What’s in a Name?
Australia’s Geographical Names
E-learning package

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ICSM Sponsor – Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia

BACKGROUND

- CGNA is a technical Working Group which operates under the guidance of ICSM.
- ICSM is made up of senior government representatives from all the Australian States, Territories, the Australian Commonwealth Government and New Zealand.
- Members are responsible for government surveying and mapping functions in their jurisdiction.
- ICSM is a Standing Committee of ANZLIC – the Australian and New Zealand Spatial Information Council.
BACKGROUND

The Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA) provides a coordinating role in Australasia place naming activities.

Membership comes from Australian state and territory naming boards and committees, New Zealand and other organisations with a role and interest in place naming, including:

- Australian National Placenames Survey
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Australian Antarctic Division
- Australian Hydrographic Office
- Department of Defence

INTRODUCTION

CGNA’s mission statement is:

"As the national focus group, to coordinate and communicate the consistent use of geographic place names, to meet community requirements, the CGNA will:

- Develop and encourage the addition of a national ASDI compliant Data Model for Geographic place names.
- Utilise Internet web sites as a prime mechanism for the (two way) sharing of information about geographic place names.
- Develop and deliver an educational program to promote the significance of geographic place names in the community.
- Develop and promote the adoption of National standards for the naming of geographic place names."

Website: www.icsm.gov.au/cgna
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Focused on two main points:
• The message – the importance of place names and their history.
• The resource be classroom ready requiring little to no preparation by the teacher.

Expected outcomes:
• Provide a number of opportunities across varied curricula to highlight the importance and significance of ‘names’ be they geographical, personal or of place.
• Encourages the community to become involved in place naming via the CGNA and its resources.

COMPONENTS OF THE EDUCATION PACKAGE (1)

Video
15 minutes covering:
• The importance of capturing and recording data – mentioning historical and indigenous information.
• Naming process and role of CGNA and state and territory bodies.
• Community involvement in the process of both recording and naming unnamed features.
COMPONENTS OF THE EDUCATION PACKAGE (2)

Teaching Notes
Contains:

- Background information and instructions on the application features of the booklet.
- The narration text from the video, including the elapsed minutes of the video to enable the teacher to locate particular segments of the program.
- Pertinent questions, answers and activities are proposed at appropriate points. These are colour coded to match the associated lessons in one of the four curriculum strands.

COMPONENTS OF THE EDUCATION PACKAGE (3)

Students Section
- Provides several projects that can be undertaken without supervision.
- Ideal as homework projects or group class work.
- Each project is set out with a scenario and project task, student questions, and steps to take.
- Designed to be fun, drawing on students’ creativity and knowledge gained from watching the What’s in a Name? video and their own understanding of ‘place’.

English Worksheet - Level 01
“How I picked a name ?”
Science Worksheet - Level 1-4
“Maps and Mapping”
Arts - Visual: Level 1-4
“Picturing Place”
SOSE Worksheet - Level 01
“Placename Quiz”
COMPONENTS OF THE EDUCATION PACKAGE (4)

Articles and Resources

Contains subject-relevant articles including:
- Guidelines for the Consistent Use of Place Names
- Production of National Gazetteer of Australian Geographical Place Names
- Guidelines for the Recording and Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place Names
- Glossary of Generic Terms

Other links provide:
- Information about CGNA member bodies
- Australasian websites related to placenames, mapping, geography and the environment

PROMOTION OF THE PACKAGE TO CURRICULUM EXPERTS (1)

Promotional actions:

- CGNA provided a promotional package to all state heads of education along with a request that the resource be appraised by them and aligned with their curriculum framework.
- Face to face meeting with each state’s curriculum area. This provided the ideal opportunity to create valuable working relationships and positive outcomes in each state/territory.
PROMOTION OF THE PACKAGE TO CURRICULUM EXPERTS (2)

Outcomes:
• Resource will be linked to curriculum outcomes.
• Teachers will have numerous ways to access the resource.
• Resource will be provided to all schools.
• Resource will be promoted in education newsletters.
• Resource published on Geography & History Teachers Associations’ websites and in newsletters.

Results:
• Increased visits to the What’s in a Name? website.
• Increase in requests for more information about the resource at each jurisdiction contact point.

What’s in a Name?

CONCLUSION
The creation of this resource is seen as an important step to bringing the value of geographical place names, and their consistent use, to the younger community’s attention through education and engagement in an entertaining way.

www.icsm.gov.au/cgna