 Terminology in geography K–10

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| Stage | Geographical concepts | Geographical inquiry Skills | Geographical tools | Syllabus focus areas | Terms from other KLAs |
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| Early Stage 1 | PlaceSpace Environment | Acquire – question, investigate, observe, locate, record, draw, sketch, Process – arrange, represent, identify, conclude, Communicate – present, describe, explain, reflect | Pictorial map, site map, emergency map, virtual map, satellite image, point of view, birds’ eye view, eye level view, symbolFieldwork, data, information, tally chart, concept mapMultimedia, photograph, illustration, drawing, 3D model, picture book, digital source, video, image, web tool, application (app)  | People Live in PlacesSignificant, important, location, local, live in, belong to, my place, familiar, special, natural features, human features, location, look after, care for, litter, impact, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Country, Place, site, culture, respect, | Mathematics Position – position, between, next to, behind, inside, outside, left, right, directions Data – information, collect, group, display, objectsScience and technologyNatural environment – daily and seasonal changesMade environment – features, purpose |
| Stage 1 | PlaceSpace EnvironmentInterconnection Scale | Acquire – question, geographical question, investigate, explore, observe, locate, collect, measure, interview, recordProcess – represent, plot, construct, sort, organise, identify, categorise, label, annotate, interpret, compare, predict, concludeCommunicate – present, describe, explain, reflect, respond | pictorial map, outline map, virtual map, satellite image, large-scale map, world map, globe, aerial view, eye level view, Street View, symbol, legend, map colouring, route, zoom in and out, BOLTSSFieldwork, survey, yarnings, data, tally chart, data table, weather data, weather chart, column graph, pictograph, concept map, cause and effect chart, flow chart, Y chart, PMI chart, seasons wheel, Venn diagram, comparison table, placemat chartMultimedia, photograph, collage, illustration, artworks, drawing, sketch, diagram, 3D model, picture book, digital source, video, web tool, application (app), | Features of Placesfeatures, natural, human, location, citizens, care for, change, purpose, interact with, organise, reorganise, rearrange weather, temperature, rainfall, sunshine, cloud cover, wind, shade, thermometer, seasons, weather patterns, calendar, seasonal calendar, forecast, activities, daily activities (eg leisure, farming), effects, impactsPeople and Placesscale: personal, local, national, global.Local area, world, location, address, features, continents, countries, oceans, connection, personal, spiritual, cultural, birthplace, access, accessibility, factors, distance, technology, Skype, travel, visit, virtual tour, holiday, destination, landscape, transport modes, eg train, plane, bus | Mathematics Time 1 – calendar, days, date, month, year, seasons, timePosition 1 – position, left, right, directions, turn Position 2 – location, map, pathData 1 – information, data, collect, gather, display, objects, symbol, tally mark, picture, row Data 2 – category, picture graph, list, table, equal spacing, key, baseline Science and technologyEarth and space – environmental changes, patterns, Living world – land, aquatic,Built environments – purpose, design  |
| Stage 2 | PlaceSpace Environment Interconnection Scale Sustainability | Acquire – question, geographical question, investigate, explore, observe, locate, collect, survey, measure, interview, recordProcess – represent, plot, construct, sort, organise, identify, categorise, label, annotate, compare, interpret, infer, predict, conclude, Communicate – present, describe, explain, narrate, persuade, recommend, reflect, respond, propose, act on | Large-scale map, small-scale map, world map, globe, sketch map, political map, climate zone map, vegetation map, natural resources map, virtual map, satellite image, global positioning system (GPS), geographic information system (GIS), spatial technologies, location, direction, distance, map reference, cartographic conventions (BOLTSS), atlas, map overlay, base mapFieldwork, fieldwork instrument, ID chart, data, survey, interview, tally chartPictograph, data table, column graph, rainfall graph, statistics, concept map, cause and effect chart, flow chart, Y chart, PMI chart, Venn diagram, comparison table, placemat chart, summary table, SWOT matrix, pinwheel chartMultimedia, photograph, illustration, diagram, drawing, sketch, field sketch, picture book, 3D model, Street View, virtual tour, digital source, video, web tool, application (apps), | Places are Similar and DifferentNatural feature, desert, river, lake, mountain, landscape, landform, flora, fauna, human feature, characteristics, similar, different, state, territory, major city, Country, Place, diverse, neighbouring, region, climate, climate data, weather, settlement patterns, population data, demographics, society, culture, daily life, occupations, language, religions, economic activities, generalisations, stereotypes, intercultural understanding, respectSacred site, cultural site, national park, world heritage site, unique, significance, interaction, tourism, visitation, perception, influence, management, protection, sustainable actionThe Earth’s EnvironmentNatural characteristic, landscapes, landforms, climate, natural vegetation, natural resources, native plants, native animals, flora, fauna, habitat, distribution, diet, breeding, interactions, species relationships, Values, significance, uniqueness, importance, connections, perceptions, cultural, agricultural, commercial, recreational, custodial, aesthetic, viewpoints, natural resources, natural heritage, national park, responsibility, protection, sustainable, sustainability practices, waste management, effects, impacts | Mathematics Position 1 – position, location, map, plan, path, route, grid, grid reference, aerial view, directionsPosition 2 – legend, key, scale, compass, compass rose, north, south, east, west, north-east, south-east, south-west, north-west Data 1 – information, data, collect, category, display, symbol, list, table, column graph, picture graph, vertical columns, horizontal bars, equal spacing, title, key, vertical axis, horizontal axis, axes, spreadsheetData 2 – survey, recording sheet, rating scale, scale, misleadingScience and TechnologyEarth and space – natural processes, human activity Living world – vertebrate, invertebrate, role, interrelationships, predator-prey, competitors, mutually beneficial relationship, survival, change, science knowledgeBuilt environments – interactions information, data, collect, category, display, symbol, list, table, **column graph**, picture graph, **vertical columns**, **horizontal bars**, equal spacing, **title**, key, **vertical axis**, **horizontal axis**, **axes**,**spreadsheet**information, data, collect, category, display, symbol, list, table, **column graph**, picture graph, **vertical columns**, **horizontal bars**, equal spacing, **title**, key, **vertical axis**, **horizontal axis**, **axes**,**spreadsheet**information, data, collect, category, display, symbol, list, table, **column graph**, picture graph, **vertical columns**, **horizontal bars**, equal spacing, **title**, key, **vertical axis**, **horizontal axis**, **axes**,**spreadsheet**information, data, collect, category, display, symbol, list, table, **column graph**, picture graph, **vertical columns**, **horizontal bars**, equal spacing, **title**, key, **vertical axis**, **horizontal axis**, **axes**,**spreadsheet** |
| Stage 3 | PlaceSpace Environment Interconnection Scale SustainabilityChange | Acquire – plan, question, geographical question, investigate, explore, observe, locate, collect, survey, measure, interview, record, act ethicallyProcess – evaluate sources, identify, represent, plot, construct, sort, organise, categorise, label, annotate, examine, compare, interpret, analyse, infer, predict, conclude, Communicate – present, describe, explain, contrast, persuade, justify, recommend, reflect, respond, propose action, predict effects, take action | Large-scale map, small-scale map, world map, globe, sketch map, political map, topographic map, flowline map, climate zone map, land-use map, species distribution map, virtual map, satellite image, global positioning system (GPS), geographic information system (GIS), spatial technologies, cartographic conventions (BOLTSS), location, latitude, longitude, direction, distance, map reference, spatial distributions and patterns, atlas, map overlay, base mapFieldwork, data, survey, interview, fieldwork instruments, compass, tally chart Pictograph, data table, column graph, sector graph, line graph, climate graph, multiple graph, compound column graph, statistics, concept map, cause and effect chart, flow chart, T-chart, PMI chart, Venn diagram, comparison table, placemat chart, summary table, SWOT matrix, futures table, consequences chart, perceptions analysis tableMultimedia, photograph, aerial photograph, flow diagrams, illustration, field sketch, diagram, picture book, 3D model, Street View, virtual tour, infographic, digital source, videos, web tool, application (app) | Factors that shape placesInfluence, natural environment, landforms, climate, human characteristics, environmental characteristics, spatial distributions, land use, land management, government, zoning, development, redevelopment, residential, industry, urban growth, expansion, regeneration, infrastructure, services, local planning issues, cause and effect, stakeholders, biodiversity, perceptions, advantage, disadvantage, sustainability, Bushfire hazards, fire prone, fire-affected, fire management, bushfire weather, disaster, spatial relationships, impacts, mitigation, preventionA diverse and connected worldContinent, country, Asia, Asia-Pacific Region, diversity, geographical characteristics, economic, demographic, social difference, region, cultures, cultural diversity, indigenous peoples, global connections, trade, migration, tourism, aid, sport, cultural events, influences, perceptions, generalisations, stereotypes, diplomatic, social justice, humanitarian, relationship, threat, portrayal, subjective, objective, bias | Mathematics Position – position, location, map, plan, route, grid, grid reference, legend, key, scale, directions, compass, north, east, south, west, north-east, south-east, south-west, north-westdata, survey, category, display, **tabulate**, table, column graph, vertical columns, horizontal bars, equal spacing, title, scale, vertical axis, horizontal axis, axes, **line graph**, **dot plots**, spreadsheet.Data 1 – data, survey, category, display, tabulate, table, column graph, vertical columns, horizontal bars, equal spacing, title, scale, vertical axis, horizontal axis, axes, line graph, dot plots, spreadsheetData 2 – collect, two-way table, side-by-side column graph, misleading, biasScience and technologyEarth and space – bushfire detection systemsLiving world – physical environmental conditionsBuilt environments – environmental factors, environmental needsdata, collect, category, display, table, column graph, scale, axes, **two-way table**, **side-by-side column graph**, misleading, **bias** |
| Stage 4 | PlaceSpace Environment Interconnection Scale SustainabilityChange | Acquire – identify, plan, geographical question, geographical methodologies, geographical concepts, investigate, explore, observe, locate, collect, select, survey, measure, interview, record, act ethically, primary data, secondary information sourcesProcess – evaluate sources, reliability, bias, usefulness, represent, plot, construct, sort, organise, categorise, label, annotate, examine, compare, interpret, analyse, patterns, trends, qualitative, quantitative, infer, predict, propose, apply, concludeCommunicate – reflect, predict, describe, explain, report, persuade, challenge, justify, recommend, respond, propose action, predict effects, take action present | Sketch map, relief map, political map, topographic maps, flowline map, choropleth map, isoline map, précis map, cartogram, synoptic chart, climate zone map, land-use map, species distribution map, virtual map, satellite image, global positioning system (GPS), geographic information system (GIS), spatial technologies, cartographic conventions (BOLTSS), location, latitude, longitude, area reference, grid reference, altitude, direction, scale, distance, area, gradient, relief, contour, spatial distribution, spatial patternsFieldwork, data, survey, interview, fieldwork instruments, compass, identification chart, tally chart, GPS, GIS Data table, chart, column graph, compound column graph, line graph, sector graph, climate graph, population profile, statistics, graphic organisers, concept map, mind map, cause and effect chart, flow chart, Venn diagram, comparison table, summary table, SWOT matrix, consequences chart, perceptions analysis tableMultimedia, photograph, aerial photograph, illustration, image, picture book, cartoon, 3D model, virtual tour, digital source, video, application (app), field sketch, photograph sketch, flow diagram, annotated diagram, infographic | Landscapes and landformsLandscape, landform, diverse, transform, environment, management, degradation, hazard, weathering, erosion, deposition, plate tectonics, distinctive, values, aesthetic, cultural, spiritual, economic, cause and effect, impact, spatial distribution, world heritage, contemporary, management strategy, protection, disaster, natural hazard, geomorphic, custodial responsibility, CountryPlace and liveabilityPlace, liveability, interaction, connection, perspective, human wellbeing, perception, community identity, social connectedness, influence, access, accessibility, facilities, personal liveability criteria, liveability index, environmental factors, human factors, scale, non-government organisation, government, development, population profile, population density, spatial variation, spatial distribution, urbanisation, urban distributionWater in the worldWater cycle, catchment, water flow, processes, precipitation, ground water, runoff, atmosphere, hydrology, water resources, variability, water scarcity, sustainability, water management, values, aesthetic, cultural, spiritual, economic, climate change, atmospheric hazard, hydrologic hazardInterconnectionsConnection, leisure, recreational, cultural, impact, sustainability, perspective, transformation, transportation technologies, information technologies, communication technologies, technology, global connectivity, trade, spatial patterns, production, consumer, consumption, cause and effect |  |
| Stage 5 | PlaceSpace Environment Interconnection Scale SustainabilityChange  | **Acquire** – identify, apply, plan, geographical question, geographical methodologies, geographical concepts, investigate, explore, observe, locate, collect, select, survey, measure, interview, record, act ethically, primary data, secondary information sources**Process** – evaluate, reliability, bias, usefulness, represent, plot, construct, sort, organise, categorise, label, annotate, examine, synthesise, compare, interpret, analyse, patterns, trends, relationships, anomalies, qualitative, quantitative, infer, generalise, predict, propose, apply, conclude**Communicate** – reflect, predict, report, persuade, challenge, justify, argue, evaluate, explain, account for, recommend, respond, propose action, predict effects, take action, present | Sketch map, relief map, political map, topographic map, flowline map, choropleth map, isoline map, précis map, cadastral map, thematic map, cartogram, synoptic chart, climate zone map, land-use map, species distribution map, virtual map, satellite image, global positioning system (GPS), geographic information system (GIS), spatial technologies, cartographic conventions (BOLTSS), location, degrees, minutes, latitude, longitude, area reference, grid reference, bearings, altitude, direction, scale, distance, area, gradient, relief, contour, spatial distribution, spatial patterns, densityFieldwork, data, survey, interview, fieldwork instruments, compass, identification chart, tally chart, GPS, GIS, remote sensing, augmented realityMulti-variable data, data table, chart, column graph, compound column graph, line graph, sector graph, climate graph, population profile, statistics, graphic organisers, concept map, mind map, cause and effect chart, flow chart, Venn diagram, comparison table, summary table, SWOT matrix, consequences chart, perceptions analysis tableMultimedia, photograph, aerial photograph, illustration, image, picture book, cartoon, 3D model, virtual tour, digital source, video, application (app), field sketch, photograph sketch, flow diagram, annotated diagram, infographic | **Sustainable biomes**Biome, sustainable, food production, global food security, productivity, climatic zone, spatial distribution, physical characteristics, environment, habitat, biodiversity, human alteration, irrigation, salinity, environmental impact, environmental factors, economic factors, technological factors, agricultural yield, agricultural production, innovation, farming practices, land degradation, urban expansion, biofuel production, food production, population projection, food security**Changing places**Urbanisation, spatial distribution, urbanisation, transformation, urban settlement, urban concentration, liveability, internal migration, international migration, migration patterns, population growth, population forecast, suburbanisation, urban renewal, urban concentration, mega city, urban future**Environmental change and management**Natural environment, biodiversity, biophysical processes, human-induced, worldview, environmental interconnection, environmental management**Human wellbeing**Human wellbeing, spatial variation, development, global indicators, issues, initiatives, government organisations, non-government organisations |  |

Notes on terminology:

Natural feature – is the identification of a specific landscape or landform

Natural characteristic – identifies the natural plants, animals and climate specific to that landscape or landform

BOLTSS – border, orientation, legend, title, scale, source

Map reference and grid reference – a grid reference in mathematics terminology describes position on a grid with the horizontal component labelled alphabetically and the vertical component labelled numerically, with the horizontal component named first, eg 'The treasure is at D5'. This type of grid reference is used in Stages 2 and 3 in the Mathematics K-6 Syllabus. In geographical terminology this type of reference is called a map reference and is a tool used in Stages 2 and 3 geography. The distinction is important, as in geographical terminology, a grid reference is defined as ‘A six-digit reference, using easting and northing grid lines, to locate the exact location of a place or feature on a topographic map.’ (NESA, 2015). The use of six-digit grid references is introduced in Stage 4 geography.