Sample Lesson Plan – Geography

Year/Stage: Year 9/Stage 5

Syllabus reference:
Focus Area: Changing Places
Content:
International migration

Students:
• investigate the reasons for and effects of international migration to Australia, for example:
  – analysis of international migration patterns
  – explanation of where and why international migrants settle within Australia
  – examination of characteristics and spatial patterns of Australia’s cultural diversity

Outcomes:
GE5-2 explains processes and influences that form and transform places and environments
GE5-7 acquires and processes geographical information by selecting and using appropriate and relevant geographical tools for inquiry


Language focus: Explaining events, stages in time, social categories, evaluating

1. Preparing for reading

Background knowledge: (review from previous lessons)
• world geography (countries and regions mentioned in text)
• globalisation; political, racial and religious persecution; refugees
• Australian population, ethnic and national groups
• multiculturalism

Summary of the text: (each section of the text is explained to the students before reading)
• The nature of migration: a large number of Australia’s population is from international migration – creating a diverse and multicultural nation.
• Why people migrate: factors like war or jobs push people out of their old country, or pull them towards a new country.
• Australia’s migration patterns: Australia’s migration changed over time – first convicts from 1788, then gold rush in 1850s, mostly British – after WWII from Europe to work in factories, now many from Asia.

2. Detailed reading

Read each paragraph, discuss and have students mark key information. In this sample lesson plan, the information to mark is highlighted in the accompanying copy of the text.

Detailed reading may be performed on part of the text and/or may be set for students to complete individually or in groups.
Note: Discuss the illustrations on each page as the text is read.

3. Note-making from the text
Students use their marked or highlighted key information to make notes. One student may write the notes on the board as others dictate.

This might be a whole-class activity or it could start with the whole class and then be completed individually or in groups, depending on the needs of the class and the time available.

The following are examples of notes from the information highlighted on the accompanying text:

The nature of migration
- migration – movement of people – changing their permanent residence
- multicultural diversity – Australia’s current identity

Why do people migrate?
- push factors (forced): globalisation, unemployment, famine, war, natural disaster, drought, political, racial or religious persecution, unstable or undemocratic government
- pull factors (voluntary): globalisation, job opportunities, democratic government, labour shortages, education opportunities, better services, favourable immigration laws, environmental amenities

Australia’s migration patterns
- 160,000 convicts transported to Australian colonies
- free immigrants from the early 1790s
- Goldrush era (1851–1870)
  - population trebled from 430,000 to 1.7 million
  - 1861: Chinese – 3.3%; United Kingdom – 60%
- Australia’s first official migration program
  - end of World War II, in 1945
  - displaced people (refugees) from war-torn Europe
  - 1945–1965: seven million to eleven million population growth
- migration from United Kingdom and Ireland
  - 1963–1967: 51%
  - 2000: 11%
- last three decades increasing numbers from South-East Asia, North-East Asia and South Asia

4. Joint construction from the notes
This is an example of a text that could be written from the notes in Step 3.

Migration in Australia

People migrate when they change their permanent residence. The population of Australia grew through natural increase and migration from overseas. This has created our national identity as a diverse and multicultural nation.

People migrate because of factors that push them out of their old country, or pull them towards a new country. Push factors include unemployment, war, natural disasters, persecution or bad governments. Pull factors include jobs or education, better services, better environments, favourable immigration laws or better government. The effects of globalisation can be both push and pull factors.
Australia’s migration patterns have changed over time. From 1788, 160 000 convicts were transported to the Australian colonies, as well as free immigrants. From 1851 to 1871, the goldrush era produced the next wave, when the population grew from 430 000 to 1.7 million. In 1861, 60 per cent of the population was British, and 3.3 per cent were Chinese ... (continued).

Joint construction may be performed on part of the text and/or may be set for students to complete individually or in groups.