

This Resource:

Includes a teacher guide & student worksheet activities

Contributes to:

Stage 3 (Years 5-6)

- **HS3-GE0-01** - describes the diverse features and characteristics of places and environments
- **HS3-GE0-02** - explains interactions and connections between people, places and environments
- **HS3-GE0-03** - uses geographical tools (maps, images, observations, fieldwork) to investigate places

Teacher Resource Guide

An Ever-Changing City Landscape

In this resource, students explore how Sydney's built environment has changed over time by comparing historical images with the modern city skyline. Using observation, comparison and prediction skills, students investigate how natural and built features influence land use and how people shape environments through development.

Students are encouraged to:

- identify natural and built features in historical and modern environments
- describe how land use has changed over time
- explain why people develop places for different purposes
- explore the connections between human activity and environmental change
- investigate modern urban development projects such as Barangaroo
- develop skills in observation, interpretation and geographical thinking
- predict how Sydney may continue to change in the future

This resource supports students in building geographical understanding through real-world examples, encouraging critical thinking about how cities grow and how environments are shaped by human decisions.

Please Note:

This resource has been designed to support Stage 3 students and aligns with the NSW Curriculum in HSIE. It is intended to be used as pre-visit and post-visit learning for excursions to the Sydney Tower Eye.

Teacher Resource Guide

Answers

Section 1 – Past Sydney Images (Binocular Stations)

For each image, answers will vary slightly depending on what students interpret.

Darling Harbour c.1900

- Natural features: Harbour water, Shoreline, Some vegetation
- Built features: Small wharves / docks, Warehouses, Industrial buildings
- Land use: Shipping and industry (port use)
- Purpose behind land use: Transporting goods, Supporting trade and business
- Urban or rural? Urban (early industrial city development)

Pymont Bridge c.1927

- Natural features: Waterway/harbour, Shoreline
- Built features: Bridge, Roads, Buildings/wharves
- Land use: Transport and movement, Trade and access between areas
- Purpose: Connecting communities, Helping workers and goods move through the city
- Urban or rural? Urban

George Street c.1890

- Natural features: Very few (possibly trees/sky only)
- Built features: Shops and buildings, Road, Street infrastructure (signs, poles)
- Land use: Retail and business
- Purpose: Commerce and services for the community
- Urban or rural? Urban

Railway Square c.1916

- Natural features: Minimal natural features (sky, small trees)
- Built features: Railway infrastructure, Roads, Buildings, Transport corridors
- Land use: Transport and travel
- Purpose: Moving people and goods across Sydney and NSW
- Urban or rural? Urban

Kings Cross c.1940

- Natural features: Hills/landform shape, some trees/vegetation (limited)
- Built features: Streets and buildings, Shops/hotels/apartments, Transport access
- Land use: Housing, entertainment, business
- Purpose: Providing homes and services, supporting social activity and tourism
- Urban or rural? Urban

St Mary's Cathedral c.1920

- Natural features: Open land, Trees/parkland (Hyde Park)
- Built features: Cathedral, Surrounding streets/buildings
- Land use: Religious and community gathering space
- Purpose: Worship and community events
- Urban or rural? Urban

Sydney Opera House c.1966

- Natural features: Harbour water, Coastline
- Built features: Construction works / early building stage, Roads/port area
- Land use: Construction and future tourism/culture space
- Purpose: Developing a major performing arts and tourism landmark
- Urban or rural? Urban

SECTION 2 – Sydney's Future (2050)

This is a creative task. Strong responses should include:

- Existing landmarks (Opera House, Harbour Bridge, Sydney Tower Eye)
- New buildings/towers
- More sustainable features (green roofs, solar panels, electric transport)
- More pedestrian zones
- Improved harbour foreshore parks
- More density in the skyline

Student Worksheet

Activity 1: Natural and Built Features of Sydney

Step 1: Take a walk around the observation deck and enjoy the 360-degree view of Sydney. Take notice of all the natural and man-made environments you can see from up here. Ask yourself whether the city landscape looked like this?

Step 2: Walk over to the North side and approach the binoculars that display pictures of Sydney from the past. Look at these images and answer the following questions.

Darling Harbour c.1900

What natural features do you see?

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What built features do you see?

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How is the land being used in this image?

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What is the purpose behind this land use?

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.....

Is this an urban or rural place?

.....

.....

Student Worksheet

Pymont Bridge c. 1927

What natural features do you see?

What built features do you see?

How is the land being used in this image?

What is the purpose behind this land use?

Is this an urban or rural place?

Student Worksheet

George Street c. 1890

What natural features do you see?

What built features do you see?

How is the land being used in this image?

What is the purpose behind this land use?

Is this an urban or rural place?

Student Worksheet

Railway Square c. 1916

What natural features do you see?

What built features do you see?

How is the land being used in this image?

What is the purpose behind this land use?

Is this an urban or rural place?

Student Worksheet

Kings Cross c. 1940

What natural features do you see?

What built features do you see?

How is the land being used in this image?

What is the purpose behind this land use?

Is this an urban or rural place?

Student Worksheet

St Mary's Cathedral c. 1920

What natural features do you see?

What built features do you see?

How is the land being used in this image?

What is the purpose behind this land use?

Is this an urban or rural place?

Student Worksheet

Sydney Opera House c. 1966

What natural features do you see?

What built features do you see?

How is the land being used in this image?

What is the purpose behind this land use?

Is this an urban or rural place?

Student Worksheet

Activity 2: Sydney's Future

[Post-visit activity]

Think what the city of Sydney will look like in the year 2050. Sketch a picture in the space provided below. Make sure to label key landmarks from the past and new landmarks you think will be present in the future.

