



Teacher Resource

# Tuvalu Teens

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Where is Tuvalu? Find on a map. Calculate the distance from Australia to Tuvalu.
2. Why have many Tuvaluans left Tuvalu?
3. Some experts say Tuvalu could be inhabitable by the year 2100. True or false?
4. How is Australia helping people in Tuvalu?
5. What is a falekaupule and why are they important to Tuvaluan people?

## Activity: Comprehension

After watching the BTN Tuvalu Teens story students can answer one or more of the following questions:

- What are some keywords from the BTN story?
- What did you learn from the story? Write a summary.
- Why do you think BTN covered the story?

## Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN Tuvalu Teens story hold a class discussion, using the following questions to start the discussion:

- How are rising sea levels impacting the people and environment of Tuvalu?
- What are some of the challenges Tuvaluan families face moving to another country?
- Do you think larger countries like Australia have a responsibility to support climate vulnerable nations like Tuvalu? Explain your answer.



What did you learn from the story?

What questions do you have about the story?

### EPISODE 22

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### KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the impact of climate change on the Pacific Islands.

### CURRICULUM

#### Geography – Year 5

The geographical diversity and location of places in the Asia region, and its location in relation to Australia.

Australia's interconnections with other countries and how these change people and places.

#### Geography – Year 7

The causes and impacts of an atmospheric or hydrological hazard, and responses from communities and governments.

Factors that influence the decisions people make about where to live, including perceptions of the liveability of places and the influence of environmental quality.

## Activity: Pacific Islands and Climate Change

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Tuvalu Teens story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

### Research Questions

- Why is Tuvalu particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels compared to other countries?
- If people are forced to leave their country because of climate change, what responsibilities do larger, wealthier countries like Australia have to help them?
- What is the Falepili Union? What does Falepili mean in Tuvaluan?
- What impact does rising sea levels in the Pacific Islands have on people, the environment, and the economy? Give one example for each.
- What is the highest point of Tuvalu? Compare to the highest points of other countries.
- What is an atoll? What's the difference between an atoll and an island? Give examples.
- What connections do people in Australia have with the Pacific Islands? (for example, birth, family, heritage, food, holiday, celebrations).

### Diary entry

Imagine you are living in the capital of Tuvalu, Funafuti. Your family has just been accepted into the Falepili Union program, and you are preparing to move to Australia next month.

Write a diary entry (150–200 words) exploring your feelings. Think about:

- What will you miss most about your island home?
- What are you excited or nervous about experiencing in Australia?
- How will you help your new Australian friends understand your Tuvaluan culture?

## Activity: Visual Literacy

In this activity students will analyse a range of photos that show the impact of rising sea levels in the Pacific Islands. Students will choose one or more of the images below and respond to the following questions:

- Describe what you see in the image. What stands out to you the most?
- What does this photo tell us about rising sea levels?
- How does this photo make you feel?
- What question/s would you like to ask about the image?
- Create a caption for each image.



[Source of image](#)



[Source of image](#)



[Source of image](#)



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## Activity: Choose a Project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

### Country Profile

Develop a profile of a country in the Pacific Islands that has been affected by rising sea levels. [Create a postcard](#) using Canva to share some of the things you have learnt.

### Summary

Write a summary of the Tuvalu story. What was the story about? Why did BTN cover this story?

### Did you know?

Using the information in the BTN story and your own research, create a *Did You Know* fact sheet about Tuvalu.

### Where is Tuvalu?

How far is Australia from Tuvalu? Locate and mark on a world map. Find other countries in the Pacific Islands that are affected by rising sea levels, including Kiribati and the Marshall Islands.

## Useful Websites

- [Pacific Islands Climate Change](#) – BTN
- [Tuvalu Resettlement Deal](#) – BTN
- [Pacific Islands Forum](#) – BTN
- [The nation holding back the sea](#) – ABC News
- [Pacific Places](#) – ABC