

Australian Geography Series
STUDENT WORKBOOK

Year 4: The Environment Sustains Life



Section 1:
**The Importance
Of The
Environment**

Section 2:
**Natural
Vegetation
And Climate**

Section 3:
**Sustainable
Management
Of Waste And
Natural
Resources**



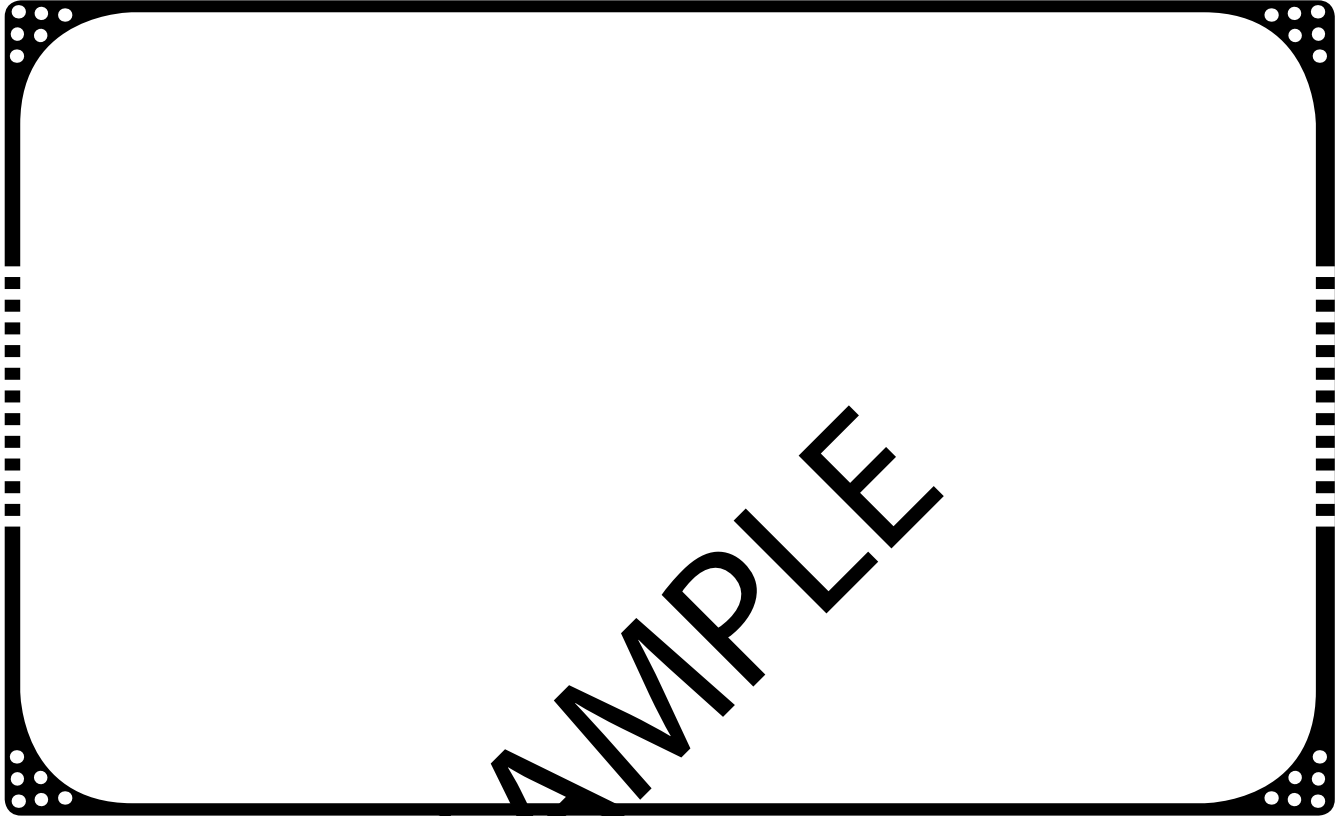
By Lisa Craig

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- ☐ Read the information on page 6 to help you to complete the task and the questions below.

1. In the frame below, draw how Indigenous Australians see their *Country*.
Neatly label the different parts that make up their *Country*.



2. How did Indigenous Australians remember the many place names in their territory?

3. Why did European settlers change the original names of places?

4. "Indigenous place names connect all Australians to our heritage and history."
Think of two reasons why this statement is true.

Reason 1:

Reason 2:

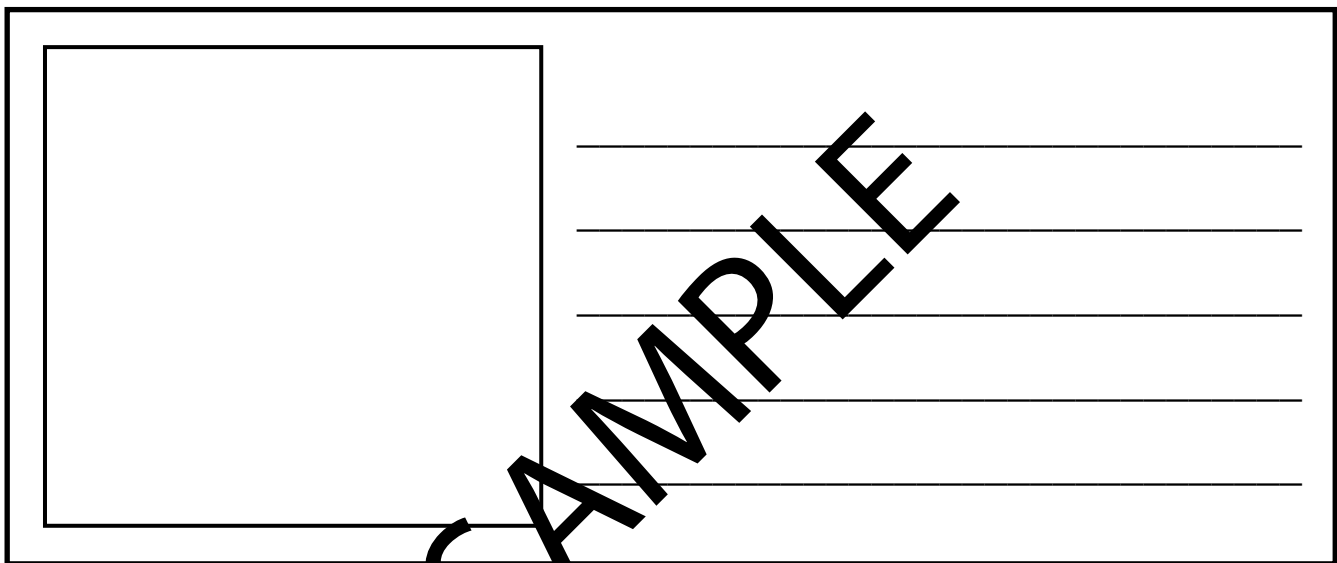
- ☐ Indigenous Australians of the Murray River area lived side by side with Australia's unique megafauna for many thousands of years. The wetlands were an ideal habitat for these giant marsupials, emus and reptiles until the climate became much drier at the end of the last Ice Age.

1. Research one of the megafauna listed below that lived in the lakes area, and prepare a fact file with a sketch about the life of this extinct animal.

Diprotodon optatum
(giant wombat)

Sthenurus
(giant kangaroo)

Thylacoleo carnifex
(marsupial lion)



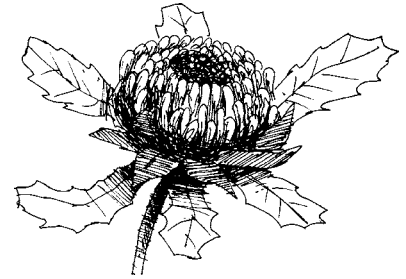
2. From your research, do you think that the megafauna in your fact file would have been a threat to the Indigenous Australians of the river lands? Why/why not?

3. Lake Mungo National Park is one of the most important archaeological sites in Australia. Visit the park at: ► www.visitmungo.com.au/archaeology
What have archaeologists discovered about how the people at Lake Mungo lived?

- ☐ Read the information on page 15 to help you to complete the tasks and questions below.

1. Why do you think local and state authorities preserve areas of natural landscapes?

2. Some national parks are so important to Australia's culture that they are managed by the Commonwealth Government in cooperation with the traditional owners. Visit the website below to find out more about the following four national parks: Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta in the Northern Territory, Booderee in New South Wales and Norfolk Island (External Territory). ▶ www.environment.gov.au/parks/parks/index.html
Choose one of the national parks and complete the table below with your notes.



Name of national park: _____

Location:	
Traditional owners:	
Aesthetic appeal:	Spiritual appeal:

Natural features

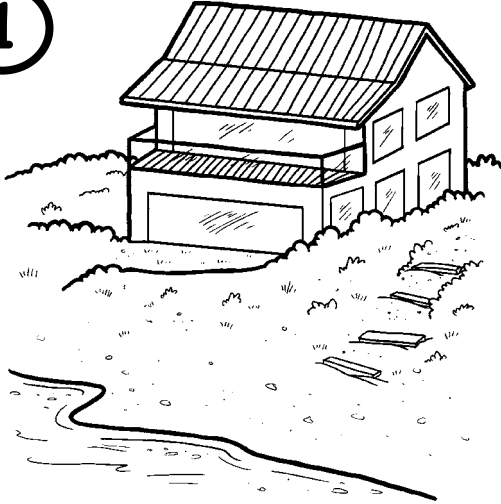
Landforms:	Fauna and flora:

Activity

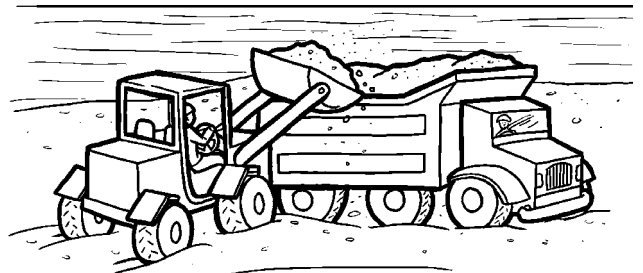
Protecting Sand Dunes 2

- ☐ Study the illustrations below which show possible threats to sand dunes. Briefly explain in the space underneath each illustration how sand dunes can be damaged or destroyed in certain situations.

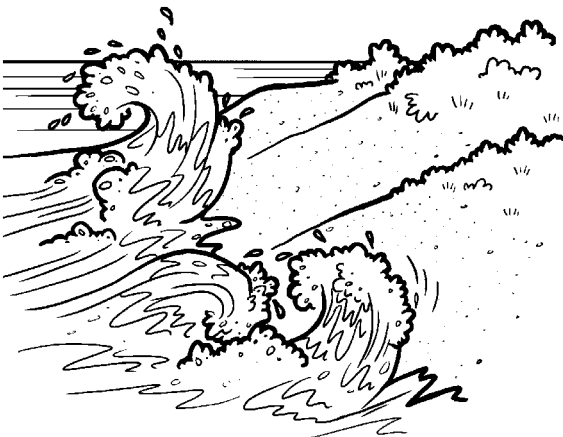
1



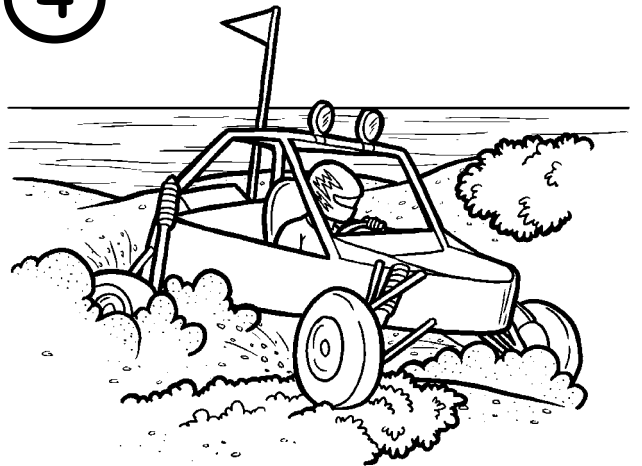
2



3



4



- ☐ Use the information on page 30 and the photograph to answer the questions.



1. How is the vegetation in this image typical of Australia's tropical savannahs?

2. At which time of the year was this photograph taken? Give a reason for your answer.

3. Why can't dense eucalyptus forests grow on the savannah's flat lands?

4. Explain how bushfires occur in the Top End.

5. Why would the wet season in Australia's tropical savannahs be a time of plenty for wildlife?



- ☐ Look at the photographs of river landscapes. Write down at which stage of the river's journey to the sea each photograph was taken. Briefly describe what other features you can see in each photograph.

River 1



Wikimedia Commons

River 2



Wikimedia Commons Author: smmudge at en.wikipedia

River 3

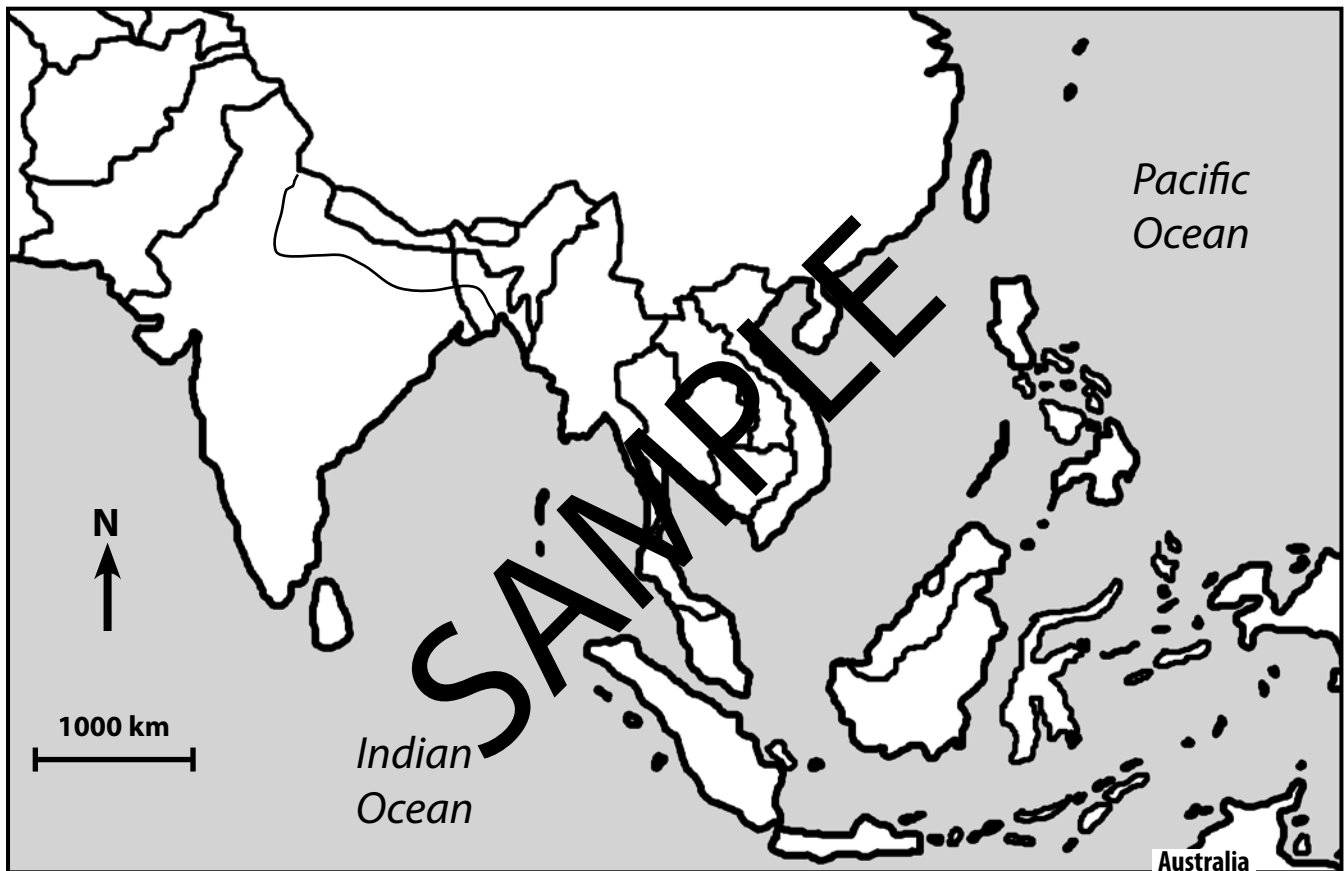


Wikimedia Commons

☐ Use your atlas and information on page 40 to answer the questions.

1. On the map of Southeast Asia below, label the following:

- The Arabian Sea and The Bay of Bengal;
- The Ganges River and The Himalayan Mountain Range;
- The Indian cities of New Delhi and Mumbai;
- China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia;
- Shade in India lightly.



2. Why would rivers be so important to the Indian population?

3. Why are New Delhi and Mumbai called "megacities"?

4. Estimate the distance from India to Australia in kilometres. _____ km.

5. How far would you travel from the north to the south of India? _____ km.

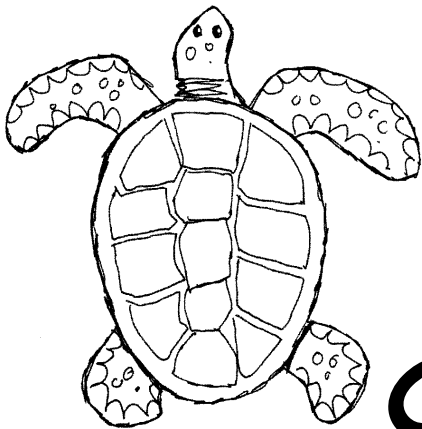
6. In which direction would you travel from Australia to India? _____

Our waste not only affects the places where we deposit it. Waste that has not been properly disposed of can find its way into the ocean. This waste is very harmful to wildlife.

- ☐ Research the effects of waste on the sea turtle and the pelican. Explain how we can prevent these animals being harmed in the boxes below. Below are some useful websites.

▶ www.ioseaturtles.org/Education/marinepollution.pdf

▶ <http://www.marineconservation.org.au/pages/plastic-pollution.html>

Sea Turtle

SAMPLE

Pelican