

Geography school resource pack (#42)

Authors: Zoyha Nisha, Rashmi Balakrishnan, Amy Steiger

Intro

Most schools will teach geography in primary school as students develop an interest in the world around them. With climate change, natural disasters and changing landscapes, geography helps students to develop an understanding of people, places, the environment and to become responsible global citizens.

“The study of Geography also provides opportunities for students to learn to use a wide range of geographical tools including maps, fieldwork, graphs and statistics, spatial technologies and visual representations.” (NSW Department of Education)

Background

There are lots of resources available but we decided that we wanted to collate a resource that was more specific to the Australia-Pacific region.

What is...

- **STEM** is an approach to learning and development that integrates the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. (WA Department of Education)
- **Geography:** Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments.
- **GIS:** A geographic information system (GIS) is a system that creates, manages, analyzes, and maps all types of data. GIS connects data to a map, integrating location data (where things are) with all types of descriptive information (what things are like there).
- **Survey** is the precise measurement of features on the land.

Audience

This blog is designed for parents, educators and teachers to access some easy resources, activities and information about geography, drones and STEM

Pre School Resources

1. Imagine This Podcast

An ABC Kids Listen podcast for kids with big questions. Imagine This is a science podcast for the young and curious. Have you ever wondered how bees make honey? Or how do fish breathe underwater?



<https://www.abc.net.au/kidslisten/programs/imagine-this>

2. EcoExplorers

Take your learning outdoors with Eco Explorers nature inspired resources, printables and online programs, developed for parents, homeschoolers, educators and teachers. We offer a range of early years and primary school online nature learning programs, printables and resources to inspire, motivate and engage children in outdoor education and learning.



<https://www.ecoexplorers.com.au/nature-play-learning-resources/>

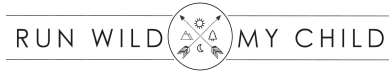
3. Reading a Map

Short activity for 3-5 year olds. Reading a map helps children to understand location, symbols and interpret patterns.

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/curriculum-and-learning/early-years/learning-with-your-child-greatstart/working-it-out/reading-map>

4. Run Wild My Child

Connecting families through outdoor activities and adventures. Map reading skills for kids toddlers through to teens.



<https://runwildmychild.com/map-reading-skills/>

5. Map Reading Skills for Kids

Find out why you should get maps for kids and encourage them to improve their map reading skills. These guides will show you how to make map reading for kids of all ages both fun and educational.



<https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/guides/map-reading-skills-for-children/>

Primary School Resources

1. Geocaching

Geocaching is like a world-wide GPS treasure hunt and anyone can get involved. All you need is a smartphone and an account to start hunting.



<https://www.geocaching.com/play>

2. DIY STEM Activities for Girls

Fun DIY activities that can be done from home to encourage girls to become more interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).



<https://www.thegist.edu.au/families/getting-them-interested-in-stem/at-home-activities/>

3. War on Waste

An Australian documentary series taking a critical look at household and retail waste to uncover how much waste we produce and what we can do about it.



<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/war-on-waste>

4. Australian geography

Factsheets and resources about Australian geography, interactive maps, observations from space and landforms.



Australian Government

Geoscience Australia

<https://www.ga.gov.au/education/classroom-resources/australia>

5. National Geographic Explorers

Engage with National Geographic Explorers and transform learning experiences through live events, free maps, videos, interactives, and other resources.



https://education.nationalgeographic.org/?ar_a=1

6. Treasure Map

A lesson plan to assist in geographic thinking using different types of maps. Who doesn't like a treasure story!



<https://www.stlouisfed.org/education/treasure-map>

Teacher Resources

1. Map of Indigenous Australia

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia is made up of many different and distinct groups, each with their own culture, customs, language and laws. This is an interactive map that attempts to show language, social and nation groups of Aboriginal Australia



AIATSIS

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>

2. She Maps (Australia)



She Maps comes to your school and teaches students how to fly and code drones. Students are exposed to great role models, learn about unconscious bias, explore applications of drone technology, understand safety and drone regulations, and learn how to fly and code educational microdrones.

<https://shemaps.com/drone-incursion/>

3. Get Kids into Survey

Resources to help bring geography teaching alive? Explore the real-world application of cutting edge geographical technology, investigate case studies that span all types of physical environments, and look at the future of geography in terms of ecological conservation and impact



<https://www.getkidsintosurvey.com/about/for-teachers/>

4. Map Skills

Build map skills with these different activities, learn how to read grid references and interpret information seen on maps.



<https://www.twinkl.com.au/parenting-wiki/map-skills>

5. STEM Camp for Girls (Fiji)

Delivering transformative science education to disadvantaged girls in Fiji through a 2-week camp.



<https://www.nanogirllabs.com/our-work/stem-camp-for-girls>

6. GWF STEM Camp for Girls (Fiji)

Through this program, our goal is to increase girls' participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) studies as well as inspire them to aspire to STEM careers by providing a safe, supportive and fun environment to learn about STEM subjects and surrounded by positive female role models who are successful in STEM.



<https://graduatewomenfiji.org/stem/>

7. Spatial Skills for Kids

This page has tips and resources to point you in the right direction to teach your kids about GIS and mapping.

GEOGRAPHYREALM

<https://www.geographyrealm.com/gis-for-kids/>

8. NSW Department of Education STEM

STEM education caters for all students providing scope and direction for their creative thinking and problem-solving. An introduction to STEM education and learning experiences and programs.



Education

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/stem>

9. Women and girls in STEM (Australia)

The Australian Government is increasing representation of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through a range of programs and initiatives. Find current women in STEM programs



<https://www.industry.gov.au/science-technology-and-innovation/women-and-girls-stem>

10. GIS for Kids

“Geo-Literacy” is the ability to use geographic understanding and geographic reasoning to make decisions. This is a critical skill for addressing the tough issues affecting global health and community life.



<https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/insider/gis-4-kids/>
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/7dfb9efa5d3e490c95d5ebd8b314289a>

Other Resources/Tools

On top of these resources there are other free software and tools that teachers and parents can use for activities

Websites

- [Google Maps](#) - Discover the world with Google Maps. Experience Street View, 3D Mapping, turn-by-turn directions, indoor maps and more across your devices.
- [NationalMap](#) is an online map-based tool to allow easy access to spatial data from Australian government agencies and is based on a fully open architecture.
- [ArcGIS Living Atlas of the World](#) - Explore maps, apps, and data layers from Esri and thousands of other organizations. See how others are visualizing data and solving problems.

Apps

- [AllTrails](#) is commonly used for outdoor activities such as hiking, mountain biking, climbing and snow sports. The service allows users to access a database of trail maps, which includes crowdsourced reviews and images.
- [Avenza Maps](#) uses the built-in GPS in your mobile device to locate yourself on any georeferenced map (GeoPDF). All of the [NSW Topographic Maps](#) are available as a GeoPDF.

Software

- [Google Earth](#) is a program that renders a 3D representation (globe) of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery with other topographic information.
- [QGIS](#) is a free, open source GIS application where users can create, edit, visualise, analyse and publish geospatial information.

Key Dates

Key dates for your school calendar! Find more here [List of International Days and Weeks | United Nations](#)

	Important Geography Days
January	International Day of Clean Energy
February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
March	Global Surveyors Day International Women's Day Clean Up Australia Day (AU)
April	Earth Day Earth Hour (AU)
May	International Drone Day
June	World Environment Day
July	National Tree Day (AU) Schools Tree Day (AU/FJ)
August	National Science Week (AU)
September	World Cleanup Day

October	World Space Week
November	GIS Day Geography Awareness Week National Recycling Week (AU)
December	International Mountain Day Tropical Tree Day (FJ)