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978-1-107-61773-5 - History, Geography and Civics: Teaching and Learning in the Primary Years

John Buchanan

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History, Geography and Civics

Teaching and learning
in the primary years

History, Geography and Civics provides an in-depth and engaging introduction to teaching and learning socio-environmental education for F–6 in Australia. It explores the centrality of socio-environmental issues to all aspects of life and education and makes explicit links between pedagogical theories and the classroom activities that may derive from them.

The book is divided into two main parts: content areas and processes. Part 1 introduces readers to teaching and learning history, geography and environmental studies, and civics and citizenship, as well as issues in intercultural and global education. Part 2 explores the use of media and sources, values and attitudes, assessment and creative teaching.

Each chapter provides links to the Australian Curriculum, including the general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities: sustainability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, and Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia. Activities and further reading lists are incorporated throughout, with supplementary resources available at www.cambridge.edu.au/academic/hgc.

History, Geography and Civics encourages the reader to consider their own beliefs, values and attitudes in relation to their teaching and includes provocations and reflective questions to foster discussion and engagement.

John Buchanan is Associate Professor in Social and Environmental Education at the University of Technology, Sydney, where he also coordinates International Programs. He is a past president and journal editor of the NSW Primary Human Society and its Environment Teachers' Association.

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This book is dedicated to all the great, inspiring and
tireless teachers out there, including my ex-students,
who have given me so many good ideas along the way.
And to all those who love to learn.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ABC – Australian Broadcasting Corporation

ACARA – Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

AEC – Australian Electoral Commission

BBC – British Broadcasting Corporation

CALD – culturally and linguistically diverse (this term attempts to avoid an ‘English-centric’ term such as LOTE or NESB)

CASEL – Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning

DEST – Department of Education, Science and Training

DET – Department of Education and Training

DEWHA – Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

ESL – English as a second language

F – Foundation (the first year of compulsory schooling).

GIS – Geographic Information Systems

HSIE – Human Society and its Environment

KWL – (what we) Know, (what we) Want to learn, and (what we) Learnt

LOTE – languages other than English

MCEETYA – Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs

MCG – Melbourne Cricket Ground

NESB – non-English-speaking background. Some people dislike this term as they see it as ‘deficit’ or negative, defining someone in terms of what they’re not. ESL (English as a second language) or EAL (English as an additional language) are preferred by some. Keep in mind that English might be someone’s third, or more, language.

NSW BOS – New South Wales Board of Studies

PMI – plus, minus, interesting

POE – predict, observe, explain

RMS – Royal Mail Ship

UN – United Nations

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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