Migration

People have always been on the move. Geographers refer to this movement of people as migration. There are many different reasons why we move – for work, for family, for love, or for the chance of a better life. There are also different ways in which we move – we move around the block, to the next town, to a different state, or even to the other side of the world. Movements within the same country are known as internal migration, while movements between different countries are known as international migration.

Some people choose to move – known as voluntary migration – while others are forced to move – known as forced migration. In Australia, most people are voluntary migrants. Within a five-year period, about one-third of Australians will change their home address at least once. Worldwide however, the numbers of forced migrants (people fleeing violence, poverty, famine or war) is on the rise.

6A What are the reasons for, and effects of, internal migration?
1 Where are the people shown in Source 1 going and why?
2 What do you think it means to be a ‘fly in fly out’ worker?

6B What are the reasons for, and effects of, international migration in Australia?
1 In what ways is Australia a multicultural country?
2 As a class, make a list of how different communities in Australia demonstrate we live in a multicultural society. Highlight examples from your community.

Source 1 Many miners in Western Australia’s Pilbara region are employed as “fly in fly out” (FIFO) workers. They live in other parts of Australia and regularly fly out to the mines for work.
6.1 Migration in Australia

Types of migration in Australia

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. There are two main types of migration, these are internal and international. Internal migration is the movement of people from one defined area to another within a country. For example a family moving from Melbourne to live in Perth is classified as internal migration as it occurs within Australia. International migration is when people move from one country to another, for example people moving from China to Australia. This movement of people is based on a global scale and includes refugees and displaced people forced to leave their country. Other types of migration include the following:

- Rural-urban migration involves movement of people from countrysides to towns and cities within the same country in search of new opportunities and better lifestyles.
- Voluntary migration is when people choose to move freely from one place to another.
- Involuntary migration involves forced movement due to unstable regions as a result of conflict.

- Seasonal migration is people moving as a result of agricultural cycles. It involves people relocating in search of work during particular periods such as fruit-picking and crop-harvesting seasons.
- Illegal migration occurs when people enter a country or cross a border without the permission or the government or correct legal documents.
- This movement of people is based on a global scale and includes refugees and displaced people forced to leave their country. Other types of migration include the following:

   As you can see, migration in Australia is usually a very personal decision and is based on a number of important factors. These may be linked to a person's personal tastes, family life, income or health. In Australia, for example, there has been a movement of people towards the edges of large cities and towards smaller towns on the coast. The first of these moves is largely due to the cheaper land available on the city fringe and the second due to people looking for a change in lifestyle. This movement of people to regional coastal towns is referred to as a 'sea change'.

As populations in coastal areas grow, sleepy coastal towns are expanding into regional centres that require new hospitals, sewerage systems, water resources, roads and other services. In the past, it generally took between 50 and 100 years for a small coastal town to grow into a larger regional centre. Today, the same level of growth is often taking place over five to 10 years. Councils are still working out how to deal with this growth. As well as this, climate change – the impact of extreme weather conditions and increasing coastal erosion – is also causing problems for councils.

Coastal councils are predicting that permanent populations will continue to expand. A large percentage of non-resident property owners are aged between 45 and 64 and many eventually plan to move permanently to their coastal property. Those planning to make the move in the next two to five years is around 67 per cent.

As populations in coastal areas grow, sleepy coastal towns are expanding into regional centres that require new hospitals, sewerage systems, water resources, roads and other services. In the past, it generally took between 50 and 100 years for a small coastal town to grow into a larger regional centre. Today, the same level of growth is often taking place over five to 10 years. Councils are still working out how to deal with this growth. As well as dealing with the increased needs for infrastructure and housing, coastal communities need to retain their character and historic value if they are to remain attractive to sea changers and tourists in the future.
6.2 Population movements in Australia

Australians are some of the world’s most mobile people. Forty per cent of us move house at least once every five years. People move for a wide variety of reasons, and if enough people move this leads to large-scale changes in the population at local, regional and national scales. For example, young people who live in country towns often must move to one of Australia’s capital cities to attend university. This changes the population size and number of young people in both places. Similarly, older people may move from unpleasant climates to milder climates in order to better enjoy their retirement. This means the population of both places will change. Source 1 shows the ways in which Australia’s population shifted in the 10 years between 2001 and 2011.

The map clearly shows that Australia’s four largest urban areas (in dark green) and the areas surrounding them are growing more rapidly than the rest of Australia. Other significant trends include the following:

- Western Australia has overtaken Queensland as the fastest growing state. This is partially due to workers migrating because of job opportunities in the Western Australian mining industry.
- The inner-city areas of our largest cities are some of the fastest growing areas in the country. Inner-city Perth, for example, is growing at more than 12 per cent per year.
- The large cities are getting larger both in terms of their population and their size. Some of the fastest growing places in Australia are on the edges of the cities where more land is available for housing estates. The population of Wyndham in outer Melbourne, for example, is increasing by almost 30 people a day.

Our fastest growing suburbs

One of the key population movements in Australia is the movement of people, particularly young families, to the outer suburbs of our major cities. Some of Perth’s outer suburbs, for example, are growing at five times the national average. The fastest growing suburb in Perth is Wanneroo on the city’s northern coastal fringe. More than 62000 people are moving to the suburb every year and new housing estates are being built to house them.

Check your learning 6.2

Remember and understand

1. Why are the populations of some rural areas in Australia declining? How is Trundle (Source 2) trying to reverse this trend?
2. Using Source 1, list three places in Australia where the population is increasing. Next to these place names, explain why they are increasing.
3. Australia’s population changes due to factors at a range of scales: global, national and personal. Give an example of a change at each of these scales.
4. Study Source 1. Describe the changes in the distribution of Australia’s population between 2001 and 2011. Why did the population change in this way?

Evaluate and create

5. Look closely at Source 3 showing a new housing development in Wanneroo.
   a. How has the natural environment been changed?
   b. Why do you think young families often build houses on the edges of cities, rather than near the centre?
   c. Name some of the advantages of living in this place.

6. How do you think Australia’s population will change in the next 30 years? Brainstorm these changes and then, with a partner, discuss the impacts of your predicted changes on people and places.
6.3 Australia’s mining boom

Employing local workers

Mining companies now recognise that recruiting local Indigenous Australian workers benefits both the local communities and the mining companies. Unlike ‘fly in, fly out’ (FIFO) workers, local Indigenous workers have a spiritual connection to the country in which the mines are located. This makes them much less likely to leave their jobs and move elsewhere. Employing local workers also means that there is little additional strain placed on the housing market as these workers already have homes in the area. Finally, the wages of these Indigenous workers stay in the local area rather than being taken to large cities by FIFO workers. Local children see the miners as role models and the mines as pathways for their own futures. School attendance rates in mining areas tend to be higher than in other remote places.

Employing FIFO workers

The mining boom has also offered employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians living long distances from mining areas. Many fly long distances from their homes (in towns such as Kempsey, New South Wales) to earn a good living as FIFO workers in mines across Western Australia and bring back money to their communities.

Well over 50,000 Indigenous Australians now work in mining. At some mines and mining facilities, such as ports, almost half the workforce is Indigenous. Rio Tinto, one of the world’s largest mining companies, is the largest non-government employer of Indigenous people in Australia, with almost 2000 Aboriginal workers. Another mining giant, BHP Billiton, has recruited 720 Indigenous trainees at its Pilbara operations in the last few years. Around one in 10 employees of the Fortescue Metals Group is Aboriginal, and the company has set up special training courses in Port Hedland and Roeburne in the Pilbara region.

Sharing the wealth?

Despite the positives, many Indigenous Australians feel the mining boom has brought little economic benefit and has increased the gap between themselves and non-Indigenous Australians. A recent study showed that there is little difference between the well-being (such as health and life expectancy) of Indigenous people living near mines and those living in other regions of Australia. The mining boom has also driven up housing and food prices in numerous remote communities. Many Indigenous Australians also feel that mining companies show little respect for their local communities. The mining boom has also driven up housing and food prices in numerous remote communities.

Case study: the mining boom’s impact on the movement of Australia’s Indigenous population

Until recently, few Indigenous Australians worked for the mining companies. Over the past decade or so this has changed dramatically. Not only are mining companies offering work opportunities for local Aboriginal communities, but they are also recruiting Indigenous workers from other parts of the country on ‘fly in, fly out’ (FIFO) and ‘drive in, drive out’ (DIDO) working arrangements.

Threats to Country

There is also some concern that mining is threatening important sites, many of which are sacred to local Aboriginal communities. On the Burrup Peninsula, in the Dampier Archipelago of Western Australia, for example, there is one of the world’s largest collections of rock carvings (see Source 2). Some of these rock carvings date back 9000 years. This is one of the world’s most important archaeological sites, as the rock carvings contain the record of an ancient way of life.

Source 1: The mining sector is providing employment for Aboriginal people in many ways. These trainees, from Kempsey in New South Wales, are training to become ‘fly in, fly out’ (FIFO) workers in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. This work provides a valuable source of income for the town of Kempsey.

Source 2: Ancient rock carvings on the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia are now under threat from mining in the area.

Source 3: Comparison of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the Pilbara.
6.4 Case study: the growth of Australian mining towns

One of the most significant population movements in Australia today is the movement of people to areas rich in mineral deposits (such as iron ore, gas and coal) to work in and around the mines. This movement is due to a resources boom – a massive increase in demand for Australian mineral resources, particularly from Asian countries such as China and India. Many small towns located near mineral deposits are growing rapidly in size, population and prosperity as a result. This is creating opportunities for some people in these towns and problems for others.

The town of Karratha, Western Australia

The town of Karratha in the Pilbara region of Western Australia is one of the fastest growing communities in Australia. People are attracted to the town because of its location near some of richest mineral deposits in the world. Inland from Karratha lies the Pilbara iron ore deposits, which are transported by train to the nearby port of Dampier and then shipped to markets around the world. Off shore from Karratha lies one of the world’s richest natural gas deposits, the North West Shelf. Gas is transported to Dampier by pipeline and then shipped to markets, particularly in Asia.

As people move to the region to take advantage of jobs in the mining industry, many buy or rent a house in Karratha, making it their home. Others continue to live in more distant places, such as Perth. They fly into Karratha for work and then fly home when their shift is finished. Some may stay in the area for three weeks and then fly home for two weeks while others may work in the region from Monday to Friday and then fly home for the weekend. This type of lifestyle is referred to as ‘fly in, fly out’ (FIFO), which allows miners to take advantage of available jobs in remote areas without disrupting their families’ living arrangements.

The reliance on mining for income leads to uncertainty in the housing market. When demand for minerals is high, the demand for homes is also high. House prices then surge dramatically. However, when the demand for minerals falls, so do house prices. In Karratha the average house price has dropped 32% in the last year due largely to a downturn in the housing industry.

A downturn in the demand for minerals also creates problems for local businesses such as supermarkets and hairdressers. Some services have struggled to keep pace with the growth of the town, particularly public transport and health care.

There have been concerns about mental health issues for FIFO workers, who may lack a strong connection to the community in which they live and work for much of their life.

Check your learning 6.4

Remember and understand
1. Why is the population of Karratha growing and changing?
2. Why do population changes result in changes in house prices?

Apply and analyse
3. Examine the Karratha population pyramid.
   a. Which groups make up the majority of the population?
   b. Given that Karratha is a typical Australian mining town, what does this population pyramid tell you about the populations of mining towns generally?
4. Examine the map of the Karratha region. Describe the mineral resources that lie close to the town. Use compass directions and measurements (in kilometres) in your description.
5. Use the geographic concept of interconnection to explain the links between Karratha and other places in Australia and the world.

Evaluate and create
5. Mining towns are sometimes described as having a ‘boom and bust’ economy. What do you think this means? What would be some of the impacts on the Karratha community in a ‘bust’ time?
6.5 Population movements in China

For thousands of years, most Chinese people have lived in small rural villages. Their life was dominated by the daily routine of farming — planting, weeding and harvesting crops, and caring for animals such as pigs and cows. Over the last few decades, however, this situation has begun to change as more and more people move to one of China’s booming cities to find work and a better life.

Although China is still home to more than half a billion farmers, it is also home to some of the world’s largest and fastest growing cities. The movement of people from rural areas to cities in China is one of the greatest migrations in human history. Lured by the remarkable boom in China’s economy over the last decade, millions of Chinese peasants are leaving their farms and heading for cities along the east coast. This has led to many inequalities between rural and urban areas, with the average income in rural areas being about one-third of that in cities.

From rural life …

Xianglan Li lives in a small village in Guangxi Province in southern China. Her day begins at dawn, when she wakes to sweep the concrete floor of the small home she shares with her husband and son. After breakfast she feeds her chickens and pigs, and collects waste from the pig sty to carry to the fields for fertiliser. Using the water from the buckets she has placed beside the house to collect rainwater, she throws some on the road to keep down the dust. Like most rural villagers in China, the family has no car.

Xianglan’s husband works part time as a labourer on a building site in a nearby town. Xianglan joins other villagers walking to their fields a few kilometres from the village. The roads are slowly filling with small tractors and bikes, as well as farmers carrying their produce on long poles. There is a buzz of excitement as tomorrow is market day.

Xianglan spends her morning weeding the wheat and picking chillies for the market. In the afternoon she collects firewood from the nearby forest. Carrying the wood and chillies, she walks through the village to her home. Some farmers are spreading out their wheat crop in the village square to dry it, ready to separate the grain from the stalks. The stalks will become feed for the pigs and fuel for the cooking fire.

Although her home has no running water and no inside toilet, it does have a new colour television that her daughter, Xiu, has sent from Shenzhen. There is only electricity for a few hours in the evening, so after dinner Xianglan and her husband sit on their bed and watch a new soap opera. They go to sleep as the sun sets.

… to urban life

Xianglan’s daughter, Xiu, lives in Shenzhen, a major city with a population of 10 million people near Hong Kong, hundreds of kilometres from her family’s village. Shenzhen is a full day’s train ride away. Three years ago, Xiu left her family home to move to the city to find work. She now works in a factory where she assembles mobile phones. Xiu lives in a dormitory owned by the company and shares a room with seven other workers, most of whom are also from Guangxi Province. There is a cafeteria in the dormitory building and the bathrooms have hot and cold running water. There is reliable electricity, which the workers use to watch television in their spare time, wash their clothes and charge their mobile phones. Virtually everyone has a mobile phone; some have two or three.

Xiu works 10 hours a day in the factory. She is pleased to have a job so she can help support her parents and brother, but she finds the work boring and repetitive. She knows that if she quits she will be quickly replaced, but she sometimes thinks about moving back to Guangxi. She catches the train home once a year to celebrate Chinese New Year with her family. Next year, she intends to take home a mobile phone for her father.

Check your learning 6.5

Remember and understand
1. Why are young Chinese men and women moving to large cities?
2. What does Xiu do for a job? Where do you think she was trained for this job?
Apply and analyse
3. How has the movement of young Chinese men and women from farms to cities changed both places?
4. Why can a worker in the city earn three times as much as a farm worker?
Evaluate and create
5. In what ways do you consider Xianglan’s life to be better than her daughter’s? In what ways do you consider it to be worse? Discuss your answers in a small group. Were there some areas that you all agreed on?
6. Imagine that Xiu quit her job and returned home. Explain the impact this would have on the following:
   a. the family’s income
   b. the family’s food expenditure
   c. the factory in Shenzhen.
7. If Xiu’s father visited her in Shenzhen, what do you think he would find most surprising about his daughter’s way of life? Give some reasons for your answer.
6.6 Case study: the growth of China’s megacities

In 2012, there were two megacities in China – Shanghai and Beijing. By 2025, six new Chinese megacities with populations of 10 million people are expected to emerge. By this time, 1 billion Chinese people will be living in cities. This is a remarkable change in a country where only 20 per cent of people lived in urban areas in 1990.

The beginning of this change can be traced back to the late 1970s and 1980s. At that time, the Chinese Government began to introduce policies and laws that encouraged economic growth. The goal was to turn China from a country of farmers into a country of business people and factory workers. Businesses and factories soon started to pop up in most Chinese cities, and people began to move from the countryside to take advantage of new job opportunities. Global demand for Chinese goods meant the numbers of business people and factory workers quickly increased. Overseas companies struggled to compete with Chinese manufacturers on price. Many started moving factories to China to take advantage of China’s cheap factories and factory workers.

As a result, many workers moved to the cities. In the late 1970s and 1980s, the Chinese Government allowed workers to live in urban areas. In 1982, the Government changed the rules that governed people who worked in the cities. This policy encouraged more people to move to the cities, and one result was that the Chinese Government created six new megacities. These are expected to have populations of 10 million people by 2025.

CHINA: POPULATION OF LARGEST CITIES, 2005 AND 2025

One of the fastest growing cities in China is Shenzhen in Guangdong Province. In 1980, Shenzhen was a small fishing village with a population of about 10 000. Today, it is home to almost 10 million people. A recent study estimated that about 80 per cent of Shenzhen’s population are migrants to the city from rural areas across China.

One of these migrants is Zhao. He moved from his home in rural Hunan Province in 1998 after friends convinced him that he could make more money as a taxi driver in the city than as a farmer.

As a migrant, Zhao is not entitled to have a licence that allows him to own land in Shenzhen. This licence (known as Hukou) recognises people as official residents of the city, and without it Zhao feels unwelcome in Shenzhen. Zhao intends to move back to Hunan when his son finishes high school because it has become very difficult to earn enough money as a taxi driver. This is mainly due to traffic congestion and rising petrol prices. In Hunan he intends to return to farming his 0.5 hectare plot of land and to care for his parents, who are becoming too old to farm the land.

For more information on the key concept of place, refer to page xx of ‘The geography toolkit’.

Dreams of returning home

Competition among taxi drivers in Shenzhen is fierce. As a migrant, Zhao is not entitled to have a licence to own land in Shenzhen. This licence (known as Hukou) recognises people as official residents of the city, and without it Zhao feels unwelcome in Shenzhen. Zhao intends to move back to Hunan when his son finishes high school because it has become very difficult to earn enough money as a taxi driver. This is mainly due to traffic congestion and rising petrol prices. In Hunan he intends to return to farming his 0.5 hectare plot of land and to care for his parents, who are becoming too old to farm the land.

For more information on the key concept of place, refer to page xx of ‘The geography toolkit’.

Check your learning 6.6

Remember and understand
1. Why are China’s cities growing so rapidly?
2. Why are people moving to China’s cities?

Apply and analyse
3. As a country, how does China benefit from people moving to cities?
4. How many megacities (over 10 million people) were there in China in 2000? How many are there expected to be in 2025? Why is this number expected to change?

Evaluate and create
5. In which regions of China are the cities expected to grow most rapidly? Discuss some of the reasons for this pattern with a partner. Can you find one aspect of the natural environment responsible for this pattern and one aspect of the human environment?
6. Read about the growth of Australia’s cities under ‘Population movements in Australia’ earlier in this chapter. Compare the reasons for this growth with the reasons for the growth of China’s megacities. What are the similarities and the differences?
6A rich task

Population movements in India

In terms of area Australia is the sixth biggest country in the world, with a population of around 23 million. The seventh largest country in the world is India, with a population closer to 1.2 billion. This is more than 50 times greater than Australia’s population.

Whichever way you look at it, India’s population is immense. India is the second most populous country on Earth after China. By 2030, India is expected to overtake China as the most populous country.

While many people think of crowded megacities when they think of India, most Indians live in small rural villages. In fact, more than half the population lives in small communities of fewer than 5000 people.

Apply the skill

1. Study Sources 2 to 5 and complete the following tasks, giving reasons for your answers.
   a. Which of these graphs best shows why many Indians choose to move to urban areas?
   b. Are conditions better in rural areas or urban areas?
   c. Which of these graphs best shows the impact of movement to the cities?
   d. Which of these graphs best shows how India’s population is changing over time?
   e. Which of these graphs best shows where most people in India live?
   f. The definition of a city varies between countries. One common measure is a place with more than 20,000 inhabitants. By this definition, what percentage of Indians live in cities?

Extend your understanding

1. On an A3 piece of paper, construct a sketch of Lee’s migration model as it applies to the cities of India. Use Source 3 on page xx as a guide to setting this out. Use the information from Source 2 to decide on the push and pull factors that attract migrants to India’s cities.
Modern Australia has been created and shaped by national and international population movements. From the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 – loaded with almost 1500 convicts, sailors and soldiers – Australia has been populated by waves of immigrants. First, penal colonies at Sydney, Port Arthur and Fremantle were established. Then large numbers of migrants from Great Britain and Ireland came to establish towns and farms. By the 1860s, more than three-quarters of the population were of Anglo-Celtic origin and this figure remains at about 70 per cent to this day. From the middle of the 19th century, immigrants arrived from across Asia and the Pacific Islands, and continued to flow from Europe. They were attracted by various factors, such as gold, work and the promise of a new life.

During the 1900s, immigrants from Britain continued to dominate. An immigration policy that discriminated against all non-white migrants (known as the White Australia Policy) was enacted in the first days of the new nation in 1901 and remained until the 1970s. The end of World War II in 1945 saw waves of immigrants come to Australia from southern European countries, such as Italy and Greece. As immigration policies were freed up, these waves were followed by others from the Middle East, Asia and South America. Australian society is therefore very different from that in long-established countries in Europe and Asia. Just like the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Argentina, this country is largely a nation of immigrants.

Multicultural Australia

Today, Australia is considered by many to be a multicultural country. This description acknowledges that the people of Australia come from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. In 'The People of Australia: Australia’s Multicultural Policy’, the Australian Government states that ‘multiculturalism is in Australia’s national interest and speaks to fairness and inclusion. It enhances respect and support for cultural, religious and linguistic diversity.’ On 21 March each year, many Australian schools and communities celebrate Australia’s cultural diversity by holding Harmony Day events.

Check your learning 6.7

1. What is multiculturalism?
2. Examine Source 1 showing miners on the gold fields during the gold rush. How did this event change the environment and the population of Australia?

Apply and analyse

3. Australia’s current government policy states that multiculturalism is in Australia’s national interest. What reasons does it give for this? Do you agree? Why/why not?

Evaluate and create

4. Conduct some research into the impacts of international migration on the original Indigenous Australians. What effect did it have?
6.8 The changing face of Australia

Australia is a multicultural nation – that is, a nation of many cultures. Australia’s cultural diversity is due mainly to our history. Our population is made up of our Indigenous peoples, the descendants of our British colonial past, and immigrants from the world’s many countries and cultures. Modern Australia is largely a land of immigrants and their children. In 2011, 26 per cent of Australia’s population was born overseas, and a further 20 per cent had at least one overseas-born parent. Today in Australia there are people from more than 200 countries.

The ancestry of Australians

The Australian census, which is taken every five years, asks every Australian to identify their ancestry. They may identify up to two ancestries in their answer. Source 5.10 shows the top 10 ancestries recorded in the 2006 census.

Some geographers also use the term ethnicity to refer to a person’s heritage. Ethnicity combines elements of language, place of origin and culture.

Language diversity

The number of languages spoken in a particular country is a good indicator of cultural diversity. English is the dominant language in Australia. Fewer than 1 in 100 Australians cannot speak English. Despite this, more than 200 other languages are spoken in Australian homes every day. The most common include Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic and Mandarin. At the time of European settlement in 1788, it is estimated that more than 250 distinct Indigenous languages were spoken in Australia. Today, this number has fallen to fewer than 150. Of these, fewer than 20 are considered to be strong languages, spoken by all generations.

Patterns of international migration

Patterns of migration to Australia have been shaped by events and policies in Australia and in other parts of the world. For example, at the end of World War II, Australia took in large numbers of migrants from Europe who had been forced from their homes by the war. The proportion of the overseas-born population from Europe was 52 per cent in 2001, but this reduced to 40 per cent in 2011 as the number of migrants from Asia and New Zealand increased.
6B What are the reasons for, and effects of, international migration in Australia?

Economic benefits of international migration

As well as social benefits, population movements have the potential to provide many economic benefits. This is most apparent in the contributions that migrants make to the economies of the places they move to. Migrants often fill gaps in the labour market by providing essential skills. The Department of Immigration publishes a list of skilled occupations with shortages of applicants in Australia. Potential immigrants with these skills can then apply for citizenship to the country. Jobs in hospitality, also rely heavily on migrant labour. Some other sectors of the economy, such as agriculture and medicine, construction and education are currently high on this list. The seasonal nature of fruit and vegetable growing, for example, means that growers need a large workforce for a short period of time. Groups of pickers move between different regions of Australia depending on the crop and time of year. Some of these groups are made up of migrants from similar backgrounds, such as Pacific Islanders or Vietnamese, while overseas backpackers are also an important source of this labour. Whether its tomatoes in Bowen between May and October, mangoes in Cairns between November and December, or apples and pears in Shepparton between February and May, there are tens of thousands of workers following the harvest and contributing their skills and money to the local economy.

Family reunions

Many families can become disconnected through the migration process. This is particularly the case for refugees. Ten-year-old Neema Mukasa was finally reunited with her father at Melbourne airport in 2006 after being separated for six years. In 2000, at the age of four, she was separated from her family, including her twin sister, while fleeing a civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Neema’s mother was killed in the violence and her father applied to bring his five remaining children to Australia. They were accepted as refugees under the Australian Government’s Humanitarian Program and settled in Shepparton in country Victoria. During an interview with the local school principal, Mr. Mukasa told the story of his lost daughter. The principal contacted the Red Cross and through their tracing service they were able to locate Neema who was living in Nairobi with her uncle. He had desperately tried to find the little girl’s missing family and had walked through five countries trying to catch up with them. This remarkable journey took them through a series of refugee camps over four years until they eventually reached Nairobi. After contact had been made between Africa and Australia, the family applied to the Department of Immigration for Neema to be able to come to Shepparton and she was reunited with her family. Although this is just one example of an immigration story, it gives an idea of the types of responses to population movements at various levels. The Shepparton community responds at the local level by providing education and a safe place to live and work for new immigrants. The Department of Immigration operates at the national scale by assessing the refugee claims of thousands of applicants, and the Red Cross operates at the international level in response to disasters and humanitarian crises.

Check your learning 6.8

Remember and understand
1. What does the term ‘multicultural’ mean?
2. What percentage of Australians in 2011 were either born overseas or had a parent born overseas?
3. Study Source 3. What were the source countries of most Australians born overseas in 2011?
4. Why do the numbers of migrants coming to Australia change over time?
5. List the different categories of migrants and provide one example for each.

Apply and analyse
6. See if your class is typical of the Australian population by asking each student to identify their ancestry. They may name one or two ancestries. Compare your results to those described in the 2006 census (Source 2).
7. Study the graph in Source 4.
   a. Which category provides most migrants to Australia?
   b. When did most skilled migrants enter Australia? Why might the numbers have increased at this time?
   c. How does the number of humanitarian migrants compare to the other groups? What factors do you think might increase or decrease this category of migrant?

Evaluate and create
8. What does the ancestry of modern Australians (Source 2) tell you about our past? How do you think this will change over the next 50 years?
6.9 Migrant communities in Australian cities

Many people immigrating to Australia choose to start their new lives in areas of a city where people with a similar cultural background have also settled. Over time, these suburbs can develop particular characteristics that reflect the cultures of the people who live there. For example, the Melbourne suburb of Sunshine is home to a large Maltese population, while the Sydney suburb of Marrickville is home to a large Greek population.

New arrivals tend to settle in the same areas for a variety of reasons. The houses there may be affordable, they may have family or friends close by, or there may be a number of community groups and support services nearby. These services might include emergency accommodation, translation services, adult language and education centres, employment agencies and accommodation services (such as Centrelink and Department of Housing). These areas may also provide important social institutions (such as places of worship), and meeting places and shops selling familiar items (such as food, utensils and clothing).

For people from non-English-speaking backgrounds, an important factor that pulls them to live in certain suburbs is the presence of professionals (such as doctors, lawyers and accountants), shopkeepers and other people who speak their language. This can be vital in order to carry out their day-to-day lives.

Case study: the Chinese community in Hurstville, Sydney

The suburb of Hurstville in Sydney’s south is an example of an area with what geographers call a high ethnic concentration. From a total population of around 26,000 residents in 2011, 68 per cent were born overseas and eight out of 10 speak more than one language. Since European settlement of Australia, Hurstville has seen several waves of immigration. First, it was mainly home to people of British and Irish heritage; then came a wave of southern European migrants, largely from Greece and Italy; followed by people from Bosnia, Macedonia and, the former Yugoslavia. Since the 1990s it has mainly become home to people arriving from Hong Kong and mainland China.

Chinese immigration to Australia dates back to the 1820s, but grew rapidly in response to the gold rushes of the 1850s and 1860s. During the 20th century a series of government policies (including the White Australia Policy) restricted the number of immigrants from Asian countries to Australia, but since these policies were abandoned in the 1970s there has been a steady increase in the numbers of Chinese people settling in Australia. Today, China is second only to New Zealand in terms of migrant numbers to Australia.

Check your learning 6.9

Remember and understand
1. Why do people from the same language and cultural backgrounds tend to settle in the same areas of a city?
2. Studies show that English-speaking migrants arriving in Australia tend not to settle in groups as much as non-English-speaking migrants. Why do you think this is the case?
Apply and analyse
3. Use the PQE method to describe the distribution of residents from Chinese backgrounds shown in Source 3. If necessary, refer to page xx of ‘The geography toolkit’ for instructions on using the PQE method.
4. How can the arrival of large numbers of people from similar cultural and language backgrounds change the areas in which they settle?
Evaluate and create
   a. Use the country of birth data to construct a bar graph of the top 10 languages spoken at home.
   b. Compare your completed bar graph with the graph for Hurstville shown in Source 2. What similarities and differences can you identify?
The population of the Darung people around Botany Bay, for example, fell by 90 per cent in three years following the arrival of European settlers. In some places there was open conflict between the Indigenous tribes and the white settlers, but armed with rifles, the new arrivals nearly always won. As the Indigenous populations were forced from their traditional lands, many were placed in missions and reserves.

Today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have one of the lowest life expectancies in the world. They are under-represented in government, education and employment and over-represented in prisons when compared with the wider Australian population.

Reading complex maps

Complex maps contain more than one set of information to understand.

Step 1 Look carefully at the legend. Complex maps can have more than one part to a legend. These parts will be represented on the map in different ways. For example in Source 2 areas of colour are used to show the different types of Indigenous land across Australia. Different coloured symbols are used to show a range of significant sites.

Step 2 Train your eyes to look for one set of information at a time. For example, look at the solid blocks of colour on the map and work out what they tell you.

Step 3 Move to a different set of information and work out what that represents.

Step 4 Look for concentrations of the same symbol in areas to see if patterns exist.

Apply the skill

Study Source 2.

1. Describe where the largest areas of Indigenous-owned land (freehold) are located.
2. Which state has no Indigenous owned or leased land over 100 square kilometres?
3. The significant sites are harder to pick out on this crowded map, but the colours help them stand out. Describe the location of the Myall Creek massacre site. List the other massacre sites in Australia and state their locations.
4. Many art sites are only for Australia’s Indigenous people. Where in South Australia is a significant Indigenous art site?

Extend your understanding

1. Give three examples of how international migration to Australia impacted on Australia’s Indigenous population.
2. Do some research on another Indigenous group, such as the Maori in New Zealand or the First Nations people of North America.
   a. How was this group affected by early international migration?
   b. How did this group respond to early international migration?
   c. Find out their life expectancy, employment and imprisonment rates compared with the rest of their country’s population. How do these compare with those of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander people?

Source 1 This plaque commemorates the 28 unarmed Aboriginal people massacred in retaliation for cattle theft at Myall Creek in NSW in 1838.

Source 2 Source: Oxford University Press