



Name: _____

Due Date: _____

STAGE 5 GEOGRAPHY ISSUES IN AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTS RESEARCH ACTION PLAN

Year 10 Geography Fieldwork

Outcomes Assessed

- 5.1 identifies, gathers and evaluates geographical information
- 5.2 analyses, organises and synthesises geographical information
- 5.3 selects and uses appropriate written, oral and graphic forms to communicate geographical information
- 5.4 selects and applies appropriate geographical tools
- 5.6 explains the geographical processes that form and transform Australian environments
- 5.10 applies geographical knowledge, understanding and skills with knowledge of civics to demonstrate informed and active citizenship

What is a Research Action Plan?

Geography is a doing subject - it is about asking questions regarding the world and its people, then going out into the field to find the answers. A **Research Action Plan (RAP)** is a long term individual project on a topic that interests you and involves the use of research and fieldwork to discover the answers and evaluate and propose management strategies.

According to the NESA syllabus a RAP should involve completing the following EIGHT steps:

- Step 1** - Identify the **aim/purpose** of the investigation
- Step 2** - Generate **focus questions** to be addressed by the investigation
- Step 3** - Decide which **PRIMARY** and **SECONDARY** data could be used to answer the focus questions
- Step 4** - Identify the **techniques** that will be used to collect the data
- Step 5** - **Collect** both primary and secondary data (complete fieldwork)
- Step 6** - **Process** and analyse the data collected
- Step 7** - Select **presentation** methods to communicate the research findings and address the aim/purpose
- Step 8** - **Propose** individual or group action in response to the findings and where appropriate take such action

STEP 1: AIM/PURPOSE

What is an appropriate issue?

The issue you select should be **related to your fieldwork experience** as this will give you the opportunity to complete much of the required primary research. You are required to address **a geographical issue** of personal interest. When **establishing the aim/purpose of your investigation** you need to be sure that your investigation is accessible in terms of gathering possible information.

General Investigation Ideas

- To investigate the geographical processes operating at *the fieldwork site*
- To investigate the positive and negative impacts that people have had on *fieldwork site*.
- To analyse how the *fieldwork site* has changed over time.
- To assess the management strategies used to reduce human impacts on an area.
- To investigate the different perspectives of people relating to *your fieldwork site*.
- To explore a range of threats to *a fieldwork site*.

Possible Investigation Issues

- Water quality in Chaffey Dam
- Land use in the Peel River catchment
- Human impacts on the water quality of the Peel River flowing through the Tamworth CBD
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Aim /Purpose (Merging General Investigation Ideas and Investigation Issues)

- To investigate the nature and impacts of irrigation at Paradise
- To investigate the positive and negative impacts that stock farmers have had on the water quality of Chaffey Dam
- To analyse causes of land degradation in the CBD area of Tamworth and propose management strategies
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STEP 2: FOCUS QUESTIONS

Breaking the aim/purpose into several focus questions

In this step you are required to break your aim/purpose into a set of more manageable and specific question/s.

Example

Aim: To analyse the impacts and management strategies associated with the impact of feral rabbits on the land quality of Paradise

Focus Questions:

1. What is the nature and spatial distribution of the feral rabbit issue in Paradise?
2. How has the feral rabbit issue in Paradise changed over time?
3. In terms of declining land quality in the Paradise area, what role has the feral rabbit population played?
4. How have local and government groups attempted to alleviate the issues associated with the feral rabbit population?
5. What additional actions could be taken to address the impact of the feral rabbits in the Paradise area?

Brainstorm possible focus questions for your aim/purpose:

STEP 3: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DATA

Explain the difference between PRIMARY and SECONDARY data.

Think about the types of secondary and primary data you could use to answer your focus questions. Make a list of the secondary and primary source of information that you intend to use to answer your questions.

Primary data is...	Secondary data is...
Examples include:	Examples include:

STEP 4: TECHNIQUES

Describe the techniques you will use to answer your question/s. You should indicate why you intend to gather information in a particular way.

Example:

Interview (Primary Research)

Conducting an interview with a member of the Namoi Catchment Authority should reveal some of the negative impacts rabbits are having on the Paradise area and

Photographs (Primary Research)

Creating a picture file on areas experiencing the effects of the rabbit population will assist in explaining how/why this problem occurs.....

Make a list of all the things you intend to photograph or sketch

Websites (Secondary Research)

Analysis of Google Earth website should assist in revealing the various areas exposed to damage through the activities of the feral rabbit population

Newspaper Analysis (Secondary Research)

Exploring articles from the Northern Daily Leader will assist in identifying recent opinions associated with the impacts of the feral rabbit population in Paradise.

STEP 5: FIELDWORK

Now is the time to complete all your intended information gathering (complete each of the techniques you've planned) by collecting primary and secondary data as per the technique suggestions. You will need to complete all of your fieldwork activities and finalise secondary research. It is advised that you be as thorough as possible during this phase of the task. Attempt to extract as much detailed information as you can during your fieldtrip as it may be difficult to recover ideas long after the event.

***If retrieving additional data outside of school time, please remember you are representing your school when out in the field and interacting with others. It is vitally important that you conduct yourself in a mature and professional manner.*

***Students are also expected to make use of the data compiled during the school fieldwork expedition.*

STEP 6: PROCESS AND ANALYSE DATA

During this phase you are required to collate all your information and record your findings. This may involve several tasks such as making graphs out of surveys; annotating/labelling photographs and field-sketches; summarising observation-notes/presentations/interviews/brochures/websites.

You can approach this in two ways:

- For each focus question
- As a total collection of data

For each item of data recorded in this section complete the following:

- All conventions (labels, units, titles, BOLTSS etc)
- Describe what the data is showing, drawing reader attention to significant patterns, human/natural features, causes, impacts, strategies
- Identify any relationships between data

STEP 7: ANSWER YOUR FOCUS QUESTIONS AND COMMUNICATE YOUR FINDINGS TO AN AUDIENCE

Refer to your processed data from Steps 5 and 6 and discuss your conclusions to the original focus questions. This is the section where you synthesise all sources of information and structure/record your final answer.

***You are allowed some flexibility in terms of the way you present this information; it could be via a report/essay, a video, a power-point presentation, a poster or pictorial essay with accompanied speech. A discerning student would be able to identify a relevant and authentic target audience for their work (school group, council, farmers etc.) and create a presentation that best delivers the message.*

Evaluation - You may also wish to include a statement regarding the limitations or effectiveness of the research process. Reflect upon your work and discuss its strengths and weaknesses eg if you felt that your questionnaire was inadequate, explain why/how and indicate areas for improvement. In other words tell the reader how your task could be improved.

STEP 8: ACTION

Evaluate the current management strategies for their effectiveness based on your interpretations and analysis in Steps 5 and 6.

As a result of your investigation explain what action needs to be taken. What could OR should be done to address your issue?

It is usually more effective to break this down into possible actions for **individuals, groups** and **governments**:

- How could each of these respond to the issues you have identified? Write out some strategies for each.
- What passive and active citizenship could each demonstrate?
- Which form of action will you 'create' to include in your RAP? For example, if proposing a letter to the local council, construct this letter using correct conventions and include in your final RAP.

Choose one or two of your best suggestions for action and 'create' these and evaluate their potential success.

ACTION PLAN

WEEK 4	
WEEK 5	
WEEK 6	
WEEK 7	
WEEK 8	
WEEK 9	Submit this week. Date TBC.