 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 | Place  Space  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, symbol  Fieldwork, data, information, tally chart, concept map  Multimedia, photograph, illustration, drawing, 3D model, picture book, digital source, video, image, web tool, application (app) | People Live in Places  Significant, 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, objects  Science and technology  Natural environment – daily and seasonal changes  Made environment – features, purpose |
| Stage 1 | Place  Space  Environment  Interconnection  Scale | Acquire – question, geographical question, investigate, explore, observe, locate, collect, measure, interview, record  Process – represent, plot, construct, sort, organise, identify, categorise, label, annotate, interpret, compare, predict, conclude  Communicate – 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, BOLTSS  Fieldwork, 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 chart  Multimedia, photograph, collage, illustration, artworks, drawing, sketch, diagram, 3D model, picture book, digital source, video, web tool, application (app), | Features of Places  features, 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, impacts  People and Places  scale: 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, time  Position 1 – position, left, right, directions, turn  Position 2 – location, map, path  Data 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 technology  Earth and space – environmental changes, patterns,  Living world – land, aquatic,  Built environments – purpose, design |
| Stage 2 | Place  Space  Environment  Interconnection  Scale  Sustainability | Acquire – question, geographical question, investigate, explore, observe, locate, collect, survey, measure, interview, record  Process – 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 map  Fieldwork, fieldwork instrument, ID chart, data, survey, interview, tally chart  Pictograph, 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 chart  Multimedia, 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 Different  Natural 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, respect  Sacred site, cultural site, national park, world heritage site, unique, significance, interaction, tourism, visitation, perception, influence, management, protection, sustainable action  The Earth’s Environment  Natural 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, directions  Position 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, spreadsheet  Data 2 – survey, recording sheet, rating scale, scale, misleading  Science and Technology  Earth and space – natural processes, human activity  Living world – vertebrate, invertebrate, role, interrelationships, predator-prey, competitors, mutually beneficial relationship, survival, change, science knowledge  Built 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 | Place  Space  Environment  Interconnection  Scale  Sustainability  Change | Acquire – plan, question, geographical question, investigate, explore, observe, locate, collect, survey, measure, interview, record, act ethically  Process – 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 map  Fieldwork, 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 table  Multimedia, 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 places  Influence, 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, prevention  A diverse and connected world  Continent, 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, spreadsheet  Data 2 – collect, two-way table, side-by-side column graph, misleading, bias  Science and technology  Earth and space – bushfire detection systems  Living world – physical environmental conditions  Built environments – environmental factors, environmental needs  data, collect, category, display, table, column graph, scale, axes, **two-way table**, **side-by-side column graph**, misleading, **bias** |
| Stage 4 | Place  Space  Environment  Interconnection  Scale  Sustainability  Change | 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 sources  Process – 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, conclude  Communicate – 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 patterns  Fieldwork, 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 table  Multimedia, 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 landforms  Landscape, 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, Country  Place and liveability  Place, 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 distribution  Water in the world  Water 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 hazard  Interconnections  Connection, 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 | Place  Space  Environment  Interconnection  Scale  Sustainability  Change | **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, density  Fieldwork, data, survey, interview, fieldwork instruments, compass, identification chart, tally chart, GPS, GIS, remote sensing, augmented reality  Multi-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 table  Multimedia, 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.