

Working for National Parks

Unit Overview



The Theme

The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service conserves and manages Tasmania's natural, historical and Aboriginal heritage for its own value and for the benefit of people now and in the future. The Parks and Wildlife Service's vision is for all people to value, conserve and enjoy Tasmania's natural, historical and Aboriginal heritage.

Through this unit students can learn about the variety of jobs within the Parks and Wildlife Service in Tasmania. Roleplays, brainstorming mindmaps and 3d models allow for cross curriculum learning.

Students can gain an understanding of how the staff of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) work together to manage national parks and other reserves in Tasmania for visitors and the local community.

* Activities with a star have a detailed lesson plan page.

Getting Started

What Is A National Park? - Using the internet, brochures, and library sessions find out what a national park is. How would the students define a national park? What is an official definition of a national park in Tasmania? What are the key features of national parks?



* **Brochure Browsing** - Using PWS brochures find out why areas have become national parks.

* **People of PWS?** - Brainstorm and role play activity.

Email Enquiries - As a class brainstorm some questions for one or two of the people who work for PWS identified in the above activity. Use the PWS web enquiries page: <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/enquiries.html> to email a few of the questions and receive answers.

* **Mini National Parks** - give students imaginary control of a piece of land.

Site Activities

Parks and Wildlife Service Discovery Rangers are often available to conduct these and other activities at the site. Please contact the Parks and Wildlife Service Interpretation and Education Section via email on parkseducation@parks.tas.gov.au.

Please Note: Planning for the "Working for National Parks" E-Set 'Site Activities' requires contact with the National Park's or Protected Area's staff that you are visiting. Please liaise closely with the staff for best results.

* **Natural Areas Quest** - become familiar with the area you are visiting through these simple quests. (Used with permission from Gould Group.)



What's so special now? - As a class brainstorm why people visit the area. Why would people live close by? Who relies on the area for income? For inspiration?

What's so special then? Why would people visit the area in the past? What evidence is there of Aboriginal people visiting and living in the area?

* **Meet the Staff** - Arrange for a behind the scenes look at roles of PWS staff. Forward planning and organisation are required for this activity.



Artistic Response - Using art paper and coloured pens have the students respond to the natural area through art - an abstract drawing, poem, music.

Follow-up Activities

Job Descriptions - Using a basic proforma ask students to write a job description for a job within the PWS that they would like to do. Job descriptions should describe the duties or tasks the person undertakes, and the skills and abilities the person needs to undertake them. Sample job descriptions can be found at www.jobs.tas.gov.au.

* Hypothetical National Parks

National Parks Staff - A Video

Students and the teacher decide on exactly what staff would need to be employed at a national park and allocate roles to all students.

Students then plan the presentation of the video and script as a class.

Describe the park and its staff - is there a fabulous beach? a look out? wheelchair access?

Is this video a news story with a special event in the park? A big snowfall for skiing? A bush fire?

Have students create a name badge with position titles so each staff member is identifiable.

Students work on sections of script that they are responsible for and rehearse where necessary.

Filming takes place, followed by editing and any necessary titles or credits.

Career Fair - create a career fair display within the classroom. Ask students to take on the PWS staff roles, to dress appropriately and create a small display using the 'Hypothetical National Parks' activity. Have the National Parks Staff video playing on a loop. Invite other students within the school, or parents to the career fair open day.