



## Geographers in the Field

2009  
34minutes

### **Program Synopsis**

This program guides students through the steps of conducting fieldwork in Geography. It examines the key steps involved in the process and looks at both the physical and human elements of fieldwork. Students will learn how to conduct a research action plan and present their findings. They will also discover that fieldwork is a fun and exciting activity.

### **Teacher Notes:**

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## **Introduction**

Students in today's society need to have an understanding of the world around them and learn how to investigate various issues. This program uses two study sites, physical and human as examples, and students will learn the key steps involved in researching an issue of their choice. Students will see how to use various pieces of equipment for fieldwork such as cameras, anemometers, water testing, interviews and questionnaires. They will learn that although fieldwork takes some preparation it can be an exciting and fun task.

## **Program Rationale**

This program would be useful for senior Geography students who need to learn the basics of fieldwork; particularly year 10 NSW students completing their research action plan or year 11 NSW students completing their senior Geography project. It will enable teachers to show students that fieldwork is possible with the right attitude and preparation.

## **Program Timeline**

00:00:00	Field work: Geographers in the Field
00:05:16	Preparation: Geographers in the Field
00:09:46	Collecting primary data: physical geography: Geographers in the Field
00:19:45	Collecting your data: human geography: Geographers in the Field
00:27:42	Presenting your findings: Geographers in the Field
00:31:30	Conclusion: Geographers in the Field
00:31:59	Credits: Geographers in the Field
00:33:41	End program: Geographers in the Field

## **Books and Other Print Resources**

- Geography Focus 2 stage five, Zuylen, Trethewy, Mclsaac
- Australian Explorations, stage five, Kleeman, Lane, Hamper, Rhodes, Elliot
- Global Explorations, stage four, Kleeman, Lane, Pask, Butler.
- Essential Geography skills, Harte.
- Geography skills builder, Harper.
- Senior Geography, Paine, Hutchinson, Lanceley, Reeves

## **Internet Resources**

- <http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/fieldwork/>
- <http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/library/regional-geography/projects.html>
- <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library/index.cfm?NavigationID=2316>

**Program Worksheet**

**Before the Program**

1. As a class brainstorm and write a definition of fieldwork and list the differing types of fieldwork.

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2. Make a list of all the possible sites in your local area that could be used as a fieldwork study.

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3. Discuss why fieldwork is important in Geography.

4. Make a list of all the items that you can think of to record data in the field.

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**During the Program**

1. Why study Geography?

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2. Why do we use fieldwork?

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3. List the seven key questions geographers ask when planning fieldwork.

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4. What is Primary data?

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5. What is secondary data?

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6. The best fieldwork is \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name five tools that can be used while conducting fieldwork?

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8. What are the three steps of conducting fieldwork?

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9. List three other pieces of equipment that you should consider taking when going on a fieldtrip?

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10. Identify some of the techniques used in collecting data?

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11. What are the three types of photographs that can be used?

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12. Name two pieces of information that can be discovered through fieldwork?

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13. What are the two types of questions asked?

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14. When handing out questionnaires what are some key points to remember?

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15. Where can you find secondary data?

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16. What are the four ways to present your findings?

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17. Name the seven key steps to presentation?

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**After the Program**

1. See if you can expand the list for possible fieldwork sites you made before viewing the program. Use the websites supplied for more ideas.
2. Go through various fieldwork techniques in more depth. For example find out how to use a water testing device or an anemometer.
3. Create a questionnaire to take around your school. Compile the results found and present them to the class in a suitable format.
4. Organize a trip to a local park or city and try out your newly learned skills.

**Suggested Student Responses**

**During the Program**

1. Why study Geography?  
**To gather a collection of raw data to better understand our world and environment first hand.**
2. Why do we use fieldwork?  
**To gain knowledge of the physical and human environment.**
3. List the seven key questions geographers ask when planning fieldwork.
  - **What is there?**
  - **Where is it?**
  - **Why is it there?**
  - **What are the effects?**
  - **How is it changing?**
  - **Should it be like this?**
  - **What will it be like in the future?**
4. What is Primary data?  
**Raw data that hasn't been manipulated in any way.**
5. What is secondary data?  
**Data changed or processed from its original state.**
6. The best fieldwork is **well planned**
7. Name five tools that can be used while conducting fieldwork?
  - **Log**
  - **Photographs**
  - **Field measurements**
  - **Interviews**
  - **Water quality**
  - **General observations.**
8. What are the three steps of conducting fieldwork?
  - **Pre fieldwork**
  - **Gather researching data**
  - **Compiling and presenting your findings.**
9. List three other pieces of equipment that you should consider taking when going on a fieldtrip?
  - **First aid kits**
  - **Rations**
  - **Hat**
  - **Sunscreen.**
10. Identify some of the techniques used in collecting data?
  - **Field notes**
  - **Interviews**
  - **Photographs**
  - **Turbidity**



11. What are the three types of photographs that can be used?
  - **Ground level**
  - **Oblique**
  - **Aerial**
  
12. Name two pieces of information that can be discovered through fieldwork?
  - **Identify species**
  - **Erosion on river**
  - **Burnt off areas**
  
13. What are the two types of questions asked?
  - **Open ended questions**
  - **Closed questions**
  
14. When handing out questionnaires what are some key points to remember?  
**Take into account the type of people and types of questions.**
  
15. Where can you find secondary data?
  - **Library**
  - **Books**
  - **Internet**
  
16. What are the four ways to present your findings?
  - **Oral presentation**
  - **PowerPoint presentation**
  - **Pictorial presentation**
  - **Wall display**
  
17. Name the seven key steps to presentation?
  - **Introduction**
  - **Sources**
  - **Methodology**
  - **Interviews**
  - **Photographs with captions**
  - **Conclusion linked back to introduction**
  - **Bibliography including sources**