



HOLLYBANK TREETOPS ADVENTURE



Activity 1 – Hollybank Treetops Adventure Introduction

Ever wanted to fly like a bird or glide like a bat from tree to tree? Well, now you can...and right in the middle of a beautiful Australian forest!

At Hollybank Treetops Adventure in Tasmania, you can spend hours zipping around a forest canopy. But first you'll have to strap on a harness, walk into the forest and be clipped on to a cable, and then?

Well, then you're flying... or *gliding* – depending on whether you consider yourself a bird or a bat!



With a total of one kilometre of cables to zip along, Hollybank Treetops Adventure is like one giant flying fox. The cables range in length: from 10 metres to 400 metres, with the highest one hovering a cool 50 metres above the ground!

Launching platforms, called 'cloud stations', are built around the trunks of large trees, within the mid canopy level of the forest – with some as high as 30m above the forest floor.

The scariest part is taking your first step off the edge – in your harness of course – but still, when you look down, the forest floor seems to be a long way away.

Scary, yes, but the fun you'll have as you scream your way along the cable makes it well worth it.

Watch the video *Going Bush 2* episode 3 – Hollybank Treetops Adventure to learn more about Hollybank Treetops Adventure and then answer the following questions:

1. Which member of the Nick's family flew through Hollybank treetops a few months before? _____
2. How many cloud stations are there at Hollybank Treetops Adventure? _____



3. The centre uses almost how many metres of cable? _____
4. The narrator says everyone should experience WHAT at least once? _____
5. If you weigh less than someone else, do you move more quickly or more slowly along the cable than that person?

6. As a safety measure, what do you have to do at the start of the ride? _____
7. The instructor tells Nick that on the 'Cannon-balling' run he'll be able to go as fast as how many kilometres an hour along the cable? _____
8. How old were the group of women that tried out the cable ride, after watching the football team do it? _____
9. As Nick cries out 'Help!' he compares himself to which animal? _____
10. How long does a normal tour last at Hollybank Treetop Adventure? _____
11. How many minutes' drive is the centre from Launceston? _____
12. At the end of the video, Nick says they flew through the trees like which extinct bird? _____

Activity 2 – What Else You Can Do In Hollybank Forest

Hollybank forest is one of Tasmania's most exciting and popular forests in Australia – and not just because of its Treetops Adventure centre! There are lots of other fun things to do in Hollybank forest:

1. You can, for example, grab a Segway and go on a 2-hour guided tour, zooming your way around the forest tracks, while learning about the history and sights in the forest.



2. Or you might prefer to hop on a mountain bike and zip around the forest that way. The forest has 20 kilometres of mountain bike trails with short and long loops. There are **green** trails for beginners, **blue** trails for intermediates, and even some black tracks for very experienced riders.





3. But if you don't feel like moving and just feel like sitting under a tree and eating, there are also some very beautiful picnic areas...



Out of the four activities – the flying fox, Segway, mountain biking or picnicking – which two would you most like to do in Hollybank forest and why? _____

Activity 3 – A Brief History of Hollybank Forest...



You can find the Hollybank forest in north-eastern Tasmania, around 21 kilometres from the centre of Launceston. The forest covers an area of 140 hectares and is now managed by Forestry Tasmania as a recreational reserve.

But back in the 1850s, the forest first belonged to two European settlers: William Tyson, a carpenter, and William Dawson Grubb, a lawyer.



William Dawson Grubb (1817-1879)



What did Tyson and Grubb do with the forest?

At the time, there was a big demand for timber in Australia because of the Victorian goldrush. So Tyson and Grubb built a water-powered sawmill on the banks of the nearby Pipers river. Tyson and Grubb's timber mill was the first power-driven mill in northern Tasmania. They chopped down a large area of native gum trees as a source of fine timber and replanted those trees with pines.

Who worked in the mill?

The free settlers list for 1854 shows James Crabtree, his wife Ellen, his uncle William Crabtree and wife, Jane, arrived in 'Van Diemen's Land' (what we now know as Tasmania) on the ship called 'Juno' from England. Both men were 'mill sawyer men' and William Crabtree would become the first mill manager. The Crabtrees brought the American machinery for Grubb and Tyson's mill on the ship with them, along with 20 workmen.

How did they transport the timber logs?

The mill prospered and in 1855 Grubb and Tyson built a 'horse drawn tramway' 13 kilometres long from Pipers River to Mowbray, a nearby town. The wooden track has since disappeared but evidence can still be seen of the tramway and the stone walls. The tram took the timber to market and brought back supplies for mill workers and settlers in the area.

Ash trees

Much later, in the 1930s, ash trees were planted to supply wood to create cricket bats and tennis racquets! So nowadays, Hollybank forest is made up of native and introduced trees: a mixture of native bush, ash and pine plantations.

Whichever way you choose to travel through Hollybank forest (whether on foot, Segway or bike, or flying through the treetops), you'll notice the plant life suddenly changing: classic Tasmanian bush with paperbarks, ferns and wild grasses, and then the smell of pines hits, with the forest floor covered with needles and cones.

Now, using a dictionary, can you find the meaning of the words in bold from the above paragraphs?

Recreational _____

Demand _____

Goldrush _____

Prospered _____

Evidence _____

Native _____

Introduced _____



Using the information in the above paragraphs, draw a picture story of Hollybank forest's history:

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