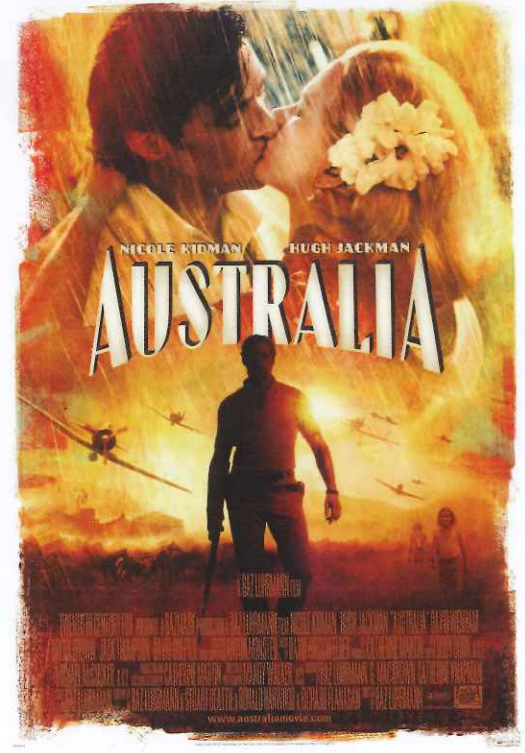


1.2 How are landforms and landscapes valued by people?

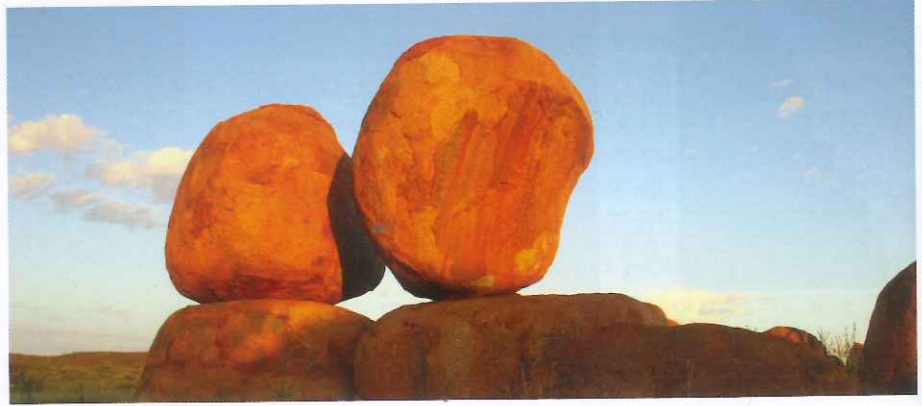
Valuing landforms and landscapes

Landforms and landscapes around the world are valued by many different people for many different reasons. Some people may feel a deep personal connection to a particular landscape, while others are more interested in the money that can be earned from it. The value a person attaches to a particular landscape often depends on factors such as their age, occupation, education, cultural background and experiences. In general, geographers divide the ways in which people value landforms and landscapes into four categories:

- cultural value
- spiritual value
- aesthetic value
- economic value.



Source 1.15 This poster for the film *Australia* reflects the colours of the Australian outback. It is an example of how the Australian landscape has cultural value.



Source 1.16 Karlu Karlu (also known as The Devil's Marbles) is sacred to Indigenous Australians. This is an example of how landforms can have spiritual value.

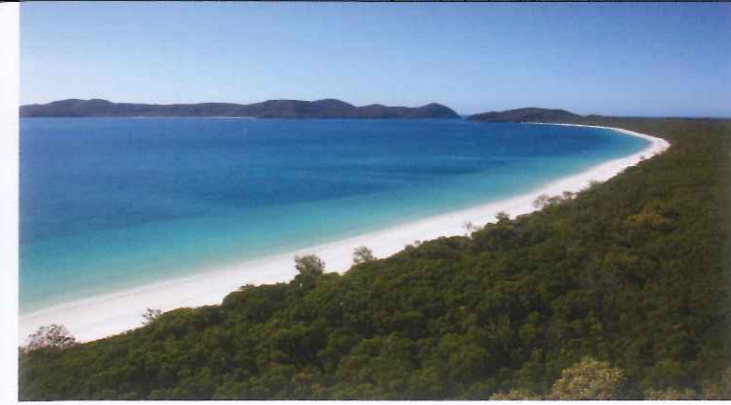
Cultural value

Cultural value is linked to the importance of landforms and landscapes as expressed by people through creative means such as poetry, literature, art and films. Australia's landscapes and landforms have shaped Australian culture and identity. The film *Australia*, shown in Source 1.15, was a box-office hit in Australia. Set in northern Australia at the start of World War II, the film features the vast, unforgiving landscapes of the outback, as well as the tropical landscape of the Far North. These unique landscapes have a transformative effect on the English Lady Sarah Ashley, and by the end of the film she feels Australian.

Indigenous Australians express the importance of the land to them through Dreamtime stories, song and dance, and their art. Nearly all Aboriginal art relates to the landscape and maps the landscape and the landforms of importance to the Indigenous community.

Spiritual value

For Indigenous Australians the spiritual value of land is expressed through the concept of 'Country'. Indigenous peoples believe that the myths of their Dreamtime bind them to the land. They also believe that their ancestors live on through the land and ensure their continued connection with it. Landscapes contain many sacred sites of spiritual importance. Uluru, for example, is a sacred place to the Anangu people who live in the area. They believe that in the Dreamtime, a great sand hill was transformed into this rock along with the Kunia people who lived there.



Source 1.17 Unique and beautiful landscapes along the Australian coast are an example of aesthetic value.

Aesthetic value

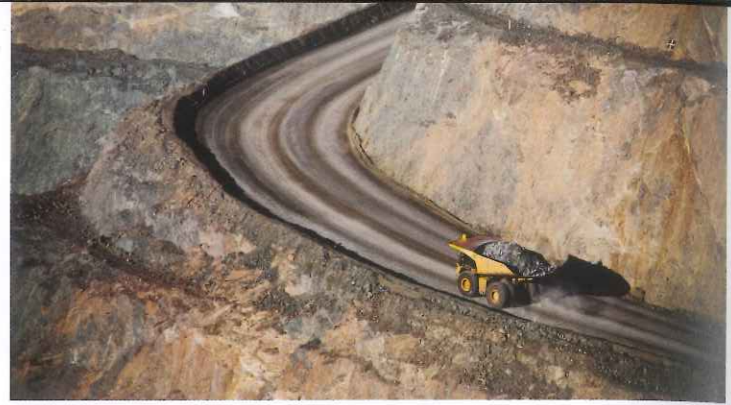
The aesthetic value of a landscape is closely linked to its beauty and uniqueness. The aesthetic value attached to a place is always subjective (personal). People are drawn to places for many reasons. Being surrounded by the beauty of the landscape may give someone a sense of freedom, stability and wellbeing. An individual might be drawn to a particular landform because of its overwhelming majesty, creating a personal connection to that place.

The aesthetic value of the landscape to the community has been recognised through the creation of national parks, where land has been set aside for the public's use and enjoyment. The first national park in Australia, the Royal National Park, south of Sydney, was established in 1879. There are now 516 national parks.

Economic value

Economic value is a measurement of how financially important landscapes and landforms are. Economic value is particularly relevant to the tourism and mining industries in Australia. Tourism Victoria, for example, wants regular visitors to its state because people who travel spend money on accommodation, transport, food, souvenirs and activities. This money provides income for the tourism and hospitality industries and the State of Victoria. The Great Ocean Road is a landscape in Victoria with a high economic value due to its popularity with tourists.

Mining is the process of extracting natural resources from within the earth. These resources are sold, processed and used to manufacture a variety of goods – from jewellery to toys, to construction materials. The mining industry attaches economic value to landscapes that contain sought-after metals and minerals like coal and gold.



Source 1.18 Landscapes with high mineral and metal deposits are an example of economic value.

Competing values

The same landscape can be valued by different people for different reasons. To a mining corporation, the economic value of a landscape might be most important. To an Indigenous Australian community, however, the spiritual value may be most important. Then again, an artist might appreciate the aesthetic value of a landform. All these values are important to consider when deciding on how a landscape is best put to use.

Check your learning 1.3

Remember and understand

- 1 Describe the concept of 'value'.
- 2 What does it mean for a landscape to have aesthetic value?
- 3 What does it mean for a landscape to have cultural value?

Apply and analyse

- 4 Look carefully at Source 1.18.
 - a Which value is being attached to this source?
 - b What groups of people are most likely to have a different opinion as to the value of this landscape? Create a table to show the groups and their possible opinions.
 - c What reasons might you list to account for, or explain, these differences of opinion?

Evaluate and create

- 5 Research a book, poem, movie or website that has cultural value for Australia, or a country or place that you feel connected to. Create a digital poster on Glogster (<http://edu.glogster.com/>) or use another design program to present your findings. Include the title of the work, its author, a blurb about it and an image to represent it. Most importantly, provide three reasons why you feel it has particular cultural significance.