

**Rationale**

In a world that is increasingly culturally diverse and dynamically interconnected, it is important that students come to understand their world, past and present, and develop a capacity to respond to challenges, now and in the future, in innovative, informed, personal and collective ways.

The Australian Curriculum for the Humanities and Social Sciences plays an important role in harnessing students' curiosity and imagination about the world they live in and empowers them to actively shape their lives; make reflective, informed decisions; value their belonging in a diverse and dynamic society; and positively contribute locally, nationally, regionally and globally. Thinking about and responding to issues requires an understanding of different perspectives; the key historical, geographical, political, economic and societal factors involved; and how these different factors interrelate. The Humanities and Social Sciences in F–6/7, which encompasses the knowledge and understandings of history, geography, civics and citizenship, and economics and business, gives students a deep understanding of the world they live in from a range of perspectives, past and present, and encourages them to develop an appreciation and respect for social, cultural and religious diversity.

The Australian Curriculum for the Humanities and Social Sciences empowers students to shape change by developing a range of skills to enable them to make informed decisions and solve problems. The subject provides students with the skills, behaviours and capabilities that will equip them to face challenges in their lifetime and to participate in and contribute to the wellbeing and sustainability of the environment, the economy and society. Through studying Humanities and Social Sciences, students are given opportunities to develop their ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and adapt to change.

Through the Humanities and Social Sciences, students become well placed to contribute to Australia's ideas of a cohesive society, sustainable environment, productive economy and stable democracy.

**Year 4 Achievement Standard**

By the end of Year 4, students recognise the significance of events in bringing about change and the importance of the environment. They explain how and why life changed in the past and identify aspects of the past that have remained the same. They describe the experiences of an individual or group in the past. They describe and compare the diverse characteristics of different places at local to national scales. Students identify the interconnections between components of the environment and between people and the environment. They identify structures that support their local community and recognise the importance of laws in society. They describe factors that shape a person's identity and sense of belonging. They identify different views on how to respond to an issue or challenge.

Students develop questions to investigate. They locate and collect information and data from different sources, including observations to answer these questions. When examining information, they distinguish between facts and opinions and detect points of view. They interpret data and information to identify and describe distributions and simple patterns and draw conclusions. They share their points of view, respecting the views of others. Students sequence information about events and the lives of individuals in chronological order with reference to key dates. They sort, record and represent data in different formats, including large-scale maps using basic cartographic conventions. They reflect on their learning to propose action in response to an issue or challenge, and identify the possible effects of their proposed action. Students present ideas, findings and conclusions using discipline-specific terms in a range of communication forms.

**Aims**

The F–6/7 Australian Curriculum for Humanities and Social Sciences aims to ensure that students develop:

- a sense of wonder, curiosity and respect about places, people, cultures and systems throughout the world, past and present, and an interest in and enjoyment of the study of these phenomena
- key historical, geographical, civic and economic knowledge of people, places, values and systems, past and present, in local to global contexts
- an understanding and appreciation of historical developments, geographic phenomena, civic values and economic factors that shape society, influence sustainability and create a sense of belonging
- the capacity to use inquiry methods and skills, including questioning, researching using reliable sources, analysing, evaluating and communicating
- dispositions required for effective participation in everyday life, now and in the future, including critical and creative problem-solving, informed decision making, responsible and active citizenship, enterprising financial behaviour and ethical reflection.

**Key Ideas**

Through their learning in each subject or sub-strand, students develop knowledge and understanding relating to broader enduring ideas that underpin the Humanities and Social Sciences in the Australian Curriculum, which are represented in varying ways across the subjects. The key ideas are outlined below:

**Who we are, who came before us, and traditions and values that have shaped societies**

Students explore their own identity, Australia's heritage and cultural diversity, and Australia's identity as a nation in the world. They examine the significance of traditions and shared values within society.

**How societies and economies operate and how they are changing over time**

Students learn about Australian society and other societies in the world, both past and present; and how they function socially, culturally, economically and politically. Students examine developments that have resulted in or are bringing about change.

**The ways people, places, ideas and events are perceived and connected**

Students are provided with opportunities to explore different perceptions of people, places, ideas and events. They develop an understanding of the interdependent nature of the world and the interrelationships within and between the natural environment, human communities and economies. They explore how people, ideas and events are connected over time and increasingly interconnected across local, national, regional and global contexts.

**How people exercise their responsibilities, participate in society and make informed decisions**

Students examine how individuals and groups have participated in and contributed to society past and present. They examine the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups over time and in different contexts. They develop an understanding of the need to make decisions, the importance of ethical considerations and being informed when making decisions, the processes for decision-making and the implications of decisions that are made for individuals, society, the economy and the environment.

**Year 4 Level Description****How people, places and environments interact, past and present**

The Year 4 curriculum focuses on interactions between people, places and environments over time and space and the effects of these interactions. Students gain opportunities to expand their world knowledge and learn about the significance of environments, examining how people's need and want of resources over time has affected peoples, societies and environments. Specifically, students study European exploration and colonisation in Australia and elsewhere up to the early 1800s and life for Indigenous Australians pre- and post-contact. They examine the concept of sustainability, and its application to resource use and waste management, past and present, by different groups. The curriculum introduces the role of local government, laws and rules, and group belonging and how they meet people's needs. Themes of law and citizenship extend into their studies of diverse groups, the colonisation of Australia and other places, and how environmental sustainability is enacted.

The content provides opportunities for students to develop humanities and social sciences understanding through key concepts including **significance; continuity and change; cause and effect; place and space; interconnections; roles, rights and responsibilities; and perspectives and action**. These concepts may provide a focus for inquiries and be investigated across sub-strands or within a particular sub-strand context.

The content at this year level is organised into two strands: knowledge and understanding, and inquiry and skills. The knowledge and understanding strand draws from three sub-strands: history, geography and civics and citizenship. These strands (knowledge and understanding, and inquiry and skills) are interrelated and have been developed to be taught in an integrated way, which may include integrating with content from the sub-strands and from other learning areas, and in ways that are appropriate to specific local contexts. The order and detail in which they are taught are programming decisions.

**Inquiry Questions**

A framework for developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills is provided by inquiry questions. The following inquiry questions allow for connections to be made across the sub-strands and may be used or adapted to suit local contexts: inquiry questions are also provided for each sub-strand that may enable connections within the humanities and social sciences learning area or across other learning areas.

- How have laws affected the lives of people, past and present?
- What were the short- and long-term effects of European settlement on the local environment and Indigenous land and water management practices?
- What is the significance of the environment and what are different views on how it can be used and sustained, past and present?

**Structure**

In the Australian Curriculum, the Humanities and Social Sciences learning area comprises five subjects: F–6/7 Humanities and Social Sciences, and Years 7–10 History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business. In all five subjects, the curriculum is organised into two broad interrelated strands: knowledge and understanding, and inquiry and skills.

In the F–6/7 Humanities and Social Sciences curriculum, history, geography, civics and citizenship and economics and business are presented as sub-strands of the knowledge and understanding strand. In these years, students are introduced to history and geography from Foundation Year, civics and citizenship in Year 3 and economics and business in Year 5. In Years 7–10, the curriculum is organised by subject. In Years 9 and 10, student access to Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business will be determined by school authorities or individual schools.

**Year 4 Content Descriptions**

Inquiry and Skills	Knowledge and Understanding- History	Knowledge and Understanding- Geography	Knowledge and Understanding- Civics and Citizenship
<p><b>Questioning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Researching</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate and collect information and data from different sources, including observations.</li> <li>• Record, sort and represent data and the location of places and their characteristics in different formats, including simple graphs, tables and maps, using discipline-appropriate</li> <li>• Sequence information about people's lives and events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Analysing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine information to identify different points of view and distinguish facts from opinions.</li> <li>• Interpret data and information displayed in different formats, to identify and describe distributions and simple pattern.</li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluating and reflecting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw simple conclusions based on analysis of information and data.</li> <li>• Interact with others with respect to share points of view.</li> <li>• Reflect on learning to propose actions in response to an issue or challenge and consider possible effects of proposed actions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Communicating</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present ideas, findings and conclusions in texts and modes that incorporate digital and non-digital representations and discipline-specific terms.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Concepts for developing understanding</b></p> <p>The content in the history sub-strand provides opportunities for students to develop historical understanding through key concepts including <b>sources, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy and significance.</b></p> <p>The Year 4 curriculum introduces world history and the movement of peoples. Students study the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, their connection to place (sources, perspectives, significance) and their contact with other societies (change and continuity, perspectives, empathy). Through a study of navigation, exploration and/or trade (sources), students come to learn about Australia's early colonisation and develop understandings about contact between societies (continuity and change, cause and effect) and its effects on people and their environments (perspectives, empathy).</p> <p><b>Inquiry Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Why did the great journeys of exploration occur?</li> <li>○ What was life like for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples before the arrival of the Europeans?</li> <li>○ Why did the Europeans settle in Australia?</li> <li>○ What was the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers?</li> </ul> <p><b>Content Descriptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The diversity of Australia's first peoples and the long and continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to Country/Place (land, sea, waterways and skies).</li> <li>• The journey(s) of AT LEAST ONE world navigator, explorer or trader up to the late eighteenth century, including their contacts with other societies and any impacts.</li> <li>• Stories of the First Fleet, including reasons for the journey, who travelled to Australia, and their experiences following arrival.</li> <li>• The nature of contact between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and others, for example, the Macassans and the Europeans, and the effects of these interactions on, for example, people and environments.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Concepts for developing understanding</b></p> <p>The content in the geography sub-strand provides opportunities to develop students' understanding of <b>place, space, environment, interconnection and sustainability.</b></p> <p>The content focuses on understandings about sustainability – the ongoing capacity of the environment to sustain human life and wellbeing. Students explore the features and functions of environments that support humans and other living things (environment, interconnection). They examine the use and management of resources and waste, and views about how to achieve sustainability (environment, interconnection, sustainability), including the custodial responsibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to their Country/Place (interconnection, sustainability). Students' mental map of the world expands to South America and Africa and their main countries and characteristics (space, place, environment).</p> <p><b>Inquiry Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How does the environment support the lives of people and other living things?</li> <li>○ How do different views about the environment influence approaches to sustainability?</li> <li>○ How can people use environments more sustainably?</li> </ul> <p><b>Content Descriptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main characteristics of the continents of Africa and South America and the location of their major countries in relation to Australia.</li> <li>• The importance of environments, including natural vegetation, to animals and people.</li> <li>• The custodial responsibility Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have for Country/Place, and how this influences views about sustainability.</li> <li>• The use and management of natural resources and waste, and the different views on how to do this sustainably.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Concepts for developing understanding</b></p> <p>The content in the civics and citizenship sub-strand provides opportunities for students to develop understanding about <b>government and democracy, laws and citizens and citizenship, diversity and identity.</b> Students' understanding of democratic decision-making is further developed through a study of the role of their local government and the services it provides to their community (government and democracy). They examine how rules and laws affect them and the importance of laws in society (laws and citizens) and they explore cultural diversity in their community; in particular, how belonging to different groups can shape personal identity (diversity and identity).</p> <p><b>Inquiry Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How can local government contribute to community life?</li> <li>○ What is the difference between rules and laws and why are they important?</li> <li>○ How has my identity been shaped by the groups to which I belong?</li> </ul> <p><b>Content Descriptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of local government and the decisions it makes on behalf of the community.</li> <li>• The differences between 'rules' and 'laws', why laws are important and how they affect the lives of people, including experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.</li> <li>• The different cultural, religious and/or social groups to which they and others in the community belong.</li> </ul>