

Embedding the cross-curriculum priorities: Advice and resources

Prep–Year 10

Introduction

The Australian Curriculum includes three cross-curriculum priorities:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures (a national priority)
- Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia (a regional priority)
- sustainability (a global priority).

Embedding the cross-curriculum priorities, by developing considered and focused content that fits naturally within learning areas, adds depth and richness to student learning.

Organising ideas for cross-curriculum priorities are embedded in the content descriptions and elaborations of each learning area or subject. Each idea is represented by an icon. These ideas provide a scaffold for developing the essential knowledge, understandings and skills to meet each priority.

Considerations for teaching and learning

The cross-curriculum priorities have a strong but varying presence depending on their relevance to the learning area. The cross-curriculum priorities offer contexts for learning that provide students with the tools and language to engage with and better understand their world. When embedding the cross-curriculum priorities, teachers should give students opportunities to develop skills that are associated with the learning area specific content, and to develop knowledge and skills that relate to the relevant priority. Schools should ensure the cross-curriculum priorities are embedded within curriculum and school plans, and taught to students.

Teachers are encouraged to:

- consider using appropriate aspects of the cross-curriculum priorities to provide relevant and engaging contexts for learning within a unit of work
- provide a variety of learning activities that make explicit connections to the essential knowledge, understanding and skills for a priority.

Refer to the following priority-specific advice and resources for assistance when planning to embed the cross-curriculum priorities.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

This priority provides a national context for learning in all areas of the curriculum. Engaging with the world's oldest continuous living cultures provides students with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Australia, and enhance their ability to participate positively in its ongoing development.

More information is available on the Australian Curriculum website at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures.

Resources

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures (Australian Curriculum)

This webpage explains the key ideas, concepts and organising ideas of the cross-curriculum priority, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. It also outlines opportunities to address the priority within each learning area.

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives

This webpage provides information on strategies, resources, projects and initiatives that focus on increasing students' awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, as well as strategies to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Queensland schools.

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/about/k-12-policies/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-perspectives

Resources: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge

This webpage provides resources to help teachers include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in a school curriculum.

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/about/k-12-policies/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-perspectives/resources

English sample resources

The resources on this webpage help teachers embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in the Australian Curriculum: English. The webpage identifies curriculum links to relevant content descriptions, supported by sample learning experiences and resources that may be included in teaching and learning programs.

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/about/k-12-policies/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-perspectives/resources/cross-curriculum-priority/english-sample-resources

Mathematics sample resources

This webpage includes resources to help teachers embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics. The webpage identifies curriculum links to the Mathematics strands, supported by sample learning experiences and resources that may be included in teaching and learning programs.

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/about/k-12-policies/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-perspectives/resources/cross-curriculum-priority/maths-sample-resources

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Science: Poster (Australian Curriculum)

This poster provides example learning ideas for including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Science.

The poster is available on the Australian Curriculum website at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures. Scroll down and select 'Examples of elaborations that can be used by teachers'.

F–10 Australian Curriculum: Science elaborations for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cross-curriculum priority (Australian Curriculum)

This document lists 95 additional science elaborations to help teachers incorporate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority into the Australian Curriculum: Science.

The document is available on the Australian Curriculum website at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures. Scroll down and select 'Content descriptions across all year levels with new elaborations'.

Illustrations of practice (Australian Curriculum)

These 12 videos provide examples of how schools are embedding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures cross-curriculum priority.

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/resources/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures/illustrations-of-practice

Respect, relationships, reconciliation (Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership — AITSL)

The '3Rs' provides a collection of study resources, including three self-paced modules with a dual focus on:

- improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' education
- promoting reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians through an enhanced understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

<https://rrr.edu.au>

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

This priority provides a regional context for learning in all areas of the curriculum. Through this priority, students develop their knowledge and understanding of Australia's extensive engagement with Asia, and recognise the diversity within and between the countries of the Asia region. This priority aims to provide students with the skills to communicate and engage with the peoples of Asia so they can effectively live, work and learn in the region.

More information is available on the Australian Curriculum website at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/asia-and-australia-s-engagement-with-asia.

Resources

Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia (Australian Curriculum)

This webpage explains the key ideas, concepts and organising ideas of the cross-curriculum priority, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia. It also outlines opportunities to address the priority within each learning area.

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/asia-and-australia-s-engagement-with-asia

Curriculum: Teaching and learning resources (Asia Education Foundation)

This website provides teaching and learning resources for all year levels and learning areas to help embed the priority.

www.asiaeducation.edu.au/curriculum

Asia Education Teachers' Association

This website offers free resources to help integrate studies of Asia into the curriculum.

www.aeta.org.au

Teaching the Asia priority through the novel (AITSL)

In this video illustration of practice, the inquiry learning process is used to examine the concepts of time, place and culture in the novel *Chinese Cinderella*, and compare these to the students' lives.

www.aitsl.edu.au/tools-resources/resource/teaching-the-asia-priority-through-the-novel-illustration-of-practice

Sustainability

This priority provides a global context for learning in all areas of the curriculum. Sustainability focuses on protecting environments, as well as taking informed action to create a more ecologically and socially just world. Through this priority, students have the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and values that underpin more sustainable patterns of living.

More information is available on the Australian Curriculum website at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/sustainability.

Resources

Sustainability (Australian Curriculum)

This webpage explains the key ideas, concepts and organising ideas of the Sustainability priority. It also outlines opportunities to address the priority within each learning area.

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/sustainability

Getting started with sustainability in schools: Steps to sustainability education

This website outlines four steps for embedding sustainability and offers classroom resources.

<https://sustainabilityinschools.edu.au>

Queensland sustainable schools (Queensland Government)

This website aims to help schools, their partners and the community realise a positive environmental vision for their school. The website includes an Education Centre featuring a wide range of information to help schools plan, implement and review environmental education activities.

www.sustainableschools.qld.edu.au/Default.aspx?tabid=36

Using water wisely (Queensland Government)

This website provides a range of resources to support the wise use of water, including lesson plans and activities.

www.qld.gov.au/environment/water/residence/use

Fieldwork techniques (AITSL)

This video illustration of practice demonstrates how to authentically embed the cross-curriculum priority of Sustainability in teaching the Year 8 Mathematics curriculum.

www.aitsl.edu.au/tools-resources/resource/fieldwork-techniques-illustration-of-practice

Energy efficiency (AITSL)

In this video illustration of practice, students in a Year 6 Science class explore electricity within the context of energy sustainability.

www.aitsl.edu.au/tools-resources/resource/energy-efficiency-illustration-of-practice