

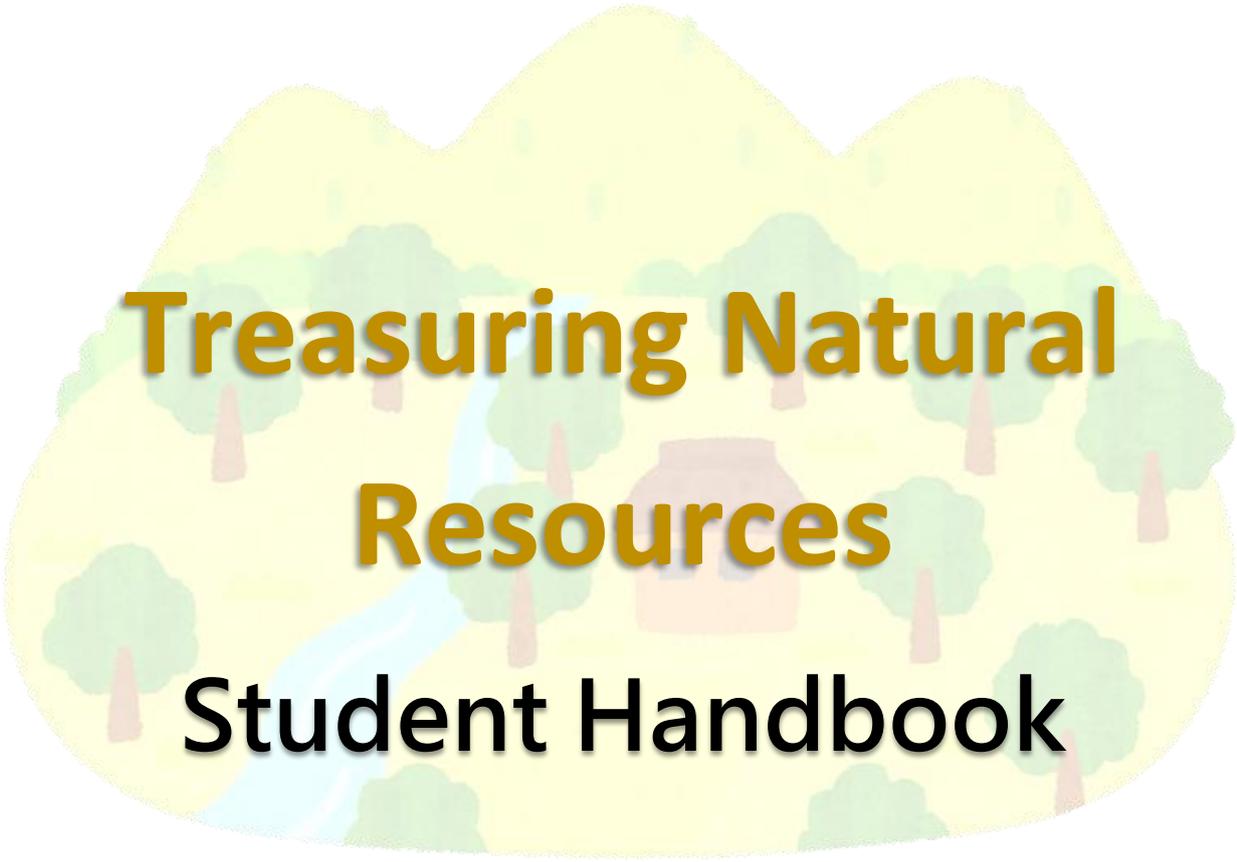


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Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department



香港教育大學  
The Education University  
of Hong Kong

Curriculum-based  
Outdoor Learning Programmes  
in Country Parks  
General Studies (P.4 - P.6)



# Treasuring Natural Resources Student Handbook

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Class : \_\_\_\_\_

Group : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

# Your Modern Hong Kong

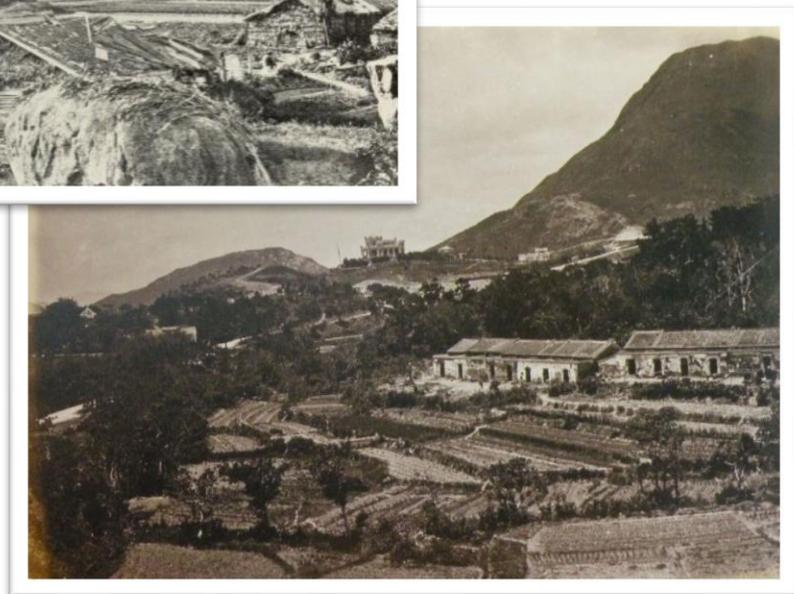
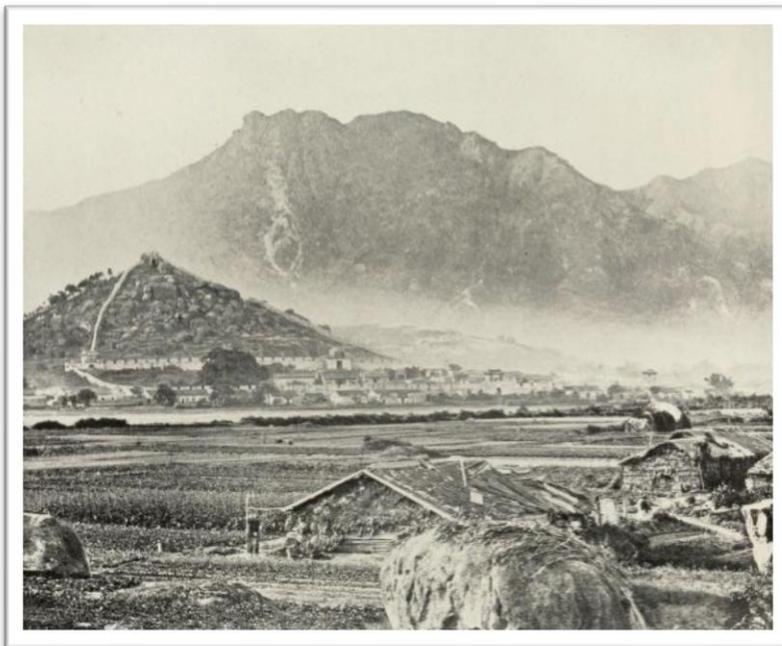
**What does modern Hong Kong look like in your mind?** Please prepare a photo or newspaper clipping at home that you think represents modern Hong Kong and paste it in the box below. Here are some requirements for the photograph or clipping:

- Should be a photograph or newspaper clipping within five years
- Clearly show the Hong Kong community or business district (e.g., roads, footpaths, buildings, shops, community facilities, open space)
- Photos can be taken around your home or while out and about
- Since you need to paste the photo in the box below, please **do not choose an original photo with commemorative value**

Paste the photo or newspaper clipping

# Recognise Old Hong Kong

The following two old photos were taken at different times when **Hong Kong was established as a free port**. Can you recognise any famous landmarks of Hong Kong in the photos? What are the differences between Hong Kong in the photos and modern Hong Kong?



**The Establishment of Free Port** began with the British occupation of Hong Kong Island in 1841. From 1842 to 1898, the Qing Dynasty government ceded Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories to the United Kingdom in three separate agreements, which collectively form the current territory of Hong Kong.

Discuss with teachers and classmates and try to analyse the differences between old and modern Hong Kong in terms of population, buildings and land use.

	Old Hong Kong	Modern Hong Kong
<b>Population</b>		Densely populated
<b>Buildings</b>	The development was limited, and most of the buildings were simple wooden houses	
<b>Land Use</b>	There was no comprehensive planning, most of the land was used as agricultural land and fish ponds	

After years of development, Hong Kong has become a very different city in terms of urban scale and the way its residents live their daily lives.

# Economic Activities in early Hong Kong

Nowadays, people in Hong Kong mainly earn their living by getting employed or engage in commercial activities. Also, many daily necessities are imported from Mainland China and other places. From the old photos, we learnt about how did Hong Kong look like when it is less developed. So, what did people in the past live on to support their daily lives?

**There are several activities related to Hong Kong's early economic activities listed below. Do you have any experience with these activities?**

<b>Fishery</b>	Hong Kong is surrounded by the sea on three sides and is rich in aquatic resources, so many indigenous people living in Hong Kong are fishermen
<b>Agriculture</b>	In the past, the New Territories had more flat land available for cultivation. The crops obtained from farming were one of the main food sources for the people at that time
<b>Lime-making</b>	Lime is produced by burning oyster shells and coral bones in a kiln constructed of stones
<b>Salt-making</b>	Hong Kong used to be an important area for salt production. The traditional method of making salt is to introduce seawater into the salt pan and evaporate the seawater through sunlight.

Here are photos related to the above activities. Can you point out which activities the photos are related to? Please write your answers on the lines.



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# The Relationship Between People in early Hong Kong and the Natural Environment

Think about why were the people living in the past able to develop such diverse industries?

**What resources were needed for those activities?**

**Where could they get those resources?**

**What are the advantages of Hong Kong's geographical location?**

Being surrounded by the sea, together with its geology and climate, Hong Kong is rich in natural resources. The livelihood of the early residents mainly depended on the natural resources.

# Early Hong Kong Immigrants — the Hakkas

From about 1685 to 1820 (the middle and late Qing Dynasty), some people responded to the Qing Dynasty government's call to move to the coastal areas for settlement and development. Some of them chose to move to Hong Kong, and they are also the ancestors of some Hakka people who are currently living in Hong Kong.

**If you were the people who immigrated to Hong Kong at that time, what kind of environment would you look for to settle in Hong Kong? Please draw your ideal living environment in the space below.**

**Think about it:**

- What kind of environment is necessary to ensure adequate food and water sources for living?
- What conditions are suitable for farming near the living environment?

## Field Activity: Root-seeking Journey

Read the family story about Uncle Wong, and visit the lime kiln ruin near Sheung Yiu Village, Pak Tam Chung, based on the clues provided by Uncle Wong, to understand the living conditions of the villagers at that time and help Uncle Wong reorganise his family story.

Although I am a descendant of the Hakkas, I have lived the same life as everyone else in the city since I was born, so I never thought about any special stories about my family. It wasn't until recently that I searched through the items left by my ancestors, then I discovered that my family may have impressive stories. It's a pity that I am nearly eighty years old, and I no longer have the energy to start my journey of finding my roots. I have a few clues that may be related to my family, can you investigate for me? I am very curious about the lives of my ancestors in the olden days when Hong Kong was not as developed as nowadays. I will be very happy if you can share with me what you have seen and heard.



# Field Site Background: Sheung Yiu Village

Sheung Yiu Village is a Hakka village in Hong Kong that was built around 1830 by Hakka people surnamed Wong. This village is located in Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung, facing the estuary connecting to Tsam Chuk Wan. Since the natural resources near the village are very rich, the villagers at that time made good use of the resources around them to meet their daily needs and develop the economy, so that the village could develop stably. Later, the industrial activities in the village gradually declined, and the villagers moved out one after another, eventually leaving the village deserted. Sheung Yiu Village was listed as a statutory monument in 1981, and was revitalised as the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, which recreates the details of the Hakka people's life in the past for the public.



# Field Trip Steps

## 1 Scope of the Field Trip

The teacher will mark out a field trip area for you and you can freely explore with your groupmates in the area. The field trip area is limited to flat land and beach not covered by water, please do not go up the hillside.



## 2 Objectives of the Field Trip

On **Page 12 to 17**, you can find several clues given to you by Uncle Wong, including **material (1)**, **material (2)**, **material (3)** and **material (4)**. Except for **material (1)**, other materials have corresponding questions (on the next page of each material). You need to investigate in the field trip area with your groupmates according to the prompts of the materials and answer all the questions.

**Note: Different information boards** are installed in the field trip area, which can help you answer some of the questions.



## 3 Integration and Summary of the Field Trip

After the field trip, you are supposed to complete the data integration form on **Page 19** based on the information you obtained during the field trip, summarising how Uncle Wong's ancestors used the natural resources around them to meet their daily needs.

## Safety and Notes during the Field Trip

- Follow the teacher's instructions to carry out activities, and refrain from running, making noise and leaving the group without authorisation.
- Do not walk on slopes or rocky beaches covered by water.
- Walk carefully and watch out for sharp barnacles and oyster reefs on rocky beaches.
- Observe patiently.
- Never touch, disturb or harm wild animals.
- Cherish the natural environment and take your litter home.
- Remain calm and ask teachers for help in emergencies.

## Material (1): Map

The following map shows geographic information near Sheung Yiu Village. Uncle Wong specifically marked three places (A, B, C) that he wants to investigate, and these places seem to have a lot to do with the daily life of his ancestors.



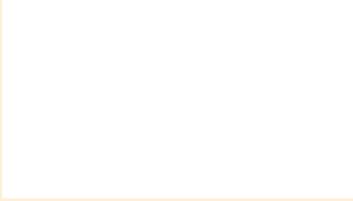
## Material (2): Damaged Old Photo

This photo shows a structure located at **point A on the map of material (1)**. This building may be related to some economic activities in Sheung Yiu Village in the past. Unfortunately, a corner of the photo is missing because it is too dilapidated.



According to material (2) and your observations during the field trip, fill in the information about the structure in material (2)

1. What is the name of this structure?



2. What raw materials were used? What was the product?

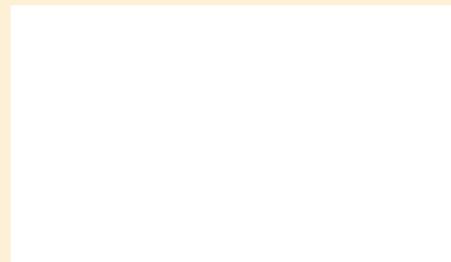
Raw materials:

Product:

3. What were the uses of the materials produced by this structure?



4. Why was this structure abandoned?



## Material (3): Dialogue in Memory

Uncle Wong vaguely remembered hearing the following conversation between his father and other relatives when he was a child. The conversation may reveal some **eating habits** of Uncle Wong's ancestors.



Although we have moved to the urban area now and it is very convenient to go to the market to buy vegetables and meat, I always feel that something is missing!

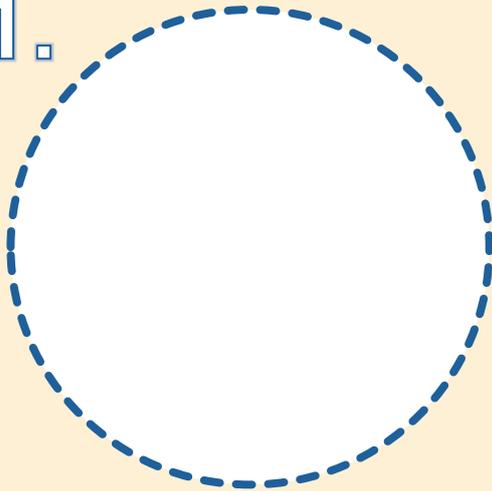


I still remember when there was low tide and **the rocky beach near the pier** emerged from the water, it became our treasure hunting time! At that time, we were all very interested and took tools to explore the bottom of trees and rocks. We were really making full use of what were available!

**Ebb** is one of the phenomena caused by the gravitational pull of the sun and the moon on the sea level of the earth (another phenomenon is flood, which both are collectively called tides). When ebb occurs, the water level of the sea drops, and the shore that was originally covered by sea water will emerge from the water.

According to material (3) and your observations during the field trip, go to point C on the map of material (1), find and draw two kinds of organisms that may be the food sources for the villagers in the past, and then answer the questions.

1.



a) What is this?

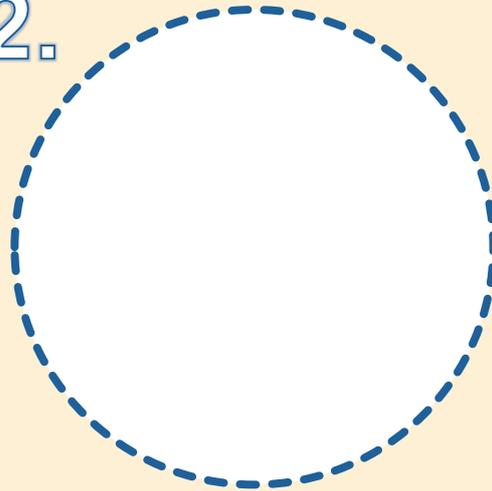
b) Where did you find it?

c) Why is it not washed away by the water at low tide?  
(Put a tick in the box)

- It is able to hold onto or climb onto a solid object (e.g. rock)
- It can hide in holes in sand and mud

d) Besides food, what other uses does it have? (optional)

2.



a) What is this?

b) Where did you find it?

c) Why is it not washed away by the water at low tide?  
(Put a tick in the box)

- It is able to hold onto or climb onto a solid object (e.g. rock)
- It can hide in holes in sand and mud

d) Besides food, what other uses does it have? (optional)

## Material (4): Diary of a Missionary

Uncle Wong has a diary that seems to belong to a western missionary in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One page of the diary records **the house building process** in Sheung Yiu Village, but **some of the words on the diary are covered by stains**. The original text of the diary is written in English, and the following is the translation of the diary:

I have been in contact with this village for a while. It is not easy to reach out to the people living here with their deep-rooted traditional values, but since some of the villagers are already believers in God, my missionary work has been very smooth.

When I visited the village today, some of the young people were repairing their houses. They were carrying and stacking  one by one and filling the outer layers with lime. While I admire their ability to work in this humid and hot environment, I also admire their wisdom in building their home in this place. The village was built facing the estuary and having hills at the back as support, which benefited from the resources both from the water and the mountains. Therefore, it is not surprising that they are so devout in

**Based on material (4) and your observations during the field trip, answer the following questions.**

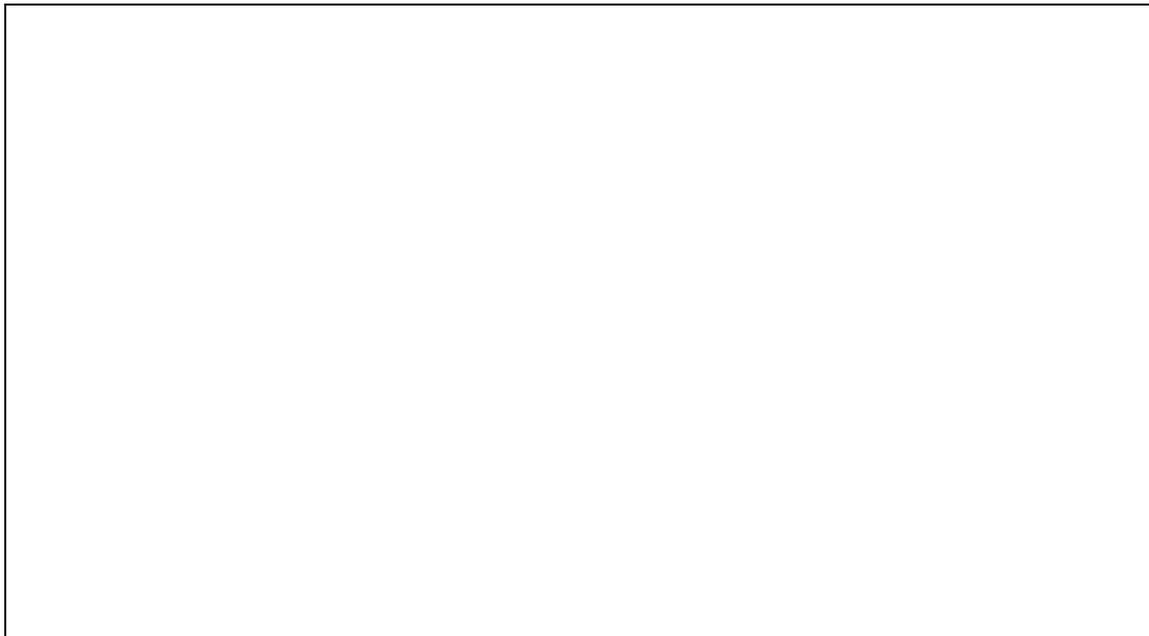
1. Based on your observations during the field trip, what might the words (  ) covered by stains in the diary refer to?

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2. Based on the description of the location of the village in the **material (4)** and your observations during the field trip, where do you think the villagers in the **material (4)** built their houses on the map of the **material (1)** (A, B or C)?

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3. Try to draw the original appearance of the houses built by the Hakka people with your creativity based on your observation of the abandoned houses.



## Data Integration

After the field trip, you might have a certain understanding of the life of the villagers in Sheung Yiu Village in the past. Now please summarise your findings during the field trip in the following table in terms of **economic activities, eating habits** and **living environment**. Especially, please introduce to Uncle Wong **how his ancestors used the natural resources around them to meet their daily needs**.

	Natural Resources	Application
Example	Bamboo	Besides being used to make furniture, different parts can also be used as food or medicine.
Economic Activities		
Eating Habits		
Living Environment		

# Attitudes towards the Use of Natural Resources in the Past and Now

In the past, people utilised natural resources to support their daily lives, such as food source and shelter. Here are some examples of the uses of natural resources that can be seen in Hong Kong nowadays. Do you have any experience with the following activities? What do you think is the purpose of these activities? **Are these activities necessary for us to maintain our daily lives?**



**Clam Digging**



**Picking Plants**



**Playing and Bathing in the Stream**



**Making Fires in the Countryside**

As time changes, people's understanding of resources, the purpose of exploitation, the methods of exploitation, and the amount of use of resources vary. In the past, it was necessary for people to develop and use natural resources in order to maintain their daily lives. With the advancement of science and technology, people today can obtain resources without geographical restrictions. However, living in a life filled with materials has also changed some people's attitudes towards the use of natural resources. People no longer only maintain their daily lives, but develop and use natural resources more for leisure and entertainment purposes. In Hong Kong, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department carries out conservation and management work in areas rich in natural resources such as country parks, with a mission to promote nature conservation, recreation, tourism and education.

**How should we treat natural resources in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?**

# Sustainable Use of Resources

We need **1.75 Earths** to meet the needs of all mankind in the current way of resource consumption. 

Based on a report published by the Global Footprint Network in 2022

No matter before or now, we heavily rely on natural resources for clothing, food, housing, transportation and other aspects. As time progresses, our use of resources has become more extensive and the amount of resources used has also increased. But there is only one earth and **the resources are limited**. If we continue to squander, some of the resources will be depleted one day, and we will no longer be able to enjoy some of the resources.

**As the future pillar of our society, can you suggest ways to use resources in a way that protects them and meets our daily needs at the same time? Write down your ideas.**

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