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|  | Australian Curriculum Year 7 Geography sample assessment ׀ Assessment resource  Investigating water scarcity |

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## Framing a geographical inquiry — an example

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| Research area | Key question | Focus question/s |
| **Identify the geographical process that influences the characteristics of places (the issue) and where it is occurring** | What is the nature of water scarcity and is it occurring in North Africa? | * What is water scarcity? * Where is North Africa and what countries does it include? * Is there water scarcity in these countries? * Which country will be the focus for my case study? Why? |
| **Analyse the causes of the issue** | What is the spatial distribution of natural features and the relationships between water resources and human use in the country?  **Relative location** — location relative to other places, e.g. to the river systems, to the Mediterranean, to neighbouring countries | * Where the country is located (relative location)? * Where are the towns and cities located in relation to the river systems? * What physical features of the country contribute to water scarcity? * How does the climate of the region contribute to water scarcity? * How does population density of the country contribute to water scarcity? |
| **Analyse the impacts of the issue** | What are the social, economic and environmental impacts of water scarcity?  **While these concepts are interrelated they can be defined as:**  **Social** — refers directly to the condition of people’s lives and might include health, education and the ability to earn a living  **Economic** — refers to the monetary expenditure or income to the country and might include GDP, GNI and, for example, provision of infrastructure (e.g. pumps, pipelines)  **Environmental** — refers to the natural environment and might include water quality, rainfall, quality of river systems | * How are people in the local community impacted by water scarcity? (Social) * What are the costs associated with water scarcity? (Economic) * How is the environment impacted by water scarcity? (Environmental) |
| **Identify and analyse the current management strategies being implemented** | What management strategies are being implemented to manage the issue you have identified?  **Note:** There may be limited or no action to manage the issue, and this can contribute to the impacts. | * Is the issue being managed by either governments or other groups? * What government programs are in place to manage water scarcity? * What projects do charity or NGO groups working in this country have in place to improve water availability? * If there are projects, what impact do these management strategies have on the social, economic and environmental aspects of the country? |
| **Decide what further action is needed to better manage the issue** | Propose an action that responds to the water scarcity issue.  **Examples:** recycling, stormwater harvesting, desalination, inter-regional transfer of water | * Are there projects in other countries that might work in this country? * What are the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal? * What will this issue look like into the future as a result of management proposals? |