

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



GEOGRAPHY AND TRADE IN ACTION

Global Connections: Geography and Trade in Action

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eBook Edition

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Introduction to Students and Parents

In this resource, your child will explore a variety of geographical topics, including the nature of trade flows, environmental impacts, cultural and social connections, transportation networks, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic contributions. They will learn not only about geographical concepts but also about the real-world interconnections between people, places, and environments. We encourage your child to develop geographical skills through map creation, exploring current events, and connecting their learning to places around the world and in Australia.

Using the Australian Curriculum and NSW Curriculum¹ Geography curriculum as our foundation, we incorporate literature, videos, and observational activities to build a well-rounded geography resource.

How to Use This Resource

Your weekly planner will guide you through this resource, with lessons scheduled once or twice a week.

Geography Narrations

After each lesson, students will complete a written narration in their notebook about what they've learnt. They may enjoy adding maps or sketches to document the places they study. Having a notebook with both blank and lined pages (a botany book) works well for recording these observations.

Engaging Your Child in Geographical Thinking

Parents can ask their students questions about the places they are learning about. For example, if they are studying transportation networks, ask, 'Why do ships carry most goods instead of aeroplanes?' or 'What makes Australian wool a valuable export?' Such questions help them think critically and connect ideas from various topics.

Allow your student to explain what they observe and learn. When a child makes discoveries through observation, it creates a genuine sense of accomplishment. Share in their excitement and encourage their curiosity.

Additional Video Content

My Homeschool uses videos to illustrate key concepts and bring geographic topics to life, such as the environmental impact of trade or the cultural significance of Australian landmarks like Uluru. The videos may change from time to time but will consistently focus on the core ideas. Additional videos may be included as extensions if your child is particularly interested in a topic.

¹ NSW Outcomes: GE4-PRI-01, GE4-PER-01, GE4-MAN-01, GE4-TAP-01, GE4-COM-01

Mapping Activities and Projects

In Year 8 Geography, your child will work on projects such as interpreting maps that show supply chains and interconnections between manufacturers, suppliers, and retailers. Mapping the routes of Australian exports like wool or beef, or the journey of electronic parts from around the world, will deepen their understanding of global trade networks.

I hope these resources spark your child's interest in geography and inspire them to explore the world with curiosity and understanding.

Happy Homeschooling!

Michelle Morrow

Lesson 1: Interconnections and Trade

Picture a world where nations existed in complete isolation—where people, ideas, and goods remained confined within their borders. There would be no bananas in Australia, no spices from Asia, no cars manufactured in Japan, or phones designed in the United States. Such a world would lack the richness and diversity we experience today. Fortunately, our reality is far different. We live in a deeply interconnected global network where countries, businesses, and individuals continuously exchange resources, ideas, and products. This concept of interdependence, where nations rely on one another to fulfil their needs and desires, forms the foundation of interconnections and trade.

What are Interconnections?

Interconnections are the links that bind people, places, and environments across the world. These links can be cultural, economic, social, or even environmental. In simple terms, interconnections mean that people, communities, and countries are connected and affected by each other in various ways. Australia, for instance, is deeply connected to other countries, not only because of physical goods but also through culture, sports, education, and even nature.

For example, many Australians have cultural ties to other countries. This is visible in Australia's multicultural population, with many people tracing their heritage back to places like the United Kingdom, China, India, Greece, and Italy. This diversity is celebrated and is part of Australia's identity, as seen in events like the Lunar New Year, Diwali, and Italian festivals held across the country.

In nature, Australia is interconnected with the world through migratory birds. Every year, thousands of birds migrate from as far away as Siberia to Australian shores, especially in places like Kakadu National Park. These birds rely on wetlands in both Siberia and Australia to survive, showing how different environments are connected by the needs of species that cross borders.

What is Trade?

Trade is the exchange of goods and services between people or countries. Through trade, countries can obtain resources that they don't produce themselves. For instance, Australia exports resources like iron ore and coal, which are used in countries like China to build buildings and manufacture goods. In return, Australia imports products such as electronics, clothing, and cars, which might be more challenging or costly to produce domestically.

Australia is one of the world's biggest exporters of wheat, which is sent to countries all over the world, including Indonesia and Japan, where it's used in foods like noodles and bread. Similarly, Australia imports goods it doesn't produce as much of, like technology and machinery. Through this system,

Australians have access to a wide range of goods that improve their quality of life and allow businesses to grow and innovate.

Why do Interconnections and Trade Matter Globally?

Interconnections and trade are essential because they allow countries to specialise in producing certain goods and then share those with others, creating a more efficient global economy. This system brings benefits like variety, lower prices, and access to resources that might otherwise be unavailable. However, it also creates a sense of responsibility, as countries need to manage resources carefully to avoid harming the environment or exploiting people.

For instance, Australia's coal exports help fuel industries overseas, but this raises environmental concerns because of coal's impact on climate change. As a result, Australia is now exploring ways to balance its trade in fossil fuels with investments in renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.

Moreover, interconnections through trade can make countries dependent on each other. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia and other countries experienced shortages of goods like masks and medical supplies because of disruptions in global supply chains. This taught countries about the importance of resilience, showing the need for backup sources and strategies to handle such interruptions.

Interconnections, Trade, and the Future

Interconnections and trade are the threads that weave our global society together, allowing us to benefit from each other's strengths and resources. For Australians, these concepts mean having access to a rich variety of products, the chance to experience other cultures, and the opportunity to contribute to the global economy. Whether it's a family enjoying mangoes from Queensland, cars imported from Japan, or natural resources exported to China, every interaction reminds us of our role in a global community.

In this interconnected world, understanding and responsibly managing our global connections and trade relationships is essential. These exchanges influence our lives daily, from what we eat to how we communicate and travel. As we move toward a more sustainable and equitable future, the way Australia and other countries interact with each other will continue to shape the world we live in.

[GEOGRAPHY LINKS](#)

[How a Steel Box Changed the World](#)

Lesson 2: Social and Cultural Connections

How Language, Cuisine, and Arts Link Us Together

Suppose you were walking down a busy street in Sydney, surrounded by a blend of scents from different food stalls. You might smell sizzling teriyaki from a Japanese stall, spicy curries from an Indian restaurant, and fresh Italian pasta all on the same block. This diversity of sights, sounds, and flavours reveals something special about Australia: its strong social and cultural connections to other countries and cultures. These connections shape not only what we eat, but also the languages we speak and the art we enjoy.

Social and cultural connections link people and places across the globe, allowing ideas, traditions, and experiences to be shared. In Australia, these connections are particularly evident through language, cuisine, and the arts. Let's explore how each of these plays a role in shaping Australia's identity and connecting us to the world.

Language as a Bridge Between Cultures

Language is one of the most powerful ways that people connect across cultures. In Australia, English is the primary language, but many Australians speak other languages at home, including Mandarin, Arabic, Italian, and Greek. In fact, more than 300 languages are spoken across the country! This linguistic diversity reflects Australia's multicultural population and close ties with communities around the world.

Learning and speaking multiple languages allows people to understand different perspectives and connect more deeply with other cultures. For instance, a student in Australia who studies Japanese might learn more than just words; they gain insights into Japanese traditions, values, and ways of thinking. This helps to create mutual respect and understanding, showing how language connects people beyond mere conversation.

Additionally, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are still spoken in Australia. These languages connect Indigenous Australians to their rich cultural heritage and historical connection to the land. Programs to revive and teach these languages to new generations are growing, helping preserve an important part of Australia's cultural history and linking past traditions to the present.

Cuisine: A Taste of the World

Food is a universal language that often speaks to people's hearts, creating bonds across cultures. Australia's food scene is a fantastic example of social and cultural connections through cuisine. Walking through any Australian city, you'll likely find foods from across the globe, including Italian pizza, Greek souvlaki, Vietnamese pho, Lebanese falafel and the American Krispy Krème donuts (Yum!).

This diversity of cuisines shows how closely linked Australia is to other countries and cultures.

Australian cuisine has also been influenced by Indigenous traditions, such as the use of bush foods. Ingredients like macadamia nuts, lemon myrtle, and kangaroo meat have been part of Indigenous diets for thousands of years and are now being incorporated into modern Australian dishes. This connection between Indigenous knowledge and contemporary cooking allows Australians to appreciate the richness of their land and honour the cultural heritage of the First Nations people.

Celebrations like the Lunar New Year bring families and friends together to share traditional Chinese foods like dumplings and rice cakes, and Italian food festivals feature handmade pasta, gelato, and pastries. These events allow Australians of all backgrounds to explore new flavours, learn about different traditions, and celebrate cultural diversity.

Arts as a Window to the World

The arts—whether music, dance, visual art, or theatre—are another powerful way that cultures connect. In Australia, cultural festivals and events showcase art from all around the world, from African drumming to Bollywood dancing and Indigenous storytelling. These performances and exhibitions allow people to appreciate different forms of expression and connect to cultures that may be far from their own.

Australian music and theatre have also been influenced by a variety of cultural traditions. For instance, in jazz and contemporary music, Indigenous rhythms and instruments, such as the didgeridoo, blend with other musical styles to create unique Australian sounds. The Sydney Opera House hosts artists and performers from all over the world, bringing diverse music and dance traditions to Australian audiences.

Additionally, Indigenous art is a significant part of Australia's cultural landscape. Aboriginal art often features symbols that represent Dreamtime stories, a form of storytelling that connects the present to the ancestral past. These artworks are celebrated and recognised worldwide, building cultural connections that help share Australia's Indigenous heritage with a global audience.

Why Social and Cultural Connections Matter

Social and cultural connections make the world more interesting and interconnected. Through language, cuisine, and the arts, Australians learn about and appreciate the richness of other cultures, developing empathy and understanding. These connections allow people to experience the world without leaving home and create a sense of unity and shared humanity.

In a multicultural country like Australia, these links shape a diverse and vibrant society, allowing individuals to celebrate their heritage while also connecting with

the traditions of others. Social and cultural connections remind us that although we come from different places, we can share experiences, enjoy each other's cultures, and create a community that values diversity and understanding.

SEE GEOGRAPHY LINKS

[Food Geography: The Free Trade Deal with a Trade Name Catch](#) - Behind the News (4 mins)