



All This Was Grass - Teacher's Notes

All This Was Grass

Landscape is all the features you can see in the land.

You may wish to ask the students to highlight words which are used to describe **landscape** in the text.

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My father used to take us on long walks up the **hills** on a Sunday afternoon after dinner. Often we would sit down somewhere with a good **view** to eat a sandwich or munch on an apple. Almost always Dad would say, "Of course, when I was a boy ..." and the whole family would join in and finish the sentence with "... all this was grass".

Dad was talking about the difference between the **farming landscape** of his childhood to one forever changed. His small **village** of about one hundred people had grown to become a **suburb** of a large **town** of many thousands of people. Most of the **grassy fields** he had played in as a boy had been covered by **houses, gardens, supermarkets, parks and factories** and even by a small **gold mine**. Only a few spots of **natural woodland** remain to remind us of how the landscape used to be.

Back then, **wandering gravel tracks** followed the **rises and fall** of the **land**. Now wide **straight black roads** and a **railway** cut across the **countryside** to transport workers to and from the **city**. After major floods forty years ago washed away twenty **houses** and a **church**, **marshes** were drained and **streams** channeled to stop further erosion. The **flattened drained land** was used for building more houses.

When they found gold in the **hill** behind the **railway station**, miners quickly moved in and dug out an **open cut** that eventually removed both the **hill** and the **farm** his uncle had owned. All you can see now is the **small lake** where water has filled the **pit** and **flat topped piles of tailings** left over from the **workings**.





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I wonder what my grandchildren will see if they sit where I am sitting and look where dad and I used to look?

Note: Tailings are what remains of crushed rock after minerals have been removed from them.

What change in the landscape was caused by natural processes such as wind and water? **Floods washed away houses and a church**

List three changes in landscape caused by humans.

Any of: farming to urban, few houses to many, woodland to urban, winding gravel roads to straight black roads, fields to roads and a railway, river and marsh to drained land, channeled streams and flattened land. Hill and farm to open cut mine and tailings

How do you think the father felt when he saw so many changes to the landscape of his childhood? **Any reasonable answer.**

Use your imagination. Draw four landscape changes you could expect to happen over one hundred years onto the picture below.

Landscape Changes - PPP

Students may ask their parents or their extended family (even neighbours) about what changes in local landforms they have noticed in the local area and whether they were caused by natural or man made forces.

These can be boarded and discussed. The **PPP** worksheet is included as a separate worksheet.

This may start a conversation about what is happening in Science this term.



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