



# TASMANIA'S GIANTS - LESSON

## Teacher Overview

Students will learn about Tasmania's state forests and their 'giant' hardwood trees.

## Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Undertake research on Tasmania's tall trees
- Describe characteristics of hardwood and softwood trees
- Develop writing, comprehension and drawing skills

## Background

Tasmania's forests are home to the world's tallest flowering trees (hardwoods) and some of these trees are centuries old. Tasmania has the right combination of environmental factors - climate, soils and fire regime - to foster the growth of trees to massive height and girth. Around the globe, all of the areas which produce big trees have similar climates.

## The Activities

There are four activities to select from in this lesson. You may choose to undertake all of them, or alternately, choose those relevant to the objectives that you wish to achieve. Activities from this lesson can be used in conjunction with the Plantation and Native forests lesson.

### Activity 1 – The Centurion

<http://youtu.be/5xTaff7gCWs>

This activity allows students to learn about the large hardwoods in Tasmania's forests and the ways they are discovered and measured.

1. Students are to watch the video Going Bush 2 –Episode 1 The Centurion (link above) and answer the questions for Activity 1 on the Student Worksheet.
2. Student present and discuss answers.  
Further information: LIDAR stands for 'Light Detection and Ranging': a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure variable distances to the Earth. The principle is quite simple - shine a small light at a surface and measure the time it takes to return to its source. These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. A LIDAR instrument consists of a laser, scanner and a specialised GPS receiver.

### Activity 2 – Tasmania, the land of the giants...

This activity enables student to compare the sizes of the 10 largest 'giant' trees in Tasmania.

1. Read through the introductory paragraphs together. Discuss the table. Common names for E.regnans include Tasmanian oak or Mountain Ash
2. Students then answer the related questions and present and discuss their answers.



## Activity 3 – Ode to a tree

This activity enables students to think about a favourite tree or fun they have had playing in our around trees.

1. Read through the introductory paragraph together and discuss. Ask the students if they have ever had a favourite tree (perhaps in their garden, or in the street or local park) where they might have made a tree house, hung a swing or rope or just sat underneath it). Get the students talking about their 'tree' experiences and then write a poem about a tree in the space provided on the worksheet.
2. Students read out their poems to each other or to the class.

## Activity 4 – Portrait of a tree

This activity enables students to examine the features of trees by observing a local tree, or a tree at home.

1. Either individually or in pairs students pick a tree (in the playground, at home, in the local park, garden or street) and draw it (using coloured pencils, pastels or paints).
2. Students share their drawings.

## Sources

Tasmania's giant hardwood trees:

<http://www.gianttrees.com.au>

[Register of Tasmania's giant trees:](#)

<http://www.gianttrees.com.au/index.php/meet-the-giants/tassies-tallest-trees>

Creative Commons License:



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](#).

### About ForestLearning

ForestLearning.edu.au an initiative of Forest and Wood Products Limited. All resources have been developed by qualified educators and designed to assist teachers deliver the Australian Curriculum.