

3.1 Why we live where we do

The liveability of any place is closely linked to how suitable and enjoyable you think that place is to live in. How liveable you find a place to be depends on your own wants and needs and whether they are met. What we like about places can depend on our age, income, cultural background, lifestyle, values and beliefs. The following questions will help you to determine the features of places that make them most liveable to you.

What do you like to do?

Access to services and facilities that allow us to do the things we enjoy has an effect on what we think of the place we live. This, in turn, increases how highly we rate its liveability.

Sport and recreation play an important part in our lives. Team sports (such as netball, football and soccer) can be played in most places. Community facilities (such as sports stadiums and sporting parks) are provided in most communities. If your passion is surfing, you might consider a coastal town more liveable than an inland town. Horse riders might prefer to live in a rural area or on the edge of a city, close to open spaces where they can keep their horses.



Source 1 Some activities, such as netball, require lots of space.



Source 2 Busy streets in cities can make moving around difficult.

Where do you like to go?

The places we like to go to, and how easy they are to get to, also affect the liveability of a place.

Where do you spend most of your time? Do you like to catch up with friends, go to the movies, or shop at the local shopping centre? How do you get there? Do you walk, ride a bike, or catch a bus, tram or train? Think about how easy it is for you to travel from your home to where you like to go. Is it difficult? This could make you feel negatively about where you live, decreasing its liveability. Is there another place you could live that might make it easier for you to travel to where you like to go? If so, this would increase the liveability of that place for you.

What are your favourite places?

We all have places that are special to us. There are many different reasons for this. Some places appeal because of the way they look. This is known as the aesthetic appeal. Others appeal to us because they are familiar or are attached to memories of things we have done. This is known as sentimental appeal. We may even have a spiritual connection with a particular place. Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander peoples have developed very strong connections with their places. Places are a dominant feature of their stories and their lives. These spiritual connections can also increase the liveability of one place over another.

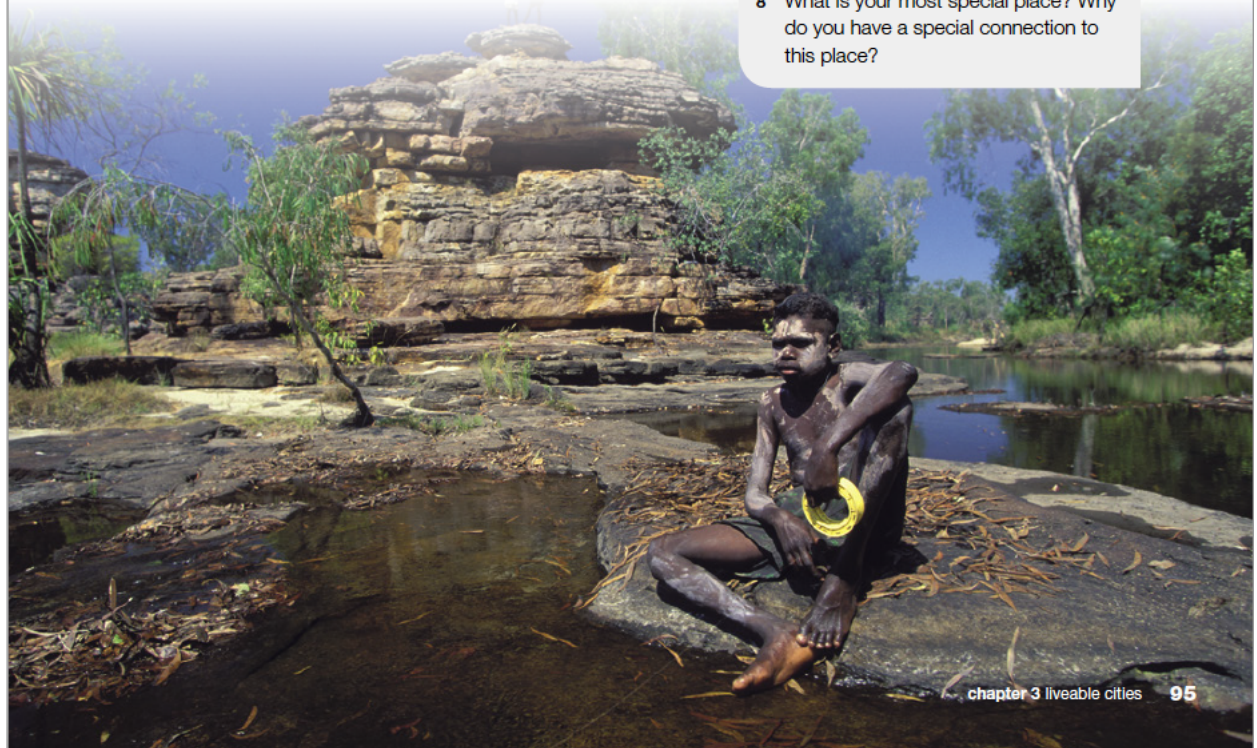
Every year about 5000 Australians are asked to take part in a survey about the factors that they believe make a place liveable. Their replies are often similar to the replies of people from all around the world when asked the same question.

Features of a liveable place

Most people agree that a liveable place:

- offers a temperate (mild) climate
- is easy to get around
- is able to offer good health care, work and education opportunities
- is safe
- is affordable
- is diverse
- is sustainable
- is attractive.

Source 3 An Aboriginal boy fishing in Manbalbirrarri billabong at Djukalajarrang, Arnhem Land. This is a very special place for the Ganjalbingu clan because of important rock art, burial caves and secret and sacred sites. The Ganjalbingu clan feel spiritually connected to this place.



3A What makes a city liveable?

Check your learning 3.1

Remember and understand

- 1 What is meant by the word liveability?
- 2 What characteristics of a place attract us?
- 3 What do you like to do? Where would be a good place to live to enable you to do this?
- 4 Where do you like to go? Where would be a good place to live to enable you to do this?

Apply and analyse

- 5 Imagine that you could live anywhere. Where would you live and why?
- 6 What are the important aspects of liveability that don't need a lot of money?
- 7 Give an example of how a person of your age and a much older person might have different ideas about the liveability of a place.

Evaluate and create

- 8 What is your most special place? Why do you have a special connection to this place?