

# Introduction

## Teacher guide

*Pacific Neighbours: Understanding the Pacific islands* has been produced to help students develop their knowledge and understanding of the Pacific region, its history and geography, its political and social development, and its people and their cultures. They will examine a range of issues that impact on the region, consider Australia's place and role in the Pacific and explore opportunities to take action.

This book is designed for students in Years 7–10 in all states and territories of Australia. It aims to develop the key concepts, processes (social, historical and geographical inquiries), skills and values that will enable students to gain a deep knowledge of the Pacific region.

Australia is geographically located in the Pacific region, and the Pacific island countries are our closest neighbours, so developing our appreciation of the countries in our region is a fundamental step towards fulfilling our role as responsible global citizens.

The countries of the Pacific Islands Forum, excluding Australia and New Zealand, are the main focus of this book: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Some of these island nations are made up of thousands of micro-cultures.

## Rationale

*Pacific Neighbours: Understanding the Pacific islands* is informed by *The Shape of the Australian Curriculum*, 2009 (National Curriculum Board, now the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority), the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*, 2008 (the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs) and the *Global Perspectives, A Framework for Global Education in Australian Schools*, 2008 (Curriculum Corporation).

The *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* identifies three broad categories of outcomes Australian schooling should achieve:

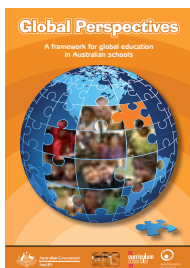
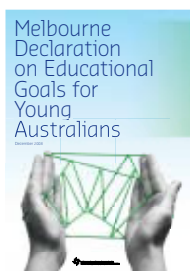
- a solid foundation in knowledge, understanding, skills and values on which further learning and adult life can be built
- deep knowledge, understanding, skills and values that will enable advanced learning and an ability to create new ideas and translate them into practical applications
- general capabilities that underpin flexible and analytical thinking, a capacity to work with others and an ability to move across subject disciplines to develop new expertise.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority's *The Shape of the Australian Curriculum* outlines a number of general capabilities which Australian students should aim to achieve: literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology skills, thinking skills, creativity, self-management, teamwork, intercultural understanding, ethical behaviour and social competence.

*Global Perspectives: A framework for global education in Australian schools* defines concepts of global education:

'Twenty-first century Australians are members of a global community, connected to the whole world by ties of culture, economics and politics, enhanced communication and travel and a shared environment.

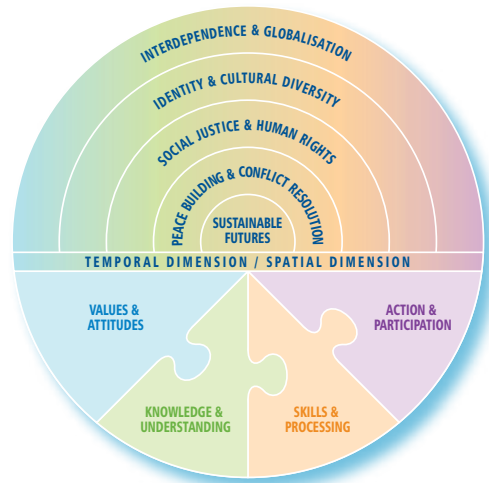
Enabling young people to participate in shaping a better shared future for the world is at the heart of global education. It emphasises the unity and interdependence of human society, developing a sense of self and appreciation of cultural diversity, affirmation of social justice and human rights, building peace and actions for a sustainable future in different times and places. It places particular emphasis on developing relationships with our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.



Global education promotes open-mindedness, leading to new thinking about the world and a predisposition to take action for change. Students learn to take responsibility for their actions, respect and value diversity and see themselves as global citizens who can contribute to a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.'

The framework includes the following five learning emphases that are reflected in the six chapters of this book:

- Interdependence and globalisation – an understanding of the complex social, economic and political links between people and the impact that changes have on others.
- Identity and cultural diversity – an understanding of self and one's own culture, and being open to the cultures of others.
- Social justice and human rights – an understanding of the impact of inequality and discrimination, the importance of standing up for our own rights and our responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- Peace building and conflict resolution – an understanding of the importance of building and maintaining positive and trusting relationships and ways conflict can be prevented or peacefully resolved.
- Sustainable futures – an understanding of the ways in which we can meet our current needs without diminishing the quality of the environment or reducing the capacity of future generations to meet their needs.



## Structure and key concepts

*Pacific Neighbours: Understanding the Pacific islands* provides teachers with a variety of source material and inquiry-based teaching activities to encourage students to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills and to consider their own level of engagement with their Pacific neighbours.

Each chapter begins with a general summary and a list of key words, then includes a variety of texts, tables, maps and graphs that can be explored through three levels of thinking – 'Thinking about', 'Thinking more deeply' and 'Collecting your thoughts'. End-of-chapter activities can be used to stimulate discussion around the theme and explore possibilities for taking action. Teachers may integrate the content and teaching activities in their geography, history or economics curriculum, or select short sections for deeper study, or allocate a particular country to small groups for investigation.

The first chapter gives a brief overview of the geographic, socioeconomic and cultural features of the Pacific island countries. It includes important background information that will support the achievement of the learning outcomes in the other five chapters which are structured around the learning emphases of *Global Perspectives: A framework for global education in Australian schools*.



### CD-ROM

The accompanying CD-ROM includes more detailed teacher information, a copy of this text in PDF format, student worksheets, a photo gallery and a reformatted version of the book by country using an interactive map.

### Global Education website

Teachers will find further support materials including a professional learning package on this text together with case studies, country profiles, updates and events about the Pacific islands on the Global Education website at [www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au](http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au).



# Summary of chapters



teacher  
information

learning  
outcomes

The summaries provided below describe the content for each chapter. **Teacher information** and specific global education **learning outcomes** for each chapter of the book are included on the CD-ROM.

## Chapter 1 – Let’s get specific about the Pacific!

This chapter starts with an overview of the geographic, socioeconomic and cultural features of the Pacific island countries. Students will be given opportunities to observe, record and describe the social and physical environmental patterns of activity.

## Chapter 2 – Responding to globalisation

This chapter provides an overview of the links between Pacific Island countries and Australia’s relationship with them. The impacts of globalisation and the interdependent nature of the Pacific region are emphasised through an introduction to the Pacific Islands Forum, issues of trade, aid and remittances.

## Chapter 3 – The Pacific way?

This chapter focuses on the historical origins of Pacific cultures and societies and makes links to contemporary studies of Pacific cultures. Scientific theories are contrasted with traditional oral histories, and students are introduced to the skills of interpreting evidence and timeline construction. Contrasts between the Polynesian and Melanesian cultures are explored through case studies of Samoa and the Huli people in Papua New Guinea, as well as current expressions of Pacific cultures.

## Chapter 4 – Pacific stories and human rights

This chapter focuses on colonial history of the region and the impact that this has had on the people of the Pacific islands. It looks at these events through the lens of social justice and human rights and focuses on the use of primary and secondary sources. It includes stories of people from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Nauru, Banaba and Bikini Atoll as well as Australian South Sea Islanders.

## Chapter 5 – Working together to build peace

This chapter introduces students to traditional methods of conflict resolution in Samoa and the cooperative attempts by many groups to build peace in the Pacific region in particular in Bougainville and the Solomon Islands.

## Chapter 6 – Pacific challenges

This chapter focuses on sustainable development – exploring how the environment can be used to support the traditional practices of daily life and provide an income without causing economic, environmental and social concerns. Students develop skills in predicting the future through strategies such as the futures wheel and futures timelines based on information about marine environments, climate change, sustainable tourism, forest management and the Millennium Development Goals.



## Key concepts and year levels

The following table presents a summary of the key concepts and knowledge covered by each chapter to assist the teacher in selecting the most appropriate material to present to students.

Year levels	Chapter 1 Let's get specific about the Pacific!	Chapter 2 Responding to globalisation	Chapter 3 The Pacific way?	Chapter 4 Pacific stories and human rights	Chapter 5 Working together to build peace	Chapter 6 Pacific challenges
Lower secondary (Years 7–8)	Geographic characteristics of the Pacific region	Australia's connection with the world (Pacific region)  Global citizenship  Global trade  Demographics	Ancient to early modern periods of history  Origins of cultures and societies  Indigenous cultures (stories, song, dance)  Cultural diversity within a Pacific country  Global migrations  Melanesian societies	Age of exploration  Colonialism  Nuclear testing in the Pacific	Traditional methods of conflict resolution	Natural characteristics of the Pacific region  Value of environments  Environmental sustainability
Middle secondary (Years 9–10)	Australia's geographic position in the Pacific region	Aid and remittances  Regional economic links  Impacts of globalisation  Sport	Origins and experiences of Australian migrants  Cultural diversity in regions  Political systems	World War 2 in the Pacific  Migration legislation (eg White Australia Policy and Immigration Restriction Act, 1901)  Principles of human rights  Origins and experiences of Australian migrants	International relations  Australia's relationships with other countries (eg peace-keeping governance)  Responses to conflict	Natural and built environments  Environmental issues (eg global warming and sea level rise)  Tourism  Sustainable development  Millennium Development Goals