

Hastings Cave and Thermal Springs



The Hot Springs Trail – Teachers’ Planning Notes

Curriculum Strands: HE, SI, BK – Matter, Earth and Space

Stages: 5–8

This short nature trail is a useful introduction to forest ecology and can be included as part of a visit to the Thermal Pool area. The trail is an easy grade with duckboards most of the way and is accessible by wheelchairs, although some assistance will be needed to negotiate the start.

Students can make their own notes as they go, or this can be a teacher-led activity, using other recording methods such as sketching, digital photography, video or sound recording. The students might like to make their own illustrated nature-trail guide for other students to use, as a follow-up activity back at school.

The trail is usually walked clockwise from the paddling pool.

Time: Allow at least 30 minutes for the trail.

Equipment:

- Strong shoes and a jumper/weatherproof coat
- Thermometers (on loan from the Visitors Centre)
- Clipboard and pencil
- Trail guides (photocopy before you come)
- Additional recording materials (e.g. cameras, sketching paper)

Topics covered

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| What makes up the environment: | What plants need, to grow |
| The hot springs: | How the water is heated Measuring the temperature Evidence of springs Animals that live in water |
| Forest use: | Old trees |
| Flora: | Trees, identification Variations in different environments Layers in the forest Epiphytes Sub-storey life |
| Fauna: | Birds in the canopy Macropods Evidence of animals – seeds, marks on trees etc. |



Supervision

Recommended group size is one supervisor/teacher to 12 students.

Take care! Access to the streams is difficult in a couple of places, and not suitable for students to take the temperature readings, while access to the pool is all too easy! Keep away from the edge, and don't let students near the water if the streams are high. Before starting, check with the Visitors Centre staff for information on any changes or hazards on the trail.

Facilities

Picnic tables and a spectacular shelter hut, containing electric barbecues, power points and open fireplaces with wood, are provided. Wheelchair-accessible toilets and changing rooms with showers are also available.

Collecting

Sorry but, as this is in the Reserve, no collecting (stones, leaves, bark...) is permitted. Thanks.

Additional resources

The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service has developed a series of Educational Activities for teachers - the E-Sets. (<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=1212#rainforests>). These note sets have been designed to assist teachers in planning and implementing an environmental education unit.

E-Sets are:

- centred on topics chosen by Tasmanian teachers for their students
- created for age ranges from lower primary to high school
- activities that have been tested by teachers and students in the classrooms
- lesson plans created by environmental educators to help teachers to enlighten, enthuse and educate their students.

Teachers visiting the Hastings Reserve may find the following Activity Sheets particularly useful:

- Rainforest History [PDF 488KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=13700>
- Rainforest Tree Id [PDF 604KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=13701>
- Rainforest Tree Rings [PDF 608KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=13702>
- Rainforest Adaptations [PDF 676KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=13703>
- Rainforest Crime Scene [PDF 556KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=13704>
- Rainforest - More Information [PDF 260KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=13705>
- Native animal research [PDF 499KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=6840>
- Native animal tracks [PDF 828KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=6841>
- All about trees [PDF 992KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=6846>
- Roving reporter [PDF 938KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=6845>
- Biodiversity football [PDF 739KB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=6842>
- More information [PDF 1MB]
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=6843>

See also <http://www.forest-education.com/> for other forest sites to visit and http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/tassies_trees_combined.pdf for identification charts for common trees in the Huon.