UNIT 2 PLACE AND LIVEABILITY

TOPIC 8
People and places

8.1 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.

We all live in different places. Places are important to people, whether they are rural or urban, remote or central, permanent or temporary. But no two places are alike; they differ in aspects such as their appearance, size and features. In your mind’s eye, try to picture the similarities and the differences between places such as a country town, a popular tourist destination, a remote village overseas, a scientific base in Antarctica, an Indigenous community and a mining town. You may think of others to add to this list.

Starter questions
1. Brainstorm, as a class or individually, a list of other types of places in which people live around the world.
2. Choose three examples of places on your list that have been strongly influenced by the quality of the environment. Explain how the place is influenced by the environment.
3. Other than environmental qualities, what influences the characteristics of a place?
4. How true is it that ‘no two places are the same’? Use images on these pages, or places you know, to support your opinion.

The places people live in around the world have many different characteristics and features.
8.2 Do most Australians live near water?

8.2.1 Historic settlements and transport networks

Does the availability of rainfall explain why Australians currently live where they do? Could it also be warmer weather, good soils, and access to the coast, mineral resources, people and flat land?

Fresh water availability and a coastal location have always influenced the places where Australia’s inhabitants live, because our continent is huge, dry and isolated. Unlike Indigenous Australian peoples, the people who occupied Australia after 1788 have not been tied to a particular place in Australia by their understanding of ‘country’. The liveability of places can be influenced by their access to resources.

Australia’s first large European colonies were all built close to rivers and harbours, which provided safe anchorage for their sailing ships. The early colonisers and convicts, along with their possessions and food, were all transported from Europe by ship. These colonisers were quite wary of the unknown inland of the continent, so they clung to the coast and relied on sea transport. The sea allowed goods to be imported and exported; it provided fishing, whaling and sealing; and it brought cooler weather due to onshore breezes. Rivers, such as the Yarra (seen in figure 1), provided water for household, industrial and agricultural use, as well as a safe port for passengers and cargo.

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth were generally the first settlements in each colony. They have maintained their importance as their state’s largest city and its centre of government, transport and commerce. Big cities are great places to live because they provide many opportunities for work, education, healthcare and recreation.

Land use

Beginning in 1788, Europeans and subsequent migrants have changed the natural environment by clearing vegetation and using the land for building cities and farms and creating the services people need.
Examine figure 3 and try to work out the difference between intensive and extensive land use regions. The intensive regions are mostly located closer to the coast than extensive regions, and they are smaller areas. Compare this land use map to a rainfall map in your atlas. Does more rain tend to fall in the intensive or the extensive land use regions?

In places where rainfall is low or unreliable, such as central Australia, grass growth is seasonal. This semi-arid interior does not support the variety of land uses that are possible closer to the coast. Over 80 per cent of Australia’s population lives within 500 kilometres of the coast between Brisbane and Adelaide; some are on farms but most are in regional towns and capital cities.

![Figure 2](image)

**FIGURE 2** Australia’s job sectors, 2015

![Figure 3](image)

**FIGURE 3** The major land use regions of Australia

Source: MAPgraphics Pty Ltd, Brisbane
Jobs
People need to work in order to provide for their basic needs. Figure 2 shows that the majority of jobs in 2015 were in the sectors of services (health, finance, education and administration), retail trade and construction. Most of these job opportunities are available in major cities and regional centres, which are generally close to the coast and in areas of higher rainfall.

There are few job opportunities in dry and remote regions of Australia. Agriculture and mining provide some chances for employment in these places. Some jobs are also available in manufacturing (processing the output of farms and mines) and in services, such as healthcare and tourism. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 25 per cent of new jobs created in the next 10 years will be in the services sector, especially healthcare, but these will mostly be in the cities. Mining jobs in remote places are declining due to the reduced international price for minerals and mine closures and very few new mines opening. Remote mining sites have skills shortages that require employers to pay very high wages to attract workers.

8.2 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. List four reasons why the state capital cities were settled.
2. In Australia, are more workers employed in mining or in manufacturing?

Explain
3. What is the difference between intensive and extensive land use? Give examples of each type.
4. Locate and study a rainfall map of Australia (Jacaranda Atlas Eighth Edition, page 40) and the land use map of Australia (figure 3). Approximately how many millimetres of annual rainfall do areas of (a) intensive farming receive and (b) extensive farming receive?

Discover
5. Are there regions of intensive agriculture found in places with much less rainfall? Where are they? Investigate what technology these farmers might use to increase the available water for their crops?
6. ‘Access to water improves the liveability of a place.’ Write a paragraph that agrees with this statement and another that disagrees with this statement.

Predict
7. Design a cartoon that comments on future environmental conflict between water for everyday living in cities and water for farming in Australia. Remember that only about two per cent of employment in Australia is on farms.

Think
8. A doctor may be offered very high wages to work in a remote, dry place in north-western Australia. What economic, environmental and social measures might they use to decide between the liveability of this place and their current workplace in Melbourne?

8.3 SkillBuilder: Understanding satellite images

WHAT ARE SATELLITE IMAGES?
Satellite images are images that show parts of our planet from satellites in space and transmitted to stations on Earth. Satellite images help geographers observe a much larger area of the Earth’s surface than photographs taken from an aircraft.
8.4 Where is the fastest growing place?

Access this subtopic at www.jacplus.com.au

8.5 SkillBuilder: Using alphanumeric grid references

WHAT ARE ALPHANUMERIC GRID REFERENCES?

Alphanumeric grid references are a combination of letters and numbers that help locate specific positions on a map. Letters and numbers are placed alongside the gridlines, just outside a map. The grid, letters and numbers allow you to pinpoint a place or feature by stating its alphanumeric grid reference.

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.
8.6 What is life like in a country town?

8.6.1 The attraction of the country

Country towns come in all shapes and sizes. They can be small centres with a post office and general store or they can be substantial towns. Because most of Australia’s population and businesses are concentrated in the capital cities, even people who live in quite large towns outside the capital cities see themselves as living in the country.

Even though most Australians live in large urban centres, the rural or country regions are very important because this is where food is grown, water is sourced, natural resources are extracted and ecosystems can flourish. Many Australians travel to country places for holidays and many dream of moving to the country. The attractions of country places include cheaper housing, less traffic and a greater sense of safety.

8.6.2 Demography

The demographic characteristics of country places are influenced by location and activities in the surrounding area.

For instance, Leongatha is located on the South Gippsland Highway, 135 kilometres south-east of Melbourne, Victoria. Reliable rainfall and good soil make the area one of the most productive in Victoria. Dairy farming is the main type of farming and the milk-processing factory is the largest single employer in town.

Another town, Coleraine, is located on the Glenelg Highway, 350 kilometres west of Melbourne. The farms are generally large. Sheep and cattle grazing are the main types of farming, and there is no major business in the town.

A sense of belonging

In the country there are opportunities to be involved in a wide range of community activities. Activities might have an economic focus (such as fundraising), an environmental focus (such as Landcare) or a social focus (such as youth groups). A common outcome of all activities is the way they contribute to a sense of connectedness or belonging.

It is common for even small towns to provide a range of sports. Sports provided in a town as large as Leongatha might include Australian Rules football, cricket, little athletics, tennis, equestrian events, bowls, fishing, cycling, croquet, skateboarding, golf, swimming, basketball, netball, table tennis, badminton, karate, gymnastics, squash and taekwondo. Also available are cultural activities and entertainment, such as films, brass bands, guides, scouts, art galleries, dancing and theatre groups.
Opportunities for physical activity
A greater understanding of the natural world (e.g. plants, animals, weather) and appreciation of the importance of the quality of the environment
A small group of people your age
Little public transport reliance on car travel
An understanding of Aboriginal traditions
Clean air
A wider range of pets
Leaving home for tertiary study
Uncrowded roads
A limited range of specialists, shops and employment
Knowing many people in the community and many people in the community knowing you
Fewer films and less live music

FIGURE 1 Growing up in a country town might mean …

FIGURE 2 Lawn bowls is a popular sport in small towns.

8.6 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. In which direction would you travel from Leongatha to reach Melbourne? In which direction would you travel from Coleraine to get to Melbourne?
2. Provide three reasons why country places are important.

Explain
3. Classify each of the characteristics in figure 1 as economic, social or environmental.
4. Identify the characteristics in figure 1 that are attractive to you. Are most of these characteristics social, economic or environmental?
5. What are three opportunities in your community for young people to feel socially connected?

Discover
6. Study the data in table 1.
   (a) The percentage of the population under 20 is predicted to ________________ in all municipalities.
   (b) True or false? Country regions are predicted to have a big increase in the percentage of population over 65.
   (c) What is the evidence to support your choice for part (b)?
   (d) Apart from the age of the population, suggest another difference in the demographic between country towns and big cities.
7. Indigenous Australians have always had a sense of belonging to a place, and elements of the natural environment are honoured on their flags. Find out what the Aboriginal flag and the Torres
8.7 How are places influenced by seasons?

Access this subtopic at www.jacplus.com.au

8.8 Do places change over time?

8.8.1 On the move

A town will change over time if the factors influencing people’s decision making about living there also change. Change may be due to government plans, the perception of the natural environment, the economic activities that are carried out in the place and access to resources and other places.

The original buildings in Tallangatta, in north-east Victoria, about 40 kilometres from Albury and Wodonga, can be seen only when the water level in Lake Hume is very low. The current town was moved from its original location in 1956. Houses were lifted onto trucks (with parts of the buildings often falling off during the journey) and moved about eight kilometres (see figure 1). The original site, in a valley beside the Mitta Mitta River, was flooded when the size of Lake Hume was increased.

8.8.2 Town closed

In 1917, it was decided that a town was needed on the dry and very warm Nullarbor Plain to provide services for the Indian Pacific railway (see figure 2). With a population of 300, the town of Cook was once big enough to have a school, hospital, shop and accommodation for train drivers. When the railways were privatised in 1997, the town was closed. The population now stands at four, and the one shop is open only when the Indian Pacific is in town.
8.8.3 Access to resources

Resource depletion

Silverton, 25 kilometres north-west of Broken Hill, was once home to 3000 people who mainly worked in mining (see figure 3). Most people left, often taking their homes, when richer mines opened at Broken Hill. The current population is 50, and the town is now visited by many tourists. The town and its semi-arid surroundings have been used as the setting in many films, such as *Mad Max 2*, *Dirty Deeds*, *Mission Impossible 2* and *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

Resource discovery

Karratha is a hot, dry place 1600 kilometres north of Perth. It was founded in the 1960s for workers on the growing iron ore mines in the Pilbara region. In the 1980s the development of the natural gas industry encouraged further growth. The town currently supports about 28,000 people and is expected to support up to 40,000 by 2030.

8.8.4 Sea change

Margaret River, 270 kilometres south of Perth, has become popular because it offers a rural lifestyle and is accessible to the capital city. People who move from the city to the coast are said to have made a ‘sea change’. Those who move to an inland location are said to have made a ‘tree change’.
Change over time

Many people now recognise that the Margaret River region has many attractions, such as beaches, waterways, caves, wineries, national parks and mild weather that suits farming and tourism.

However, what people have thought about the region has changed over time. Before 1830, the Noongar people, including the Wardandi Nation, valued the natural characteristics (such as flora, fauna, weather, sea and rivers) and made few changes to the natural environment. In 1830, white settlers arrived to cut down trees and sell timber. In 1950, they began using the cleared areas for dairy cattle and beef cattle.

Tourists also began to value and visit the region’s natural features, such as beaches, rivers and caves. By 1970, people were moving from the city to enjoy the quiet country atmosphere and, by 1990, the area had become popular as a sea change destination.

<p>| TABLE 1 Population change in Margaret River |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population of town</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>4415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016*</td>
<td>6700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021*</td>
<td>8500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* predicted population

<p>| TABLE 2 Origin of people who moved to Margaret River, 2006–2011 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous place of residence</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australia</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Territory</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.8.5 Tourism

Port Douglas, 60 kilometres north of Cairns, was a busy port in the 1870s and had a population of more than 10,000. The mining that had attracted people to this hot, wet area did not last. By the 1960s, the population was only 100. In the 1980s, road and air access to the town improved. People were prepared to travel long distances from within Australia and from overseas to enjoy the warm weather, stunning beaches and the World Heritage areas of the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree rainforest. The permanent population is now about 1300. During the peak holiday season (May to November) there are at least four times this number of people in Port Douglas.
8.8.6 Change in the future

Even in a small state like Victoria, predicted population growth varies across the state. Towns relying on big farms are predicted to lose population. The use of machinery and the closure of processing plants have reduced employment opportunities. Towns in regions very close to Melbourne are predicted to grow. People who live in these places still have access to jobs and entertainment in Melbourne even though they live in regional Victoria. More people means there is a need for more businesses.
8.8 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. Which water storage drowned old Tallangatta? How far was the town moved?
2. In which region of Western Australia is Karratha?
3. What now draws people to Silverton?
4. What is the population of Port Douglas in the peak holiday season?

Explain
5. (a) How many states does the Indian Pacific travel through?
   (b) Why do you think the train is called the Indian Pacific?
   (c) In which general direction does the train travel from Sydney to Perth?
6. Read the description of the change over time for Margaret River. Create a timeline to show the changing view of Margaret River.
7. (a) Refer to tables 1 and 2 and calculate the population increase between each census. In which time period was the greatest population increase in Margaret River?
   (b) What are the three main places new residents came from to settle in Margaret River between 2006 and 2011?
8. Refer to your atlas or find a climate graph and suggest why May to November is the peak holiday season in Port Douglas.
9. Refer to the map in figure 8.
   (a) Describe the location of the areas predicted to grow by more than 3 per cent. For, example, are they inland or by the coast? Are they in the north, south, east or west of the state? Are they clustered together or spread out? Are they close to Melbourne?
   (b) What will happen to towns in the regions?
   (c) Estimate the proportion of Victoria that is predicted to increase its population and the proportion that is predicted to decrease its population.
10. Find maps of Victoria that provide information about landform and climate. Refer to your maps and figure 8 to complete the following.
    (a) Think about landform and population change. Are most areas of declining population in places that are not mountainous? Are most areas of increasing population on the coast side of the mountains?
    (b) Think about climate and population change. Are most of the highest growth population areas in places where rainfall is over 600 millimetres per year? Are most areas of declining population in places where the rainfall is lower?
    (c) What might be reasons for your findings in (a) and (b)?

Discover
11. (a) Draw a sketch map of natural features at Port Douglas in 1971. Show the ocean, promontory, Dickson Inlet, flat land and hills. Add the settlement features (such as housing, roads and marina).
    (b) Using another colour or an overlay, show the settlement features for 2009.
    (c) Annotate your map to describe the changes that have occurred and the changes you think will happen in the next 10 years.
12. Provide another example of a town in Victoria that has changed. Clearly describe its geographic characteristics:
    • location — state, latitude, distance and direction from your school
    • surrounding landform
    • climate
    • significant physical features (e.g. mountain, river, ocean or lake).
Collect images and data to show that change has occurred. Explain why the town has changed. Possible sources of information include your atlas, the local council, local newspaper and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
8.9 What are isolated settlements like?

8.9.1 Way up north

Life in some towns is strongly influenced by geography. It is now possible to live in extreme conditions and be socially connected while enjoying access to a wide range of goods, services and community activities.

Dawson, with a population of 2000, is the second largest city in the Canadian state of Yukon. At the latitude of 64°N, it is only about 360 kilometres from the Arctic Circle.

Dawson is a long way from neighbouring towns. It is 770 kilometres from the next town to its north (Inuvik) and 810 kilometres to Anchorage, the largest town in Alaska.

8.9.2 Climate

| TABLE 1 Average hours of sunlight at Dawson, Yukon and Longreach, Queensland |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Month             | Dawson, latitude 64°N | Longreach, latitude 23°S |
| January           | 4                | 13.5               |
| February          | 6.9              | 13                 |
| March             | 10.2             | 12.5               |
| April             | 13.7             | 12                 |
| May               | 17.1             | 11                 |
| June              | 20.6             | 11                 |
| July              | 21.4             | 11                 |
| August            | 18.1             | 11                 |
| September         | 14.6             | 12                 |
| October           | 11.2             | 12.5               |
| November          | 7.8              | 13                 |
| December          | 4.7              | 13.5               |

FIGURE 1 Location of Dawson, Yukon, Canada

Source: Spatial Vision
8.9.3 Settlement

The site of Dawson, on the junction of the Yukon and Klondike rivers, was always an important hunting and meeting site for indigenous peoples, who still live in the area. The harsh climate deterred white colonisers from the area until gold was discovered in 1896. The population grew by thousands every week, quickly reaching 30 000.

However, most people did not stay long. Living conditions were very poor: people lived in tents and huts; they had no power, water or sewerage; and crops would not grow in the low temperatures. The permafrost also made it difficult to dig the foundations for buildings. Furthermore, it turned out that the gold was not accessible: it was in gravel that was frozen for most of the year.

Today

Today the town has infrastructure, and housing is solid and heated. The community of Dawson operates year round, with the climate having a strong influence on activities. A road to Alaska has encouraged tourism, and new mining techniques have increased goldmining.

The weather conditions mean that some jobs, such as road-making and building, cannot be done in the winter. Some of those employed in these industries move south in the winter, either for work or holidays.

The town of Dawson is no longer completely isolated in winter. Internet and phone connections allow communication; snow-ploughing and spreading of sand keep the roads open most of the time; and planes fly in and out all year.

The weather influences many aspects of social life in Dawson. The ‘Thaw di Gras’ carnival celebrates the end of winter, and music festivals and a kayak marathon take place in summer. Winter is the time of snowmobile treks, skiing and the famous Yukon Quest dog-sled race from Whitehorse (Yukon) to Fairbanks (Alaska). During the race, dogs and mushers (sled drivers) need protection from the cold, but if the weather warms to minus 4 °C, it becomes too hot for the dogs to travel during the day.

FIGURE 2 Climate graph, Dawson

FIGURE 3 It is so cold in winter that the Yukon River freezes over, and the ice is thick enough to support fully loaded trucks.
8.9 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.

Remember
1. Refer to the map in figure 1. How far is Dawson from Whitehorse, the state capital?
2. (a) What influenced Indigenous people to live in the Dawson area?
(b) Why did people move to Dawson in 1897?
(c) What influences people to live in Dawson nowadays?

Explain
3. List at least four ways in which the natural environment has influenced the settlement of this area.
4. What factors have improved liveability in Dawson?
5. (a) Construct a multiple bar or column graph to show the average number of hours of sunlight at Dawson and Longreach.
(b) On your graph, use colour, shading or symbols to show summer and winter at each location.
(c) Write one statement that is true for both Dawson and Longreach about their hours of sunlight.
(d) Imagine you live in Dawson, where the school year is from August to June. In which months would you arrive or leave in the dark?
6. Activities in Dawson include volleyball, curling, film festivals, craft, dances, motorcycle riding, gold panning, softball, writing workshops and outhouse races. Which of these would occur only in summer? Which would occur only in winter? Which could occur all year?

Discover
7. Use the Bureau of Meteorology weblink in the Resources tab to find the average monthly temperatures for your location. Present the statistics for the minimum and maximum temperature in a graph. Compare your graph to the one provided for Dawson. Write three clear statements comparing the average monthly temperatures of Dawson and your location. Write three clear statements comparing the monthly rainfall for Dawson and your location.

Predict
8. Which months of the year would be most popular for tourists visiting Dawson City? Provide at least two reasons to support your answer.
9. How do you think the climate would make school life in Dawson different from your life?

Think
10. What do you think happened to the early buildings when the heating from houses warmed the soil and melted the permafrost?
11. How have people tried to overcome the disadvantages of this location?

Explore more with this weblink: Bureau of Meteorology

8.10 Are all settlements permanent?
Access this subtopic at www.jacplus.com.au
8.11 What is Old Delhi like?

Access this subtopic at www.jacplus.com.au

8.12 How is modern India changing?

Access this subtopic at www.jacplus.com.au

8.13 Review

8.13.1 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.

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