

Cross-curriculum priorities: Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

The Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia priority provides a regional context for learning in all areas of the curriculum. It reflects Australia's extensive engagement with Asia in social, cultural, political, and economic spheres.

Many Asian nations are growing rapidly and are regionally and globally influential. Immigrants from all these countries have historically contributed to Australia's development and will continue to do so in the future. An understanding of Asia underpins the capacity of Australian students to be active and informed citizens working together to build harmonious local, regional and global communities, and build Australia's social, intellectual and creative capital. It also builds understanding of the diversity of cultures and peoples living in Australia, fosters social inclusion and cohesion and is vital to the prosperity of Australia.

This priority will ensure that students learn about and recognise the diversity within and between the countries of the Asia region. They will develop knowledge and understanding of Asian societies, cultures, beliefs and environments, and the connections between the peoples of Asia, Australia, and the rest of the world. Asia literacy provides students with the skills to communicate and engage with the peoples of Asia so they can effectively live, work and learn in the region.

What encompasses Asia?

Asia can be defined in geographical terms, but it can also be described in terms of cultural, religious, historical and language boundaries or commonalities.

While it includes West and Central Asia, in Australian schools studies of Asia will pay particular attention to the sub-regions of:

- North-east Asia, including China, Mongolia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan
- South-east Asia, including Indonesia, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, East Timor, the Philippines and Cambodia
- South Asia, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Organising ideas

For each cross-curriculum priority, a set of organising ideas reflects the essential knowledge, understandings and skills for the priority. The organising ideas are embedded in the content descriptions and elaborations of each learning area as appropriate.

| Code | Organising ideas |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Asia and its diversity | |
| O1.1 | The peoples and countries of Asia are diverse in ethnic background, traditions, cultures, belief systems and religions. |
| O1.2 | Interrelationships between humans and the diverse environments in Asia shape the region and have global implications. |
| Achievements and contributions of the peoples of Asia | |
| O1.3 | The peoples and countries of Asia have contributed and continue to contribute to world history and human endeavour. |
| O1.4 | The arts and literature of Asia influence aesthetic and creative pursuits within Australia, the region and globally. |
| Asia-Australia engagement | |
| O1.5 | Collaboration and engagement with the peoples of Asia support effective regional and global citizenship. |
| O1.6 | Australia is part of the Asia region and our histories from ancient times to the present are linked. |
| O1.7 | Australians play a significant role in social, cultural, political and economic developments in the Asia region. |
| O1.8 | Australians of Asian heritage have influenced Australia's history and continue to influence its dynamic culture and society. |

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia *in curriculum areas*

| Area | |
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| English | <p>In the Australian Curriculum: English, the priority of Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia provides rich and engaging contexts for developing students' abilities in listening, speaking, reading, viewing and writing.</p> <p>The Australian Curriculum: English enables students to explore and appreciate the diverse range of traditional and contemporary texts from and about the peoples and countries of Asia, including texts written by Australians of Asian heritage. It enables students to understand how Australian culture and the English language have been influenced by the many Asian languages used in Australian homes, classrooms and communities.</p> <p>In this learning area, students draw on knowledge of the Asia region, including literature, to influence and enhance their own creative pursuits. They develop communication skills that reflect cultural awareness and intercultural understanding.</p> |
| Mathematics | <p>In the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics, the priority of Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia provides rich and engaging contexts for developing students' mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding.</p> <p>The Australian Curriculum: Mathematics provides opportunities for students to learn about the understandings and applications of Mathematics in Asia. Mathematicians from Asia continue to contribute to the ongoing development of Mathematics.</p> <p>In this learning area, students develop mathematical understanding in fields such as number, patterns, measurement, symmetry and statistics by drawing on knowledge of and examples from the Asia region. These could include calculation, money, art, architecture, design and travel. Investigations involving data collection, representation and analysis can be used to examine issues pertinent to the Asia region.</p> |
| Science | <p>In the Australian Curriculum: Science, the priority of Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia provides rich and engaging contexts for developing students' science knowledge, understanding and skills.</p> <p>The Australian Curriculum: Science provides opportunities for students to recognise that people from the Asia region have made and continue to make significant contributions to the development of science understandings and their applications. It enables students to recognise that the Asia region includes diverse environments and to appreciate that interaction between human activity and these environments continues to influence the region, including Australia, and has significance for the rest of the world.</p> <p>In this learning area, students appreciate that the Asia region plays an important role in scientific research and development. These can include research and development in areas such as medicine, natural resource management, nanotechnologies, communication technologies and natural disaster prediction and management.</p> |
| History | <p>In the Australian Curriculum: History, the priority of Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia provides rich and engaging content and contexts for developing students' historical knowledge, understanding and skills.</p> <p>The Australian Curriculum: History enables students to develop an understanding of histories of the diverse peoples of Asia and their contributions to the region and the world, and an appreciation of the importance of the region for Australia and the world. This happens as students learn about the importance of the traditions, beliefs and celebrations of peoples from the Asia region and through the study of ancient societies, trade, conflicts, progressive movements and migration to Australia by people from Asia.</p> <p>In this learning area, students recognise the dynamic nature of socio-political relationships within the region over time, and the role that individuals, governments and other organisations play in shaping relationships between peoples and countries. They develop an appreciation of the history of Australia-Asia engagement and how this influences contemporary relationships within Australian society and relationships between Australia and the countries of Asia. Students also understand the ongoing role played by Australia and individual Australians, including Australians of Asian heritage, in major events and developments in the Asia region.</p> |