

STAGE 1:

BECOMING A

TOWN PLANNER

Introduction

Before students can begin to explore the process of planning a new suburb, it is important for them to explore the role of the person who does the planning – the town planner. Understanding what town planners do, where they work and what they are responsible for will help students understand why town planners have to consider issues other than marking out areas on a map.

Key points

Town planners have to consider many issues other than drawing on maps.

Objective

Students will establish a broad understanding about becoming a town planner.

Note: It is important to establish this upfront as students will need to “put the town planning cap on” and role-play exercises in stages 2,3 and 4.

Outcomes

Students will begin to understand:

- what town planners do;
- where town planners work;
- what town planners are responsible for;
- the different type of town planners; and
- what the future holds for town planners.

Learning activities

There are six exercises to complete in this stage.

Exercises one to five require students to discuss possible answers to a question in groups of four. Teacher prompts are provided.

Exercise six includes a handout to be completed individually, with the responses discussed in groups of four and answers used as revision.

Resources needed

- Full set of markers (pencils, pens, textas etc)
- Stage 1: Becoming a town planner: Handout 1

Exercise 1

What town planners do

Outcome to be achieved

- Understand what town planners do in their daily work.

Step 1

Ask students to **work in groups of four**. This will be their working group for the remainder of this exercise.

Step 2

Explain that before they can start planning a suburb, they have to understand what a town planner is, what they do and what they are responsible for. This is important as all of them **will have to “put on the town planner’s cap”** in stages 2, 3 and 4.

Step 3

Ask the students to **discuss what they think town planners do**.

Teacher’s prompts

Town planners:

- **look after** the way **suburbs, cities and regions** are built;
- **make sure what they plan is sustainable** (environmentally responsible) and there are **pleasant places in which to live, work and play**;
- are involved in **making decisions** about the **way land is used and other types of developments** (buildings, roads and essential services); and
- try to **balance the needs of communities and the environment**.

End

You have now completed this exercise. The next exercise is Where town planners work.

Exercise 2

Where town planners work

Outcomes to be achieved

- Understand where town planners work.
- Understand the environments in which town planners work

Step 1

In their groups, ask students to **discuss the kinds of places they think town planners would work.**

Teacher's prompts

Town planners can work in a range of places and fields including:

- **Governments and councils;**
- **property development;**
- **private companies;** and
- **with community groups;** and
- **at universities** in research and teaching.

End

You have now completed this exercise. The next exercise is What town planners are responsible for.

Exercise 3

What town planners are responsible for

Outcome to be achieved

- Understand what town planners are responsible for.

Step 1

In their groups, ask students to **discuss the kinds of things they think town planners are responsible for** – what do they have to do in their job?

Teacher's prompts

The kinds of things town planners are responsible for are:

- designing **places** where people live, work and play;
- containing **urban sprawl** (how far cities expand);
- ensuring what they plan is in **balance with the environment**;
- planning for **ongoing growth and economic development**;
- ensuring the places they plan are **exciting and are what the community wants**; and
- ensuring they **talk to the community** before they **make planning decisions**.

End

You have now completed this exercise. The next exercise is The different types of town planners.

Exercise 4

The different types of town planners

Outcome to be achieved

- Understand the different type of town planners

Step 1

In their groups, ask students to **discuss the different types of town planners**.

Teacher's prompts

Town planners may work in or specialise in the following areas:

- **regional and rural planning;**
- **social planning;**
 - accessibility of facilities for persons with a mobility impairment;
 - provision of community facilities and other social infrastructure in terms;
 - safety and crime prevention through urban design; and
 - means of providing affordable housing in Canberra;
- **urban design;**
- **environmental planning and law;**
- **transport planning;**
- **natural resources management;**
- **heritage conservation;**
- **development assessment and community development; and**
- **place, project and major events planning.**

End

You have now completed this exercise. The next exercise is Town planners and the future.

Exercise 5

Town planners and the future

Outcome to be achieved

- Understand what the future holds for town planners.

Step 1

In their groups, ask students to **discuss the kinds of things they think town planners face when planning for the future.**

Teacher's prompts

When planning for the future, town planners have to consider the following kinds of things:

- type of **houses**;
- range of **community facilities**, like schools and shops;
- **more people** (population growth);
- **people getting older**;
- **children growing up**;
- changes in **traffic and roads**; and
- **environmental issues** (water, energy, trees etc).

End

You have now completed this exercise. The next exercise is Handout 1: Becoming a town planner.

Exercise 6

Handout 1: Becoming a town planner

Outcomes to be achieved

- Completion of handout 1 based on previous exercises
- Demonstrated knowledge about becoming a town planner.

Step 1

Ask students to **work individually** and fill out the **Stage 1: Becoming a town planner: Handout 1**.

Step 2

Once students have finished the handout, ask them to **share their answers with their group**.

Step 3

Run the students through the handout answers, using the **answers as revision**.

Name: _____ Stage 1: BECOMING A TOWN PLANNER

Planning Explained: Primary School Education Kit

Handout 1

Question: What do town planners help build?

Put a tick in the correct boxes.

<input type="checkbox"/> Cities	<input type="checkbox"/> Skates
<input type="checkbox"/> Towns	<input type="checkbox"/> Shopping centres
<input type="checkbox"/> Shopping centres	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Computers
<input type="checkbox"/> Computers	<input type="checkbox"/> Suburbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Suburbs	

Question: What do town planners do?

Use the word bank to complete the sentences.

WORD BANK: cities, regions, suburbs, environmentally responsible, pleasant

Planners help to build _____ and _____.
They make sure they are _____, _____ responsible and pleasant places in which to _____ and _____.


Question: What are the different kinds of town planners?

Circle 5 different kinds of town planners.

• Regional and rural planners	• Transport planners
• Social planners	• Heritage conservation planners
• Working planners	• Holiday planners
• Environmental planners	

Question: What kind of tools do town planners use?

Circle the tools you believe a town planner would use.



Answers to Question 1:

- Shopping centres
- Recreation parks
- Suburbs
- Cities
- Towns
- Skate parks
- Swimming pools

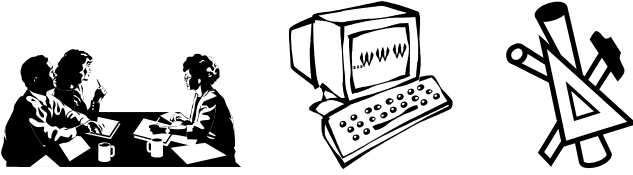
Answers to question 2:

Planners help to build **cities, regions and suburbs**. They make sure they are **environmentally** responsible and pleasant places in which to **work, live, and play**.

Answers to question 3:

- Transport planners
- Heritage conservation planners
- Regional and rural planners
- Social planners
- Environmental planners

Answer to question 4:



Step 4

Ask the group "Are you ready to become town planners and plan a new suburb?"

End

You have now completed this stage. The next stage is **Planning a Suburb**.

Well done!