

Issues in Australian Environments

Stage 5 Geography



Program Overview

The focus of the day is to investigate the environmental features and human impacts in of the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park at Bobbin Head.

During the day the students will rotate through three activities that examine issues related to tourism, catchment and National Park management.

Working collaboratively in small groups the students will also use mapping skills to identify location, and complete a line drawing to identify management issues.

After identifying the two main species of mangroves, the students will undertake a litter audit and an analysis of three issues, their impact on the estuary and the management strategy that is being employed.

Water Quality

To examine the impact of the inflow of water from higher in the catchment, the students will undertake a water quality analysis. Tests include oxygen saturation, phosphate, turbidity and salt and will enable the students to describe the current health of the estuary.

Park Management

Along the bush walk, students will identify different strategies employed by National Parks Rangers to control pest species, protect Aboriginal sites and manage natural hazards such as bush fires.

Learning Experiences

Estuary Study

The mangrove forest at Bobbin Head provides an opportunity to study the impacts of visitors on the health of this ecosystem.

Key Syllabus Outcomes and Content

Geography (Focus Area 5A3)

students learn about:

- geographical issues affecting Australian environments including:
 - coastal management
 - land and water management
- and the:
 - the geographical processes relevant to the issue
 - the perceptions of different groups about the issue
 - individual, group and government responses to the issue
 - decision-making processes involved in the

management of the issue

- management of the issue and implications for sustainability, social justice and equity

Students learn to:

- describe each geographical issue in relation to:
 - its nature
 - its impacts
 - the responses by individuals, groups and governments to the issue
- explain the interaction of the physical and human elements of the environment
- apply fieldwork techniques