

Geography Alive: Stage 2 Geography (Topic 1: Places are Similar and Different)

Lesson 1: Are We There Yet? An Introduction and Orientation		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson students are introduced to the diversity of Australia's places and environments. They do this via an engagement with the picture book <i>Are We There Yet?</i> by Alison Lester. This is used to initiate a research-based activity giving students the opportunity to explore some of Australia's most important places and environments.</p>	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Picture book: Are We There Yet?</i> – The multi-award winning story about Grace and her family's journey around Australia. The story is based on a journey undertaken by the author and illustrator, Alison Lester. • <i>Resource Sheet 1:</i> Map of Australia showing Grace's journey around Australia. Map included on the PPT supplied. • <i>Worksheet 1:</i> Colouring in activity. 	
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways are Australian places similar and different? • What are the distinctive natural and human features of Australian places and environments depicted in <i>Are We There Yet?</i> 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyses and describes the message communicated in a picture book's cover • recalls the places visited while on holidays, the mode of transport used and the places in which they stayed • communicates their experiences in places visited while on holidays • analyses the visual elements of a picture book and explains how they enhance the story's narrative. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Orientation: Show the class the front cover of <i>Are We There Yet?</i> Draw their attention to the title and sub-title. Ask students to describe what is happening in the illustration. Assuming that students readily identify that the illustration depicts a family going on holidays pose the following questions: Where might the family be going? What makes you think that the journey is an extended one? • Step 2: Ask the students whether they have been on a holiday. Where did they go? With whom did they travel? How did they travel to the place visited? Where did they stay? What were the attractions of the place visited? • Step 3: Read <i>Are We There Yet?</i> to your the class. Use the map of Australia (Resource Sheet 1 and PPT – Slide 1) projected onto a Smartboard (or similar) to follow Grace's journey around Australia. Make the point that maps are used throughout the book to show each stage of the family's journey. • Step 4: Direct students to one of the double page spreads in <i>Are We There Yet?</i> What different types of illustrations are included? In what order are they 'read'? How do the maps and illustrations combine to enhance the story's narrative? • Step 5: Ask the class whether any one has visited the places visited by Grace's family. Have them to describe their experiences to the class. • Step 6: Tell the class that they will revisit <i>Are We There Yet?</i> in the next lesson and look at each of the places visited on Grace's journey in more detail. • Step 7: Students may end the lesson by colouring in the cover illustration (Worksheet 1).

