



Investigating the Environment

Stage 4 Geography



Program Overview

The study of geography entails the development of a range of skills required to help understand the world around. This includes utilising a range of geographical tools. During the day, students will be introduced to the nature of Geographical inquiry and the practical use of

these Geographical tools. Through investigating sites within the Warrumbungle National Park (WNP), the students will gain a deeper understanding of both the physical and human elements of the environment and also how indigenous people interacted sustainably with their immediate environment.

Learning Experiences

Map Study

The day commences with the students orientating themselves using a compass and topographic map. Students will be required to locate grid coordinates, estimate distance and describe the topography of the days journey.

Explore Beloungery Split Rock

Students will commence and finish the circuit walk at Split Rock Carpark. During the walk, the students will identify and describe management strategies used by National Parks for the protection of natural environments, protection of cultural sites and for visitor access and enjoyment. They will also be required to complete a field study sketch.

Investigation of Vegetation Communities

Students will investigate and compare three different geographical locations communities. At each site, students will:

- use appropriate equipment to measure general factors including slope, aspect and landform.
- use ID books and charts to identify the dominant trees and shrubs, estimate % ground cover and identify the forest type.
- use appropriate equipment to measure and record physical and chemical tests such as temperature, humidity, light and pH
- compare the three sites and discuss the important biophysical properties of each

Key Syllabus Outcomes and Content

Each Student:

- locates and describes the diverse features and characteristics of a range of places and environments **GE4-1**
- describes processes and influences that form and transform places and environments **GE4-2**
- discusses management of places and environments for their sustainability **GE4-5**
- acquires and processes geographical information by selecting and using geographical tools for inquiry **GE4-7**

- communicates geographical information using a variety of strategies **GE4-8**

Geographical tools in this focus area

- use various types of maps: physical, political, topographic and thematic
- identify and use elements of maps: legend, north point, title, scale and border
- locate features on a map using latitude and longitude, and grid and area references
- identify physical and cultural features on a map
- use the points of a compass to determine direction
- use geographical instruments
- collect and record data in the field
- draw a line drawing