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| **Geography Glossary** |
| A |
| argument A claim justified with reference to evidence. |
| **Asia / Asian** Geographically, the largest continent, bounded by Europe and the Pacific, Arctic and Indian oceans. It can be described in cultural, religious, historical and language boundaries or commonalities. |
| atmosphere One of the interconnected systems of Earth; it consists of a mix of gases essential to life in the biosphere. |
| B |
| belief systems A set of principles or tenets which together form the basis of a philosophy, moral code or religion |
| biodiversity The number and variety of species within an environment. It has direct value as consumable or useful commodities, indirect value as support for ecosystems, and intrinsic value. |
| biome A major terrestrial vegetation region, such as a tropical forest, temperate grassland or desert; similar biomes occur around the world in similar climatic zones. |
| biosphere One of the interconnected systems of Earth; it is made up of parts of Earth occupied by living organisms. |

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| C |
| cartographic conventions Practices guiding the making of maps (e.g. inclusion of title, border, legend, scale and north point). |
| characteristics of a place Tangible or intangible environmental and human characteristics that can be described to identify, classify or give meaning to the uniqueness of a place (e.g. location, topography, scenic quality). |
| classification A way of categorising objects or phenomena based on criteria such as similarity of properties or by relationships (e.g. renewable, non-renewable or continuous resources). |
| climate The long-term average (minimum 30 years) of weather conditions at a place, classified into distinctive types (e.g. tropical, dry, temperate, polar, Mediterranean). |
| climate change Change in the long-term weather patterns and averages such as those for temperature and precipitation. |
| colonisation The act of setting up a colony away from one’s place of origin. With humans, it can be seen negatively because it tends to involve an invading culture taking control over an indigenous population. |
| coordinates A set of values that define the position of a point or an object in a space. The coordinate system being used will govern the nature of the coordinates. |
| Country/Place Spaces mapped out that individuals or groups of First Nations Peoples of Australia occupy and regard as their own and having varying degrees of spirituality. They include lands, waters and sky. |
| cultural connectedness Interconnections between people and their community locally and globally; influences how people live, understand the impact they have on each other, and make sense of their identity and belonging. |
| custodial responsibility The responsibility and obligation for caring for Country/Place and management of land, sea, sky and waterways based on the values and beliefs of First Nations Australian communities. |
| D |
| data A general term for a set of observations or measurements collected during an investigation. Primary data is collected by the user; secondary data is collected by others. |
| digital tools Digital hardware, software, platforms and resources used to develop and communicate learning, ideas and information. |
| distribution The arrangement of geographical phenomena across Earth's surface (e.g. distribution of services and facilities in a settlement, population in a country, forests or water resources). |
| diversity The mix of people in a group or society; i.e. differences in factors such as age, abilities, culture and religion and/or in how people identify in relation to factors such as gender and sexuality. |
| E |
| ecosystem A functioning unit of the environment defined by a complex set of relationships among its living organisms and its non-living components, where all organisms and components are interdependent. |
| ecosystem-based management A focus on improving the health of an ecosystem such as increasing biodiversity, restoring hydrological systems, protecting marine breeding areas or rebuilding soil structure and fertility. |
| environmental function A function that supports life (e.g. production of raw materials from natural resources; breakdown of wastes and pollution; support of ecosystems or the intrinsic value of the environment). |
| environmental management A method for analysing complex interactions between an environment and people to sustain environments by identifying environmental, demographic, social, economic, technological or political impacts. |
| environmental process A process (or processes) related to the interactions of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere (e.g. erosion or hazards). |
| environmental quality Characteristics of a local environment that affect human wellbeing, such as air and water pollution, noise, access to open space, traffic volumes, and visual effects of buildings and roads. |
| environmental resource A valuable or useful material; characterised as renewable (used repeatedly and not depleted), non-renewable (after use cannot be replenished) or continuous (availability unaffected by use). |
| environmental world view A set of beliefs and values that gives a person a sense of their behaviour towards Earth. It could be anthropocentric (human centred), biocentric (life centred) or ecocentric (Earth centred). |
| evaluative language Positive or negative language that judges the worth of something. It includes language to express feelings and opinions; make judgements; and assess quality of objects, ideas and features of texts. |
| F |
| fieldwork Active and firsthand collection, examination, interpretation and analysis of materials in relation to geographical questions; often conducted from outside the classroom at a local scale. |
| food security Assurances that food supplies are reliable and of a sufficient quality and quantity to maintain human life. |
| G |
| geographical diversity The different range of environments and varied ways of living in a region, which can be influenced by a range of factors, e.g. climate, topography, beliefs, social structures, culture. |
| geomorphological processes Physical and chemical interactions between Earth's surface and environmental processes (e.g. geology and climate) which produce or shape landforms. |
| geospatial technologies Tools (software or hardware) enabling collection, storage, mapping, representation and visualisation of the occurrence of geographical phenomena and challenges for analysis of causes and effects. |
| H |
| hazard A threat arising from environmental processes or human activities that has the potential to cause loss of life, injury, property damage, socio-economic disruption or environmental degradation. |
| human wellbeing A person's satisfaction and wellness or quality of life measured using objective indicators (e.g. life expectancy, educational attainment, income) and subjective indicators (e.g. perceptions, happiness surveys). |
| hydrosphere One of the interconnected systems of Earth; it comprises the combined mass of water found on, under, and above the surface of Earth.  |
| I |
| industrial materials and fibres Human changes to biomes to increase production of raw materials used in processing or manufacturing of finished products (e.g. timber, rubber, cotton or paper). |
| internal migration Movement of people from living in one defined area to living in another within a country (e.g. movement from cities to non-metropolitan coastal locations, or from one state or territory to another). |
| international migration Movement of people across international borders for the purpose of becoming citizens or permanent residents (e.g. moving from living in one country to living in another). |
| inter-regional transfer of water Transfer of water from one river basin to another (e.g. transfer of water from the Snowy River to the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers in the Snowy Mountains Scheme). |
| intertextual references Associations or connections between one text and other texts that may be overt or less explicit. They can take the form of direct quotation, parody, allusion or structural borrowing. |
| invasion Entrance as if to take possession or overrun. British colonisation was experienced by First Nations Australians as an invasion that denied their occupation of and connection to Country/Place. |
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| K |
| kinship A system used to decide how people relate to each other and their roles, responsibilities and duties. A feature of First Nations Australians' social organisation and family relationships. |
| L |
| land and water degradation Threats to the function of land and water resources (e.g. salinity, soil erosion, soil fertility decline, soil acidification, invasive plants, loss of biodiversity and habitats, pollution). |
| landform An individual surface feature of Earth identified by its shape (e.g. dune, plateau, canyon, beach, plain, hill, river, valley). |
| landscape The visible appearance of an area, created by a combination of geological, geomorphological, biological and cultural layers that have evolved over time, and as perceived and valued by people. |
| lithosphere One of the interconnected systems of Earth; it consists of the interior and surface of Earth, both of which are made up of rocks. Also called geosphere. |
| liveability Use of criteria to assess what a place is like to live in, such as environmental quality or education and health provision or availability of recreational facilities. |
| location A position or site marked by a distinguishing feature; where a particular point or object exists. |
| M |
| migration Movement of people from living in one defined area to living in another (e.g. internal migration within a country, or international migration between countries). |
| multidimensional data Data that has many dimensions and values. The data is structured in many rows and columns and can be modelled and viewed in multiple dimensions, facilitating interpretation. |
| N |
| non-government organisationNon-profit, voluntary, independent group, organised at a local, national or international level, whose purpose is to address social or political issues such as humanitarian or environmental causes. |
| non-renewable Of or relating to resources developed by geological processes over time which cannot be replenished quickly and are finite (e.g. mineral deposits and fossil fuels). |
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| P |
| perception Subjective assessment of places and environments using criteria, and recognising lived experience and the attitudes of others. |
| primary research method Materials collected firsthand or from fieldwork related to a geographical inquiry (e.g. by recording observations or conducting surveys and interviews). |
| Q |
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| R |
| region / regional An area of the world sharing common characteristics (e.g. a geographical region such as South East Queensland or a regional intergovernmental organisation such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)). |
| register The level of formality of language used for a particular purpose and audience. Generally variation in register moves from formal (Good morning) to informal (Hi). |
| renewable Of or relating to resources which can be replenished because they are naturally replaced, or can be replaced, such as solar power, animal life and timber. |
| S |
| secondary research material Researched materials related to a geographical inquiry (e.g. published research, data and information collected from the internet, libraries, archives, government or non-government agency reports). |
| settlement A place where people live, with types of settlements ranging in size from a single dwelling in a rural or remote area to a city. |
| settlement pattern Spatial distribution of human settlement types, with smaller types typically forming patterns around larger ones (e.g. isolated dwellings, villages, towns, regional centres, large cities). |
| spatial variation How and why geographic phenomena differ in arrangement across Earth's surface. |
| T |
| topography The study of Earth's surface, including the arrangement of or shape of natural and human features (e.g. the topography of the island). |
| traditional owners The original owners of a particular region based on their traditional and cultural associations with the land and who have ongoing traditional and cultural connections to that Country/Place. |
| U |
| urban concentration Percentage of the urban population of a country or region living in the largest city. |
| urban place A developed place where people live, which has a density of human structures and often high population density (e.g. towns, cities and suburbs). |
| urbanisation The process of economic and social change in which an increasing proportion of the population of a country or region lives in urban areas. |

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| V |
| validity The state of being logically or factually sound. |
| values  Ideas and beliefs specific to individuals and groups.   |
| value of place People's recognition of, attachment to, emotional feelings about or identification with special or significant places which contribute to a sense of belonging, identity or wellbeing. |
| vegetation Plant life or plant cover arranged across Earth's surface (e.g. trees, grasses or mosses). |
| vegetation corridor Strips of vegetation that connect isolated vegetated areas, enable movement of animals and plants between places, reduce ecological effects of habitat fragmentation and help protect biodiversity. |
| W |
| water scarcity Lack of sufficient available water resources to meet the demand due to water shortage (physical), lack of money to use an adequate water source (economic) or unequal distribution of water resources. |
| water security Assurances that water resources are reliable and of a sufficient quality and quantity for people to sustain health, livelihoods, production and ensure protection against water-related disasters. |
| water resource A natural resource existing in different forms (e.g. freshwater, groundwater, precipitation), irregularly distributed and useful to people and their activities (e.g. agriculture, industry, household). |
| weather The state of the atmosphere at a particular place and time, such as wind, temperature, atmospheric pressure, humidity, precipitation and cloudiness. |
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