

STAGE 4: VIRTUAL FIELDWORK



NSW Environmental and Zoo Education Centres (EZECs) have created virtual fieldwork experiences for teachers and students currently unable to participate in real world fieldwork during 2020.

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LANDSCAPES and LANDFORMS

Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre (Gosford) has developed a virtual fieldwork experience to assist with the investigation of the diverse features and characteristics of a forest and coastal landscape at Bouddi National Park, Killcare. Students will consider the different values of the landscape and investigate ways people manage and use the landscape

The virtual fieldwork will allow students to experience simulated investigations such as:

- using geographical tools such as maps and compasses,
- undertaking a field sketch using photos from the site,
- observing the geological features and landforms,
- identifying plants and animals,
- measuring abiotic factors such as wind, temperature, humidity, light and canopy cover,
- assessing human impact and management of Bouddi National Park.

Royal National Park Environmental Education Centre facilitates a range of fieldwork programs in and around the Royal National Park. To assist teachers and students while excursions are on hold, we have created a number of resources to support virtual fieldwork and fieldwork on school grounds.

Landscapes and landforms at Wattamolla is one of our popular excursions for Stage 4 Geography. The stunning coastline and range of features around Wattamolla lends itself to the topic. On excursion, we view examples and evidence that support the learning of theory in the classroom. Our Online resource aims to provide an alternative to the fieldwork experience. The activities include: videos, Google Tours, field sketches, slideshows, a Kahoot!, Google quizzes, and more. We look forward to excursions resuming, at which time we will adapt the resource to provide in-depth pre and post excursion activities.



Link to site and student worksheets: <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/rumbalara-eec-landscapes/home>



Online resource: <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/wattamolla-landscapes/about-wattamolla>



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Developed by **Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre**, the virtual fieldwork resource, Landscapes and Landforms: West Head, enables students to study the Landscapes and Landforms content area from the spectacular West Head lookout in The Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

The resource commences with a series of activities for students to observe and identify coastal landforms from an immersive 360 image. The interactive google map and topographic map of the area provide a further opportunity to develop their skills to identify the geographical features of the area.

Students then use a variety of source material to learn more about the geomorphic processes that shaped the Palm Beach coastline, including the well know Palm Beach tombolo. Students will use what they have learnt, and the instructional videos, to create annotated field sketches of this area.

A comprehensive web page of fieldwork equipment provides students with the information and instructional videos to develop their knowledge and skills on using geographical tools. In the fieldwork task, students will utilise this knowledge to analyse and compare the data from two forest areas in West Head.

Students will hear from Aboriginal teachers as they speak about the importance of Aboriginal connection to country and the importance of the landforms of this special area. Finally students will visit an Aboriginal cultural site in a 360 tour to learn more about this special connection and how these sites are currently managed.

A student booklet and google form accompany this resource and both can be adapted by the teacher to suit the learning needs of their students.



The resource can be accessed at [https:// sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/landscapes- andlandforms/home](https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/landscapes-andlandforms/home)

Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre

runs a variety of urban geography K–12 fieldwork programs in and around Sydney’s CBD. These now include a number of virtual fieldwork programs. For Stage 4 ‘Place and liveability’, students investigate liveability in their own suburb or town and then compare two inner city precincts at Harold Park and White Bay. The students use their learning about liveability to answer a fieldwork question “Is Harold Park a liveable place, and how can the White Bay Power Station precinct be transformed into a more liveable place?”

The students complete the unit of work by working as a town planner and drawing up plans for the White Bay precinct to turn it into a more liveable place. The unit of work incorporates geography skills in mapping and addresses the cross curriculum priority of Sustainability, as well as a number of general capabilities including Work and Enterprise.

A preliminary presentation guides learning, and a support website, containing a virtual google tour, allows students to explore the topic further. Teachers have the option to book a 45–60min lesson on Harold Park and the White Bay Precinct, led by EEC geography teachers, to further familiarise students with the area under investigation.



Find out more at <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/obhill-place-and-liveability/home> or, ring the Centre on 9247 7321.



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For the Wild