

Achievement Standard

Subject Reference	Geography 1.3		
Title	Demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment		
Level	1	Credits	5
		Assessment	External
Subfield	Social Science Studies		
Domain	Geography		
Status	Approved	Status date	27 November 2025
Planned review date	31 December 2029	Date version published	9 December 2025

Purpose Statement

Students are able to demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment.

Achievement Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Explain how natural processes shape an environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Examine how natural processes shape an environment

Explanatory Notes

- 1Demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment involves:
 - describing natural processes and the resulting phenomena within an environment
 - describing impacts on the environment from the natural processes and phenomena
 - including relevant evidence and geographic terminology in the descriptions.
- Explain how natural processes shape an environment involves:
 - explaining how natural processes create phenomena within the environment
 - explaining wider impacts of the natural processes on the environment
 - using evidence and geographic terminology to support the explanation.

Examine how natural processes shape an environment involves:

- examining implications of natural processes for the environment
- using evidence and geographic terminology to develop the explanation.

2 An *environment* refers to a particular geographic area within te taiao that has its own characteristics. For the purposes of this standard, people are considered to be a part of the environment.

3 *Natural processes* can be:

- glacial
- tectonic
- climatic
- coastal
- fluvial.

4 *Phenomena* are types of geographic features, objects, or events that can be mapped. They can exist at a local, regional, national, or global scale. For the purposes of this standard, phenomena are created by natural processes.

Examples include:

- u-shaped valley
- volcanic cone
- floodplain.

Phenomena are more than one phenomenon, for example, a u-shaped valley and a glacier within an environment.

5 *Implications* are real or potential effects, outcomes, or responses for people who live in or near an environment shaped by natural processes.

6 Refer to the NCEA [glossary](#) for Māori, Pacific, and further subject-specific terms and concepts.

7 This achievement standard is derived from the Social Sciences Learning Area at Level 6 of *The New Zealand Curriculum*: Learning Media, Ministry of Education, 2007.

Replacement Information

This achievement standard, AS91932, AS91933, and AS91935 replaced AS91007-AS91014.

Quality Assurance

- 1 Schools and institutions must have been granted consent to assess by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against achievement standards.
- 2 Schools and institutions with consent to assess must engage with the moderation system that applies to those achievement standards.

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference 0233
