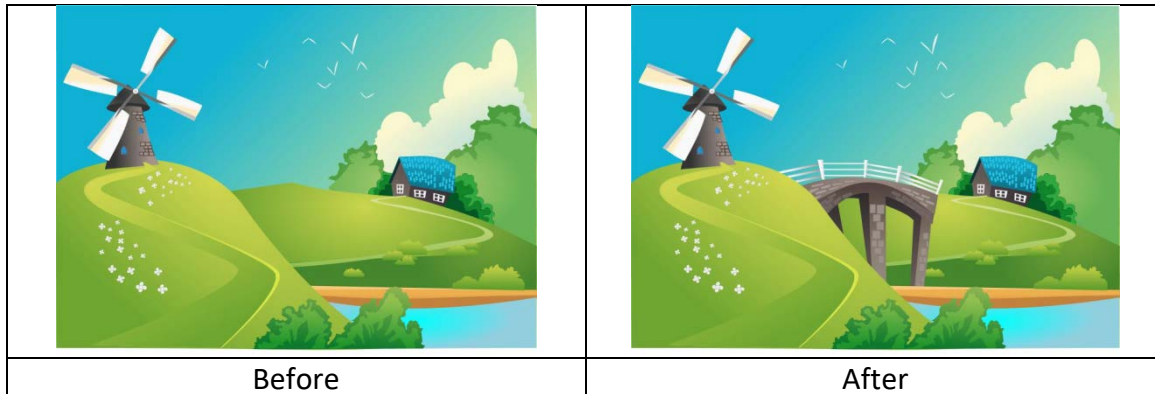# Human Landscapes – Teacher Notes

Human activities can cause changes to our landscape

It is easiest to demonstrate changes in landscape by drawing "Before" and "After" sketches.

Before	After

Practice comparing "Before" and "After" sketches. What changed in the landscape in the above pictures? **A bridge was built.**
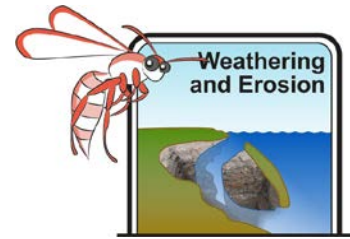
Scenario 1

Tourism is becoming important in a small town. The council has decided to build a road up a small hill which is covered in lots of trees. They will also build a lookout platform at the top for tourists to take photographs of the view across the river. This means they will have to provide parking, toilets, and rubbish bins, too.

Method

- Draw a "Before" sketch of the original landscape, and an "After" sketch of changes to the landscape caused by the human activity.
  - Don't forget to write labels to help describe your pictures!

Hints: Can roads go straight up a steep hillside, or do roads need to curve around a hill? Would tall trees get in the way of the view from the lookout platform? Can cars park on a steep slope, or do they need a flat place for a carpark? What else might council want to build besides toilets and rubbish bins?

The "Before" sketch should be of a small tree covered hill. The "After" sketch should have trees knocked down to clear space for the road. Any rivers would have to be bridged and their drainage channels changed. The road would have to rise slowly round the hill so ordinary cars would be able to drive up the incline. The top of the hill would have to be cleared of trees to give good all round views. A flat parking spot park would have to be created. The sketch should include toilets and rubbish bins, and maybe other structures like a food kiosk, visitor centre, and signs.

Pick TWO of the following scenarios:
   a. A growing town dams the local river to create a water reservoir.
   b. The nearby old coal-fired factory with their tall chimneys and big rubbish piles has closed down, and the council will rehabilitate that land to create a park for people to enjoy.
   c. The community has grown and now needs an airport for the Flying Doctor Service. The council will probably build the airport on a marshy area at the edge of town.
   d. Skateboarders have raised money to build a skateboard park on the school oval.
   e. A new road has caused more storm water runoff to flow into the nearby river, causing flooding of the new suburb.
   f. A farmer cleared away old trees and scrub from a farming area, but this caused the level of groundwater to rise, and now salt water has risen to the surface.

For each scenario, create a "Before" sketch of the original landscape, and an "After" sketch of changes to the landscape caused by the human activity. Write the scenarios you chose at the top of each box, and label the changes in your drawings.

Answers will vary depending on the scenario chosen, encourage students to think about all impacts on the landscapes.

Extension
We tend to concentrate on the negative aspect of human actions on landscape. Can you think of examples where human action can provide positive results? Write a list below and explain how human activity can make the landscape better than it was before.

Some examples might be:
   • Dredging of shallow river mouths to provide safe harbor for ships
   • Draining marshes which may host dangerous mosquitos
   • Clearing away dangerous slopes left by avalanches after major rains or snowfall.
   • Improving access to National Parks for recreation and creation of raised walkways so that people can visit and not damage vegetation
   • Building a water pipe linking Mundaring Weir and Kalgoorlie to bring fresh water to the Goldfields.

Note: You might discuss with students what they mean by the word "better" – some human actions might be good for some reasons (e.g. improving human health or economics), but at the same time bad for other reasons (e.g. destroying habitat). It's good to weigh both the pros and cons of human actions.