

Lesson 9 Field Report

During your field trip you collected a range of information about the way in which people use the banks of the Wimmera River in Horsham. Now it's time for the final step: to use the information (called data) to produce a field report. Put simply, this is where you answer the research question:

How have local authorities improved the river environment in Horsham?

Your teacher will decide on the format of your report. It may be a written report presented using a display book, sketch book or on a poster. You may be able to use your ICT skills to present a StoryMap, Prezi or PowerPoint Presentation. Your field report should contain each of the following sections.

Section 1: Definition of your topic

This should include your research question. It should also include a description of the places you visited on the field trip. A good way to do this is to draw a sketch map of the region with your visited sites clearly located and labelled.

Section 2: Description of your field techniques.

This should include a list of the various techniques you used on your field trip to collect data and a brief description of what you did to apply these techniques. You could present this as a table. For example:

Field technique	Description of this technique
Using Epicollect5 to collect and map information	We took photographs of impacts caused by people and the strategies put in place to reduce these impacts. This app also automatically mapped each of these.
Taking photographs	
Water quality testing	
Identifying animal species (birds and mammals)	
Surveying park users	
Sketch mapping	

Section 3: Presenting and analysing data and information.

This is the main part of your field report. This section contains the information you found out on your field trip. Your teacher will help you to process the data and to combine information from different members of the class.

This section could contain the following elements:

1. A map of the main impacts and strategies at each of the three fieldwork sites - remember to give your map a title, north arrow and line scale. This should combine the results from all your classmates. Use the Epicollect5 website to create this map. Beneath this map, write a description of any patterns that you notice on your map.
2. Photographs of strategies put in place to reduce the impact of people. Give each photograph a caption that explains where it is, what it shows and why this is important. Here is an example:



Figure 1: a newly built shelter at Weir Park. This gives park users a place to sit and to find shade or shelter from rain. This helps to make the park a more liveable place.

Another technique you can use is to add labels using boxes and arrows, like this:



Figure 2: a picnic table and parking area at Petrie Lane.

3. The results of your water quality tests. Present this as a table and below the table write a description of what your results show. For example, did water quality improve or worsen as the river passed through the city of Horsham?
4. A list of the animal species including birds, mammals, insects, amphibians, etc that you identified. This could also include any photographs of these species. Below this list and photographs, write a few sentences outlining if there were few or many species.
5. The results of your survey of park users from Apex Adventure Island. For this section, you need to combine the results from all of your classmates and should create a graph to represent your data. Below these results you should write a few sentences summing up what park users felt about the park.
6. Present your ideas for the redevelopment of the eastern end of Apex Adventure Island. This should include some images and a map as well as a description of your proposal. The final part of your proposal should explain **why** you think your proposal should be accepted by the park developers.

Section 4: Conclusion

In a carefully worded paragraph, explain what you found out in your investigation. This should focus on the research question and to what extent you were able to provide an answer.

Section 5: Evaluation

Describe the things that went well on your field trip with regards to the field techniques that you used.

Describe the things that did not go well. Did some suggested activities suffer from factors like the weather, cooperation of other people or technical problems? It's OK to acknowledge these as this can help you and others to avoid these problems in the future.

You could also include any possibilities for further investigations. For example, if the pH of the river downstream from Horsham is higher than upstream, a further field trip could focus on why this is the case.