

Australian Curriculum Content

Year 4: The location of the major countries of Africa and South America in relation to Australia, and their main characteristics, including the types of natural vegetation and native animals in at least two countries from both continents

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Before transformation: Sample Year 4 task**Supplies needed:**

- Paper
- Printer
- A stapler
- Crayons, coloured pencils, or markers

Optional: a detailed map of Africa or an atlas

Instructions:

5. Colour the map and name 10 of the African countries.
6. Fill in the names of the various countries and capitals.
7. Choose 2 native animals from Africa.
8. Conduct library research on the two animals of choice and detail the environment they live in (comment on resources, climate, and topography).

What's possible?

Australian Curriculum: Year 4 Geographical Knowledge and Understanding

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Transformed task: Getting the students doing the thinking

Introduced on Radio National December 2013 “Can you imagine an Australian outback filled with herds of roaming African elephants?” ...”Carl Elliott Smith explores a conservation theory called re-wilding, which argues that these drastic solutions are necessary to solve the big problems of our environment.” <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/futuretense/rewilding/4797634>



What if...you were given the responsibility to choose two native African animals that should be 're-wilded' in SA to save them from extinction.

What do you notice?

- Where in Africa are the animals currently found?
- How do the African environments compare with environments in SA? What information is important? What can you do to find out?

What questions do you have?

- What data and information might you need?
- What is important to know in order to keep the chosen animals safe and alive?

How might you find out?

- What is the best way to find out which place is most similar in SA?
- Is this place the most suitable for your chosen animals? Why/Why not?

How can you show your ideas?

- How can you show where these animals come from and where they might be relocated on a map or model? Which features are important? Which are not?

What do you think?

- How does this evidence (representations) help you answer the question about the best place in SA for relocation of your animals? What is the best solution? How can you justify your decision?



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Annotations: How has the task been changed?

What did the teacher do?	Why?
Presented the idea of rewilding as a provocative 'problem to solve'.	So students are prompted into formulating their own purposeful questions and identifying the information needed to solve the problem.
Asked 'which place is most similar?' and 'which features are important?' And asked 'how can you justify your decision?'	So students use the information they have gathered to compare the important characteristics of the two environments.
NOT giving a procedure to follow step by step to find the information. Asking 'what is the best way to...?' and 'what is important to know...?'	So students have to analyse the situation and organise their own way of solving the problem.
Asked students to consider which information was important to consider and how their ideas could best be presented.	So students evaluate the relevance of information they have researched and design and construct a way of sharing it effectively.

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