

## Teacher instructions

### Select a site and plan the excursion

- Choose a site with a landscape that has built and natural features.
- Follow your school's excursion and variation of routine policy.
- Ensure that you complete a risk assessment plan of the location.

### Prepare students in the classroom

- Explain the purpose of a field sketch.
- Watch [Conducting a Field Sketch \(Video\)](#).
- Show example field sketches (we have provided two in this handout)
- Prepare templates by drawing horizontal lines and labelling background, middle ground and foreground.

### Prepare materials

- Pencils
- Rubbers
- Rulers
- Clipboards (or cardboard/book)
- Compasses
- Phone with google maps (for latitude/longitude)
- Copies of "Field sketch: Student instructions & template"

### On the excursion

- Outline safety at the site.
- Review student instructions.
- Look at landscape together. Identify objects in the background, middle ground and foreground as a class.
- Using a compass, determine which direction is north and label it on their sketches.
- Using a phone, determine the latitude and longitude & take a photo of the site.
- Give students approximately 15-20 minutes to complete the field sketch.
- Remind them to add annotations (labels), describe the weather, and write a title.

### Post excursion

- Evaluate their sketches.
- Encourage reflection: What did they learn about the site through their observations and sketches? What are the impacts of the built features on the environment?
- Compare their sketches to the photo from the day. Discuss the advantages/disadvantages of using sketches vs. photos.
- How do their sketches help with future studies of that site?

## Student instructions

In geography, we use field sketches to record information when studying places outside.

**Your task:** Draw a field sketch of your view.

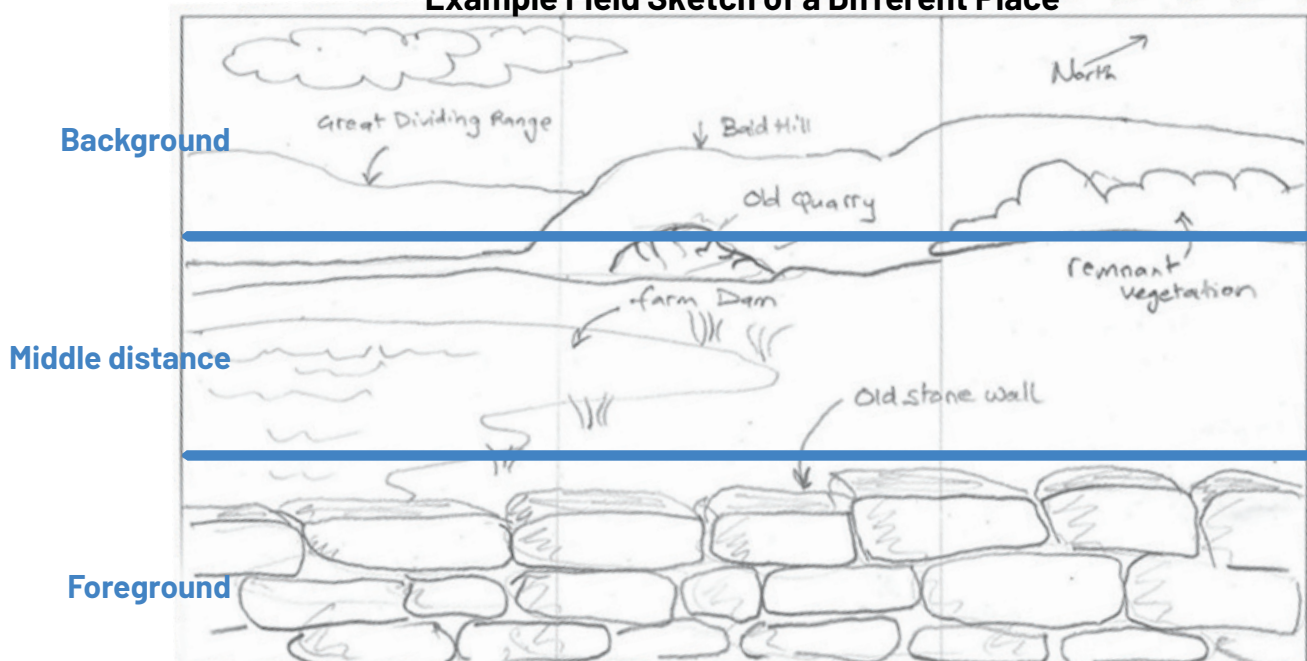
### How to make a field sketch

1. Observe the place (landscape).
2. Select key features.
3. Divide the sketch box into thirds:
  - Background (farthest)
  - Middle distance
  - Foreground (closest)
4. Draw the background objects as the smallest and least detailed. Include the horizon (if possible).
5. Draw the middle ground objects slightly larger and more detailed than those in the background.
6. Draw the foreground with the largest, most detailed objects.
7. Add shading and textures.
8. **Annotate** key geographical features in your field sketch.
9. Give your field sketch a **heading**.
10. Use a compass to **locate north** and label the direction on your sketch.

**Remember: Don't make your field sketch too cluttered!**

**Note:** When drawing a field sketch, you should not seek to reproduce every element of the place (landscape) being observed.

### Example Field Sketch of a Different Place



Field sketch of: **Bald Hill**

Compass direction: **Looking northwest**

Describe the weather today: **slightly cloudy, no rain, light rain, 22 degrees Celsius**

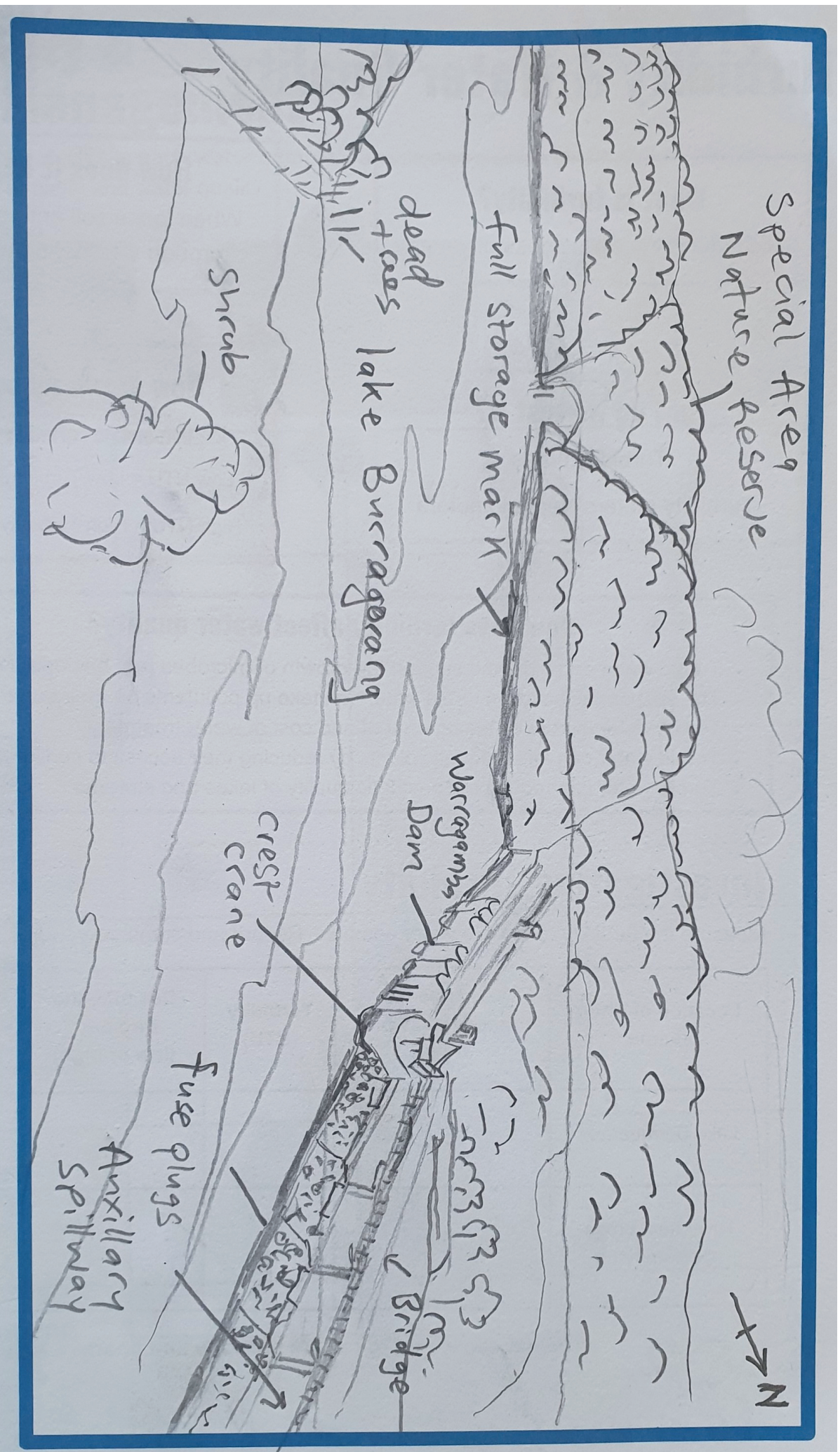
Field sketch of \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude & Longitude of the site: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the weather: \_\_\_\_\_





Field sketch of Warragamba Dam and Lake Burrangrang from the Visitor Centre

Latitude & Longitude of the site: -33.88641234516892, 150.59777454001252

Date/ Time: 11 Dec 2025 / 8:30am

Describe the weather: Sunny, some cloud cover, hot, low wind