

# Investigating Australia's Physical Environments

## Stage 5 Geography



### Program Overview

The focus of the day is to investigate the environmental features of the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. The day commences at the Kalkari Visitors Centre and proceeds for a bush walk down the Kalkari/Birrawanna Track to Bobbin Head. Along the way, students will have an opportunity to explore and learn about the distinctive native flora and fauna of the area, the impact and management of introduced species and how the local Aboriginal people lived with the land for thousands of years.

Working collaboratively in small groups the students will also use mapping skills to identify location and complete a line drawings of a landmark in the park.

Centre to learn about the parks flora and fauna and rich Aboriginal heritage.

#### Leaf Study

The dry sclerophyll of the National Park provides a great opportunity to study the features of the local flora, with a particular emphasis on the adaptations of these plants to fire.

#### 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.

#### Human Impacts and Management Strategies

Students will have an opportunity to observe past and current human use of the area to understand the effect on the health of the mangrove ecosystem. They will also have an opportunity to discuss current and potential management strategies

### Learning Experiences

#### Exploration of Kalkari Visitors Centre

Students will have an opportunity to explore the animal and plant collections and aboriginal artefacts of the Kalkrai Visitors

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### Key Syllabus Outcomes and Content

#### Geography (Focus Area 5A1)

#### students learn about:

- Aboriginal perspectives on the origin of the continent
- distinctive features of Australian flora
- distinctive features of Australian fauna
- natural hazards that affect people's lives and activities – bushfires.

#### Students learn to:

- explore the use of horizontal lines (latitude) and vertical lines (longitude) on maps to establish position
- recognise the cultural and economic importance of land for Aboriginal people in contemporary society
- recognise well-known Australian trees, flowers and animals
- investigate the impact of introduced species of fauna on native species, eg foxes