing place, with easy access to offshore reefs and stunning beaches. It has become a popular place for ‘schoolies’ end-of-year celebrations. Byron Bay has a population of about 30,000 people, who rely heavily on tourism and agriculture for their income.
7.11 Activities
To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Explain
1. Brainstorm a list of the features to describe your most liveable place.
2. Is there a place in Australia that you have been to or heard about that is your most liveable place? Locate this place on a map and use images from the internet or magazines to explain how it fulfills your list of features from question 1 above.

Discover
3. Is your most liveable place in a natural or a built environment or a mixture of the two?
4. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of living in your most liveable place?
5. After reading the paragraphs numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, which of these places is most similar to your most liveable place? Explain your answer.

Predict
6. If you were looking for a place to retire, which of the places in figure 1 would be best and why?
7. If you wished to work as a national park ranger, which of the places in figure 1 would be best and why?
8. If you were planning a career in the theatre, which of the places in figure 1 would be best and why?
9. If you wished to live in a relaxed coastal environment close to a capital city, which of the places in figure 1 would be best and why?

Think
10. Design a map of your most liveable place. Consider the natural and built environments; distance to a city, services, job and recreational opportunities; climate; and lifestyle. Annotate your map to explain why this is where you would like to live. Use the Nothing like Australia weblink in the Resources tab to help find your ideal location.

7.12 SkillBuilder: Creating a concept diagram

WHAT IS A CONCEPT DIAGRAM?
A concept diagram, sometimes mistakenly called a concept map, is a graphical tool that shows links between ideas, or concepts. Concept diagrams organise links into different levels.
Concept diagrams enable you to organise your ideas and communicate them to others.

Go online to access:
• a clear step-by-step explanation to help you master the skill
• a model of what you are aiming for
• a checklist of key aspects of the skill
• a series of questions to help you apply the skill and to check your understanding.

FIGURE 1 Example of a concept diagram

Main idea
First-level idea
Second-level idea
Third-level idea
7.13 Review

7.13.1 Review
The Review section contains a range of different questions and activities to help you revise and recall what you have learned, especially prior to a topic test.

7.13.2 Reflect
The Reflect section provides you with an opportunity to apply and extend your learning. Access this subtopic at www.jacplus.com.au