

LHS

Social Science + LoTE Faculty

8 GEO

TOPIC 1: PLACE AND LIVEABILITY

NAME:

CLASS:

PLACE AND LIVEABILITY

Place

A place can range in size from a comfortable chair in a room to a national park, to a country or to the whole world. It can be a **natural feature**, such as an old-growth forest, or a **human construction**, such as a house. It could also be a place where **natural and human features and human constructions interconnect**, such as a farm.

In geography we use the geographical concept of **space** to better understand where, how and why places are located and connected over the Earth's surface. As we move, or send something, from one place to another place, we are using our understanding of space. For example, the form of transport you use and the route you take to go from your home to school is informed by your understanding of how they are connected across space. Often maps are used to show the location, distribution and reasons for the pattern of places over space. For example, Source 6.3 is a political map of Europe showing territorial boundaries between countries.



Source 6.3 Maps, such as this political map of Europe, show us the distribution and location of places.

How we connect and identify with a place depends on our personal perception of that place and why it is important to us, our people and our future. Perception can differ depending on a number of factors including our environmental worldview, age, cultural background, and place of employment.

QUESTIONS

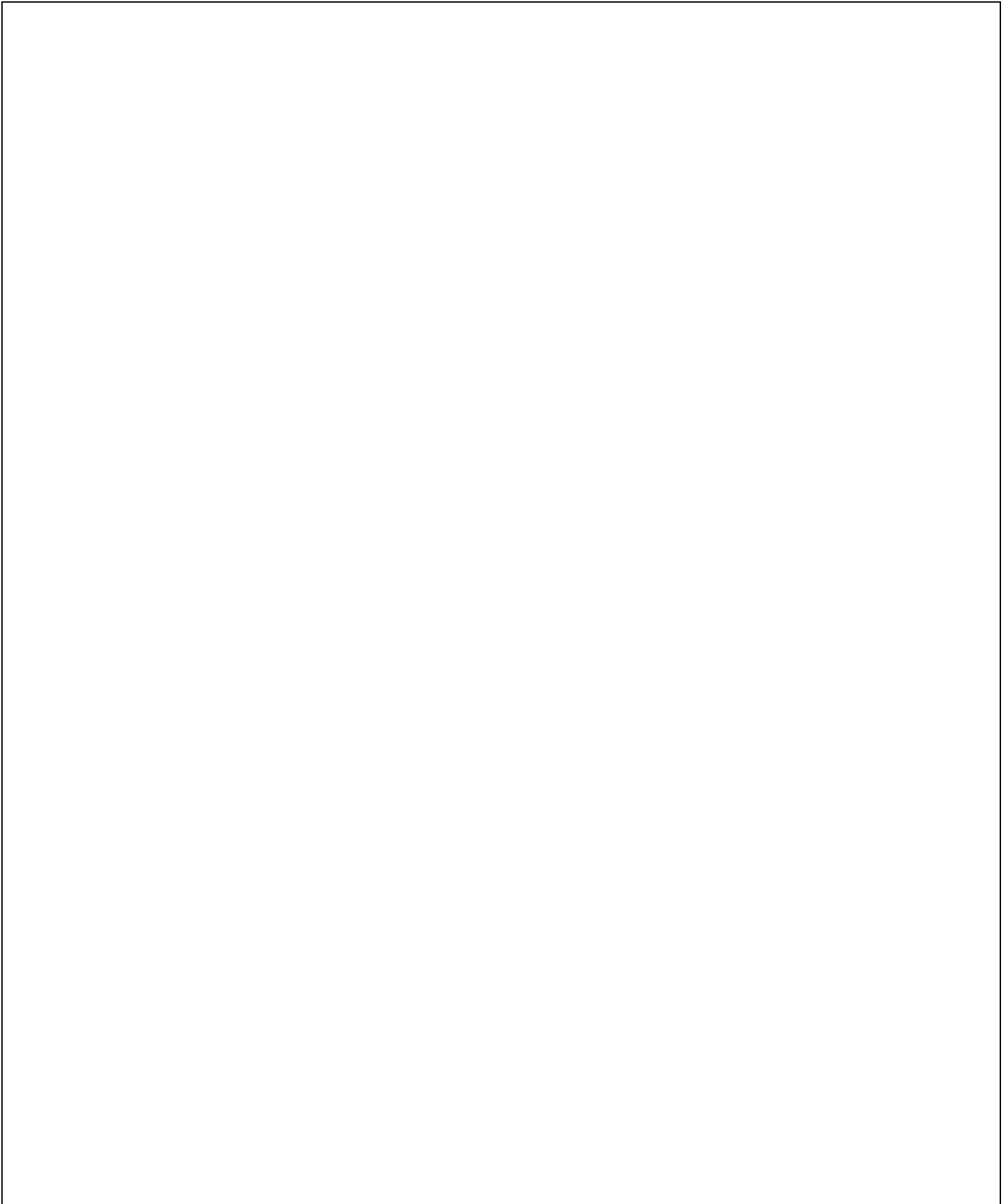
1. Choose at least 5 places that are important to you.

2. Describe the places and write reasons why these places are important to you.

3. List 5 other places that are important to other people.

4. Why do you think these places are important for others?

5. Find 5 images of places around the world and paste an image of each below. List the special features about each place. Consider natural as well as human features.



6. Suggest reasons why certain places become famous around the world.

Liveability

How do people decide where they would like to live? There are a number of factors that influence a person's perception of the liveability of a place. In this chapter we will begin by looking at how people's perceptions of liveability are influenced by both environmental and human factors.



QUESTIONS

1. List features that attract people to live in certain areas.

2. Figures 2 and 3 show two mental maps of the same neighbourhood place. One is drawn by Jayden, a Year 7 boy, and the other is drawn by his mother. Compare the two maps by filling in the spaces in the table below.

FIGURE 2 Mental map of Jayden's local place (by Jayden)

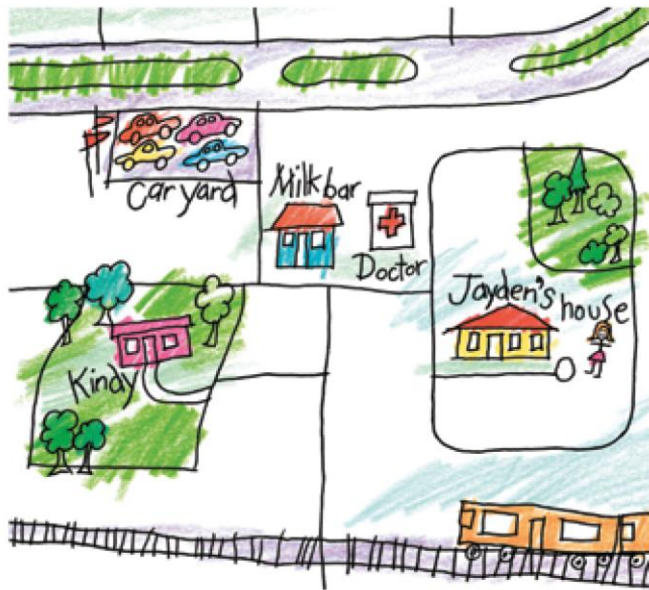


FIGURE 3 Mental map of Jayden's local place (by Annette, Jayden's mother)



| | Features that are different | Features that are similar |
|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Land use | | |
| Transport | | |
| Street layout | | |
| Relative sizes | | |
| Name of places | | |
| Other | | |

3. Suggest reasons to explain the major similarities and differences between the maps drawn by Jayden and his mother.

4. Create a sketch map of your neighbourhood or local place. Locate your house in the centre of the sheet and work outwards from there. The map should be as detailed as possible. Include features such as:

- streets and their names
- houses of friends or family
- shops, parks, trees, post boxes, telephone
- poles, pedestrian crossings, railway lines and stations
- anything you can remember, but the map must be drawn from memory.

Present the map using geographical rules (BOLTSS):

- Border
- Orientation
- Legend
- Title
- Scale
- Source

Since you are not drawing the map to a scale, write 'Not to scale' in the correct position. Remember to use conventional colours and symbols as far as possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE PERCEPTIONS OF LIVEABILITY

The environment of a place contributes a great deal to peoples' perceptions of its liveability. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australians are becoming increasingly concerned about the quality of our environment.

Environmental quality impacts our wellbeing, and we are taking more notice of air quality, water, biodiversity and land quality.

Human factors also influence people's perceptions about the liveability of a place. Liveability is influenced by culture, income and employment, and crime and safety.



QUESTIONS

1. Complete the table below:

| FACTOR | DEFINITION | IMPACT ON LIVEABILITY | EXAMPLE PLACE THAT HAS THIS FACTOR | IMAGE SHOWING THIS FACTOR |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY | Characteristics relating to the natural or built environment, such as clean water, clean air, level of pollution, rubbish or noise in an environment. | | | |
| CLIMATE | | People more likely to live in a place with a mild climate (not too hot or too cold). | | |
| LANDFORMS | | | Mountains – Cape Town South Africa Coasts – Bondi Beach, Australia | |

| FACTOR | DEFINITION | IMPACT ON LIVEABILITY | EXAMPLE PLACE THAT HAS THIS FACTOR | IMAGE SHOWING THIS FACTOR |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| NATURAL RESOURCES | Natural resources that have originated directly from the biophysical environment, such as water, soil, wood, fish, minerals and fossil fuels. | | | |
| CULTURE | | When migrants come to Australia, many of them congregate and live in areas or suburbs where other migrants from their country live. | | |
| INCOME + EMPLOYMENT | | | Finland and Iceland – high rates of employment and income. | |

| FACTOR | DEFINITION | IMPACT ON LIVEABILITY | EXAMPLE PLACE THAT HAS THIS FACTOR | IMAGE SHOWING THIS FACTOR |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| CRIME/SAFETY | <p>Perception of safety is influenced by actual or perceived rates of injury or death, such as assault, motor vehicle accidents, damage to property or theft. However, perception of crime can often be worse than the actual crime rate and that can be simply due to how a person feels in their environment. Antisocial behaviour such as noisy neighbours, fighting, drunkenness, swearing or offensive behaviour can also make a person not feel safe.</p> | | | |
| INFRASTRUCTURE | | <p>The availability of services and facilities (such as roads, public transport, emergency services, post offices, water, sewerage treatment plants, airports, housing, sporting and entertainment facilities, electricity and communications) helps make a place more or less liveable.</p> | | |
| HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION | | | <p>UK Australia Netherlands New Zealand</p> | |

| FACTOR | DEFINITION | IMPACT ON LIVEABILITY | EXAMPLE PLACE THAT HAS THIS FACTOR | IMAGE SHOWING THIS FACTOR |
|------------------|--|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| WELLBEING | Linked to personal likes and dislikes, and feelings of connection to family, friends and cultural groups. They are also linked to beliefs, traditions and spiritual connections to places. | | | |

CASE STUDY: MOVING TO NOOSANGATTA

The warmer climate and stunning natural features of the south-east Queensland coastline mean this region has many high-rating liveability factors. The region, in fact, has attracted many Australians, particularly older people from New South Wales and Victoria, to make the move north. Just 50 years ago, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast were small holiday towns.

Today, the area has seen such extensive growth and development that the towns and cities along this section of coastline may join together to form a continuous urban area known as a megalopolis. Some geographers predict that Noosa in the north and Coolangatta in the south will one day also join to form one vast urban area that some people have already nicknamed 'Noosangatta'.

The high population growth in south-east Queensland over the last few decades has led to an increasing demand for housing. As the suburban areas have spread, there has been a loss of 7500 hectares (75 square kilometres) of bushland and farms each year. The stunning natural features and easy going lifestyle that attracted people to move to the area in the first place are coming under threat. A victim of its own success, the area is in danger of becoming less liveable.

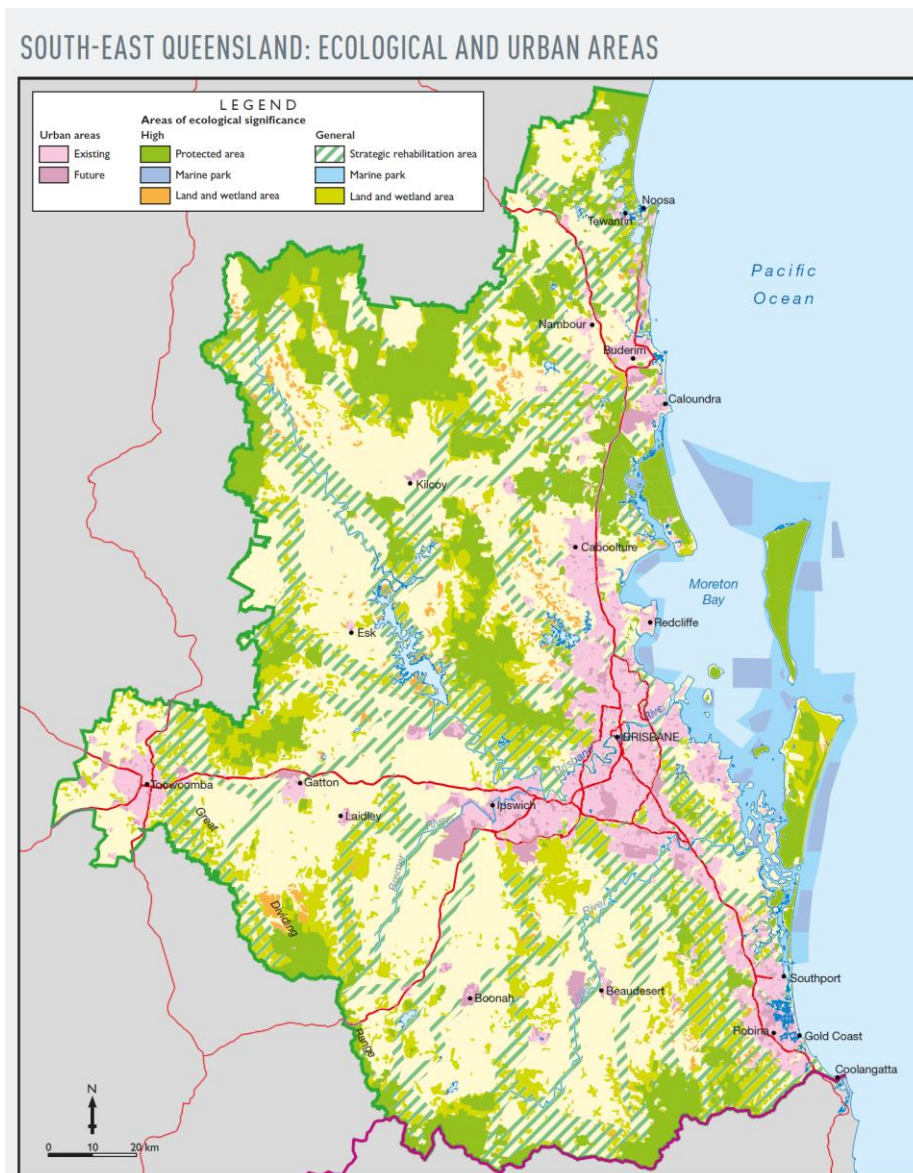
Source 4.16 An oblique aerial photograph of coastal development between Noosa and Brisbane



QUESTIONS

1. Why are many older Australians moving north to settle in south-east Queensland?

2. Explain what is meant by the expression 'a victim of its own success'.



Source 4.17

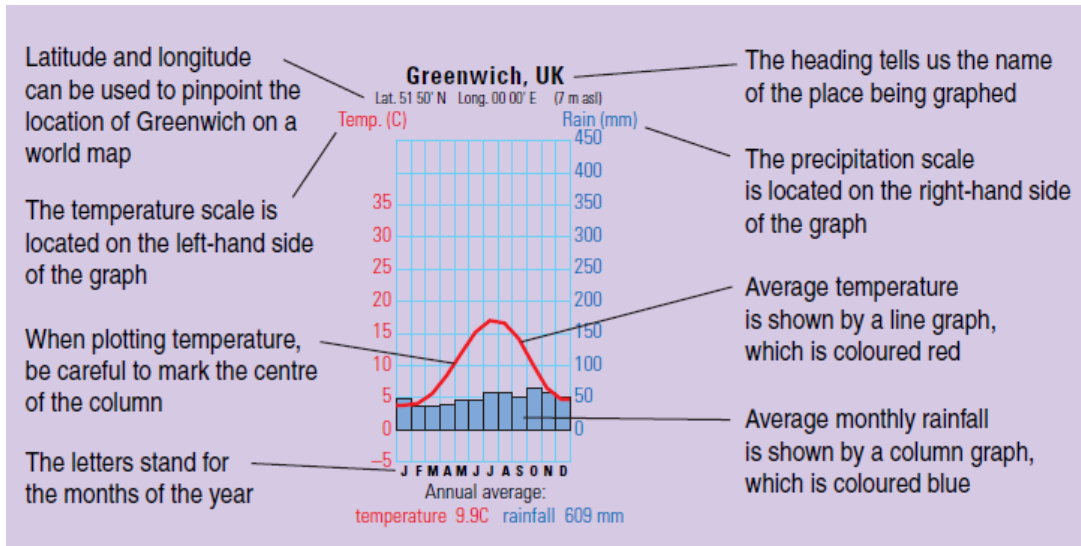
Source: South-East Queensland Regional Plan 2009–2031, Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning.

3. Describe the importance of natural features such as rivers, mountains and coasts in affecting the location and shape of cities. Use evidence from the map (Source 4.17) for your description.

4. Is it likely that the city of Toowoomba will join the Noosangatta megalopolis? Give reasons for your answer.

5. Climate graphs show the average temperature and rainfall experienced at a particular place throughout the year. They consist of a line graph showing average monthly temperature and a simple column graph showing average monthly rainfall figures.

Climate graphs are constructed using long-term data collected by meteorologists.

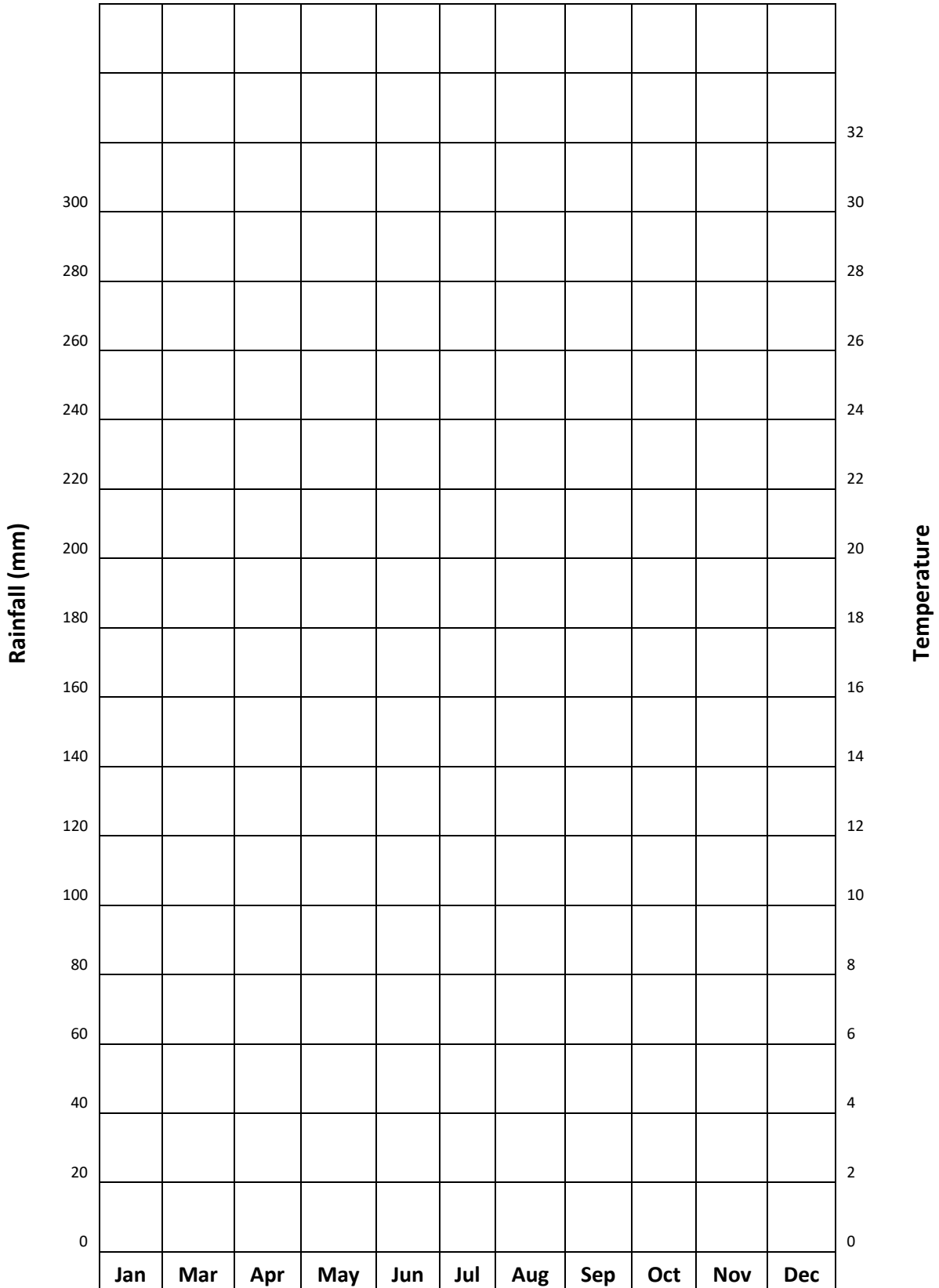


Use the following data to create A climate graph. State how the climate of this area would affect its liveability:

Sydney, Australia

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Mean daily max. temp (°C) | 25.8 | 25.7 | 24.7 | 22.3 | 19.3 | 16.9 | 16.2 | 17.7 | 19.9 | 22.0 | 23.6 | 25.1 |
| Mean daily min. temp. (°C) | 18.6 | 18.7 | 17.5 | 14.6 | 11.5 | 9.2 | 8.0 | 8.9 | 11.0 | 13.5 | 15.5 | 17.5 |
| Rainfall (mm) | 103.6 | 117.3 | 131.5 | 127.8 | 124.1 | 128.7 | 98.2 | 81.5 | 69.2 | 76.7 | 82.9 | 78.3 |

Climate Graph for _____



MEASURING THE LIVEABILITY OF PLACES

There are several ways that the perceived liveability of cities around the world is measured or ranked. We will now look at a few methods, beginning with surveys.

Surveys

Australia has four cities included in the rankings of The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Global Liveability Survey. The EIU's 2011 to 2015 surveys placed Melbourne at the top of their lists for these five consecutive years.

The EIU give cities a liveability score out of 100 with 100 being 'ideal' and 1 or 0 'intolerable'. There are five categories that the EIU measure: stability (essentially crime and conflict), health care, culture and environment, education and infrastructure. Each city is awarded a score out of 100 for each, which is then averaged for a final score of 100. The cities are also ranked. In the table below you can see the top 10 and the bottom 10 cities in the world according to the EIU.

| Country | City | Rank | Overall rating (100 = ideal) | Stability | Health-care | Culture and environment | Education | Infrastructure |
|-------------|-----------|------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Australia | Melbourne | 1 | 97.5 | 95 | 100 | 95.1 | 100 | 100 |
| Austria | Vienna | 2 | 97.4 | 95 | 100 | 94.4 | 100 | 100 |
| Canada | Vancouver | 3 | 97.3 | 95 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 92.9 |
| Canada | Toronto | 4 | 97.2 | 100 | 100 | 97.2 | 100 | 89.3 |
| Australia | Adelaide | 5 | 96.6 | 95 | 100 | 94.2 | 100 | 96.4 |
| Canada | Calgary | 6 | 96.6 | 100 | 100 | 89.1 | 100 | 96.4 |
| Australia | Sydney | 7 | 96.1 | 90 | 100 | 94.4 | 100 | 100 |
| Finland | Helsinki | 8 | 96.0 | 100 | 100 | 90 | 91.7 | 96.4 |
| Australia | Perth | 9 | 95.9 | 95 | 100 | 88.7 | 100 | 100 |
| New Zealand | Auckland | 10 | 95.7 | 95 | 95.8 | 97 | 100 | 92.9 |

Source 6.22 The top 10 cities according to the EIU

| Country | City | Rank | Overall rating (100 = ideal) | Stability | Health-care | Culture and environment | Education | Infrastructure |
|---------------|--------------|------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Cote d'Ivoire | Abidjan | 131 | 45.9 | 30 | 45.8 | 54.2 | 50.0 | 53.6 |
| Libya | Tripoli | 132 | 44.2 | 45 | 41.7 | 37.0 | 50.0 | 51.8 |
| Cameroon | Douala | 133 | 44.0 | 60 | 25.0 | 48.4 | 33.3 | 42.9 |
| Zimbabwe | Harare | 134 | 42.6 | 40 | 20.8 | 58.6 | 66.7 | 35.7 |
| Algeria | Algiers | 135 | 40.9 | 40 | 45.8 | 42.6 | 50.0 | 30.4 |
| Pakistan | Karachi | 136 | 40.9 | 20 | 45.8 | 38.7 | 66.7 | 51.8 |
| Nigeria | Lagos | 137 | 38.9 | 25 | 33.3 | 53.5 | 33.3 | 46.4 |
| PNG | Port Moresby | 138 | 38.9 | 30 | 37.5 | 44.2 | 50.0 | 39.3 |
| Bangladesh | Dhaka | 139 | 38.7 | 50 | 29.2 | 43.3 | 41.7 | 26.8 |
| Syria | Damascus | 140 | 30.5 | 15 | 29.2 | 44.7 | 33.3 | 32.1 |

Source 6.23 The bottom 10 cities according to the EIU

QUESTIONS

1. How can the liveability of a place be measured?

2. Why might the largest cities not necessarily be the most liveable?

3. Construct your own list of liveability criteria. You should have at least 10 factors or characteristics listed.

4. Which of these factors have impacted you? Explain why or why not for each: climate, landforms, natural resources, culture, income and employment, and crime and safety.

5. Apply this to where you actually live right now and state which criteria are met. Is your home, your place, liveable according to your criteria? Discuss why or why not.

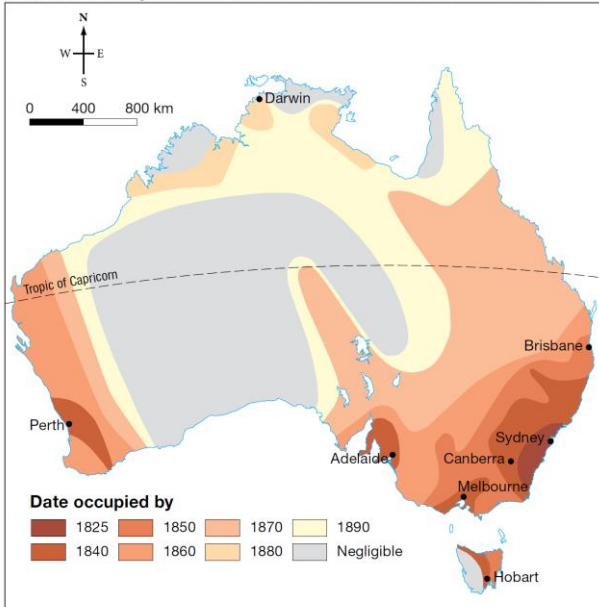
6. Choose another place, for example, Hobart in Tasmania, and apply your liveability criteria. Does Hobart meet most of your criteria? Discuss why or why not.

WHY DO AUSTRALIANS LIVE IN REMOTE PLACES?

Settling inland Australia

Inland locations, away from large cities and coastal areas, are attractive places for many Australians to live. Why do some people choose to live in places where their nearest neighbour may be 50 kilometres away or a weekly sporting activity involves a six-hour car trip? Why do they find remote places more liveable?

FIGURE 1 Stages in European land settlement in Australia



Source: Spatial Vision

The general shift of Australia's population for the last 100 years has been towards the major cities and away from the country (see figure 1). The average age of farmers in Australia is about 53 years, which is 13 years older than the rest of the workforce. Most children of farmers leave the country and seek education and work opportunities in large cities. There have been many attempts by governments and private industry to encourage people to settle in remote locations situated far from major centres of population.

Soldier settlements and mining developments are two such schemes.

Government policy

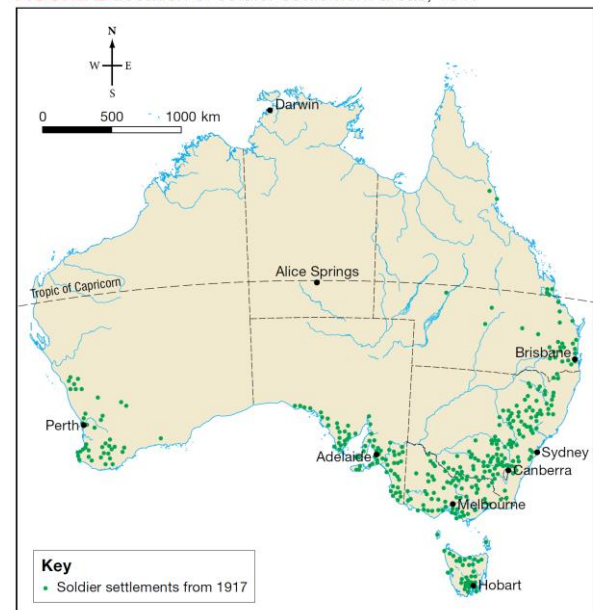
The federal, state and local governments make decisions that shape patterns of settlement. In Western Australia, the future is uncertain for 274 Indigenous communities that rely on government funding for health, education, housing and social assistance. Remote settlements in WA are being assessed to determine what support they might need in the future; these decisions may impact where people choose to live. In New South Wales, local governments have combined to promote an Evocity project designed to attract people to regional centres.

Soldier settlement schemes

After both World War I and World War II, the state and federal governments of Australia began a program of providing land to returned soldiers (figure 2). The programs were designed to give soldiers work and to attract people to places that were sparsely inhabited at the time, such as Griffith and Dorrigo in New South Wales (see figure 2). The settlers were expected to stay on their land for five years and to improve the quality of the land they were farming. Many farmers are descendants of these soldiers and continue to work the land. Over 25 000 soldiers were resettled after World War I.

Mining developments

FIGURE 2 Location of soldier settlement areas, 1917



Source: Spatial Vision

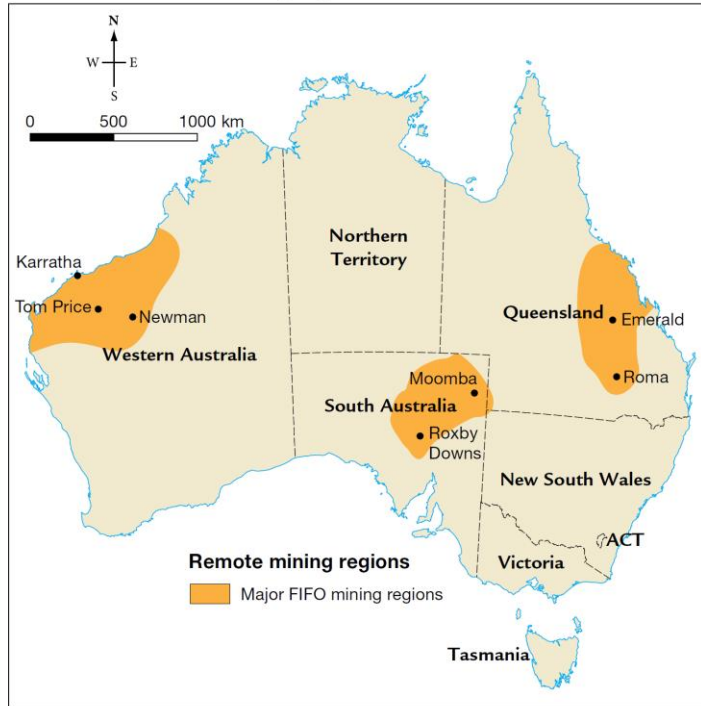
Mineral resources are being extracted at remote locations such as Broken Hill, The Pilbara and Tom Price. Workers are attracted to these areas by high wages and job opportunities.

For example, a truck driver can earn \$150 000 per year. Some workers fly in and fly out (FIFO) for their shifts. They live with their families in less remote places and fly in for a shift that may last several weeks, then flying home for their days off. Transport and communication technology enables the workers to be linked to work opportunities in isolated locations.

FIGURE 3 Soldiers returning from the war were offered opportunities to settle in remote locations.



FIGURE 4 Remote mining regions

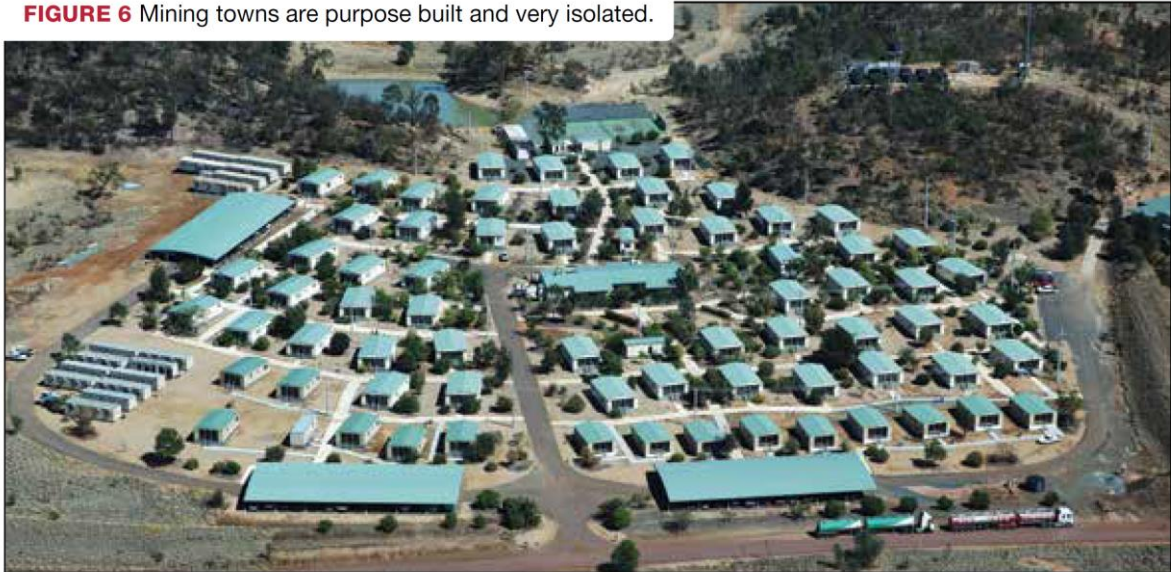


Source: Spatial Vision

FIGURE 5 Workers travel by plane from Brisbane to Tom Price in less than 5 hours.



FIGURE 6 Mining towns are purpose built and very isolated.



QUESTIONS

1. What makes a place remote?

5. Refer to figure 2 and a map of Australia showing annual rainfall. Were soldier settlement areas located in places that receive good rainfall for farming?

6. Suggest reasons for the sparse settlement of areas targeted by the soldier settlement scheme?

7. What resources are being mined in each of the places shown in figure 4?

8. What might be an advantage to the mining companies of having FIFO workers?

11. What are the challenges faced by communities in FIFO locations. Suggest strategies to overcome the issues being faced and to promote local employment in the current FIFO mining locations.

12. How might people be encouraged to move from the coastal fringe to the more remote places of Australia? What could make you or your family move or relocate?
