

Support units: Fieldwork

Illustration 1: Selecting a fieldwork site

Selecting a fieldwork site: Years 1 and 2

Students in Years 1 and 2 are typically up to eight years of age. As such they are capable of more extensive periods of time outside the classroom and should be encouraged to collect data, photograph and sketch at the fieldwork site.

Specified concepts to be covered

- place
- scale
- interconnection
- space
- change.

Possible sites

- The school grounds. Areas around the school can be used for basic weather recording activities. For example, temperature, rainfall, wind direction and cloud cover can be recorded at three or four sites, and students can consider the question: Where is the best space to play?
- Nearby. A short walk can be undertaken to a local environmental feature close to the school such as an area of bushland, wetland, parkland, farm or beach. The task here is about identifying features and how these features may have changed or might be changing in the future.
- Further afield. Students can compare businesses in commercial areas, such as places handling different scales of services (for example a supermarket and a corner shop), or an international company and a gardening service. Parents may be able to provide contact into different scales of services. This fieldwork may require the organisation of transport and specific administrative requirements at your school.

Fieldwork activities

These should include observation, measurement and use of the senses based on an enquiry approach. Some possible questions to explore include:

- Where is this place?
- What happens here?
- Why is this place here?
- How does weather affect the place?
- Why does our school or town need this place?
- Is it well looked after?
- Is this place changing?

Reporting on the fieldwork

A few suggestions include:

- identifying and labelling places on a map
- creating a pictorial map en route to the fieldwork site
- drawing or photographing environmental and constructed features
- making a picture diary
- creating a story about the place to which they are connected
- comparing the place with other places by using **Google Earth**
<<http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>>
- imagining the place in five years' time.