



TASMANIA'S GIANTS

Activity 1 – The Centurion

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

Watch the video Going Bush 2 – episode 1 – The Centurion and answer the following questions:

1. How many metres high do the narrators think the tree *might* be?

2. In which state is the tree found?

3. Which famous mountain do the narrators compare the tree to?

4. For years Tasmania has been recognised for what special feature?

5. Starting with the letter 'L', what type of readings have they used to measure the height of the Centurion tree from the ground?

6. How do they get the official height of the Centurion?

7. What type of reel do the tree climbers use to get the rope up the tree?

8. What do they use to shoot the line up the tree?

9. Which famous mountaineer does the narrator compare Tom, the tree climber, to?

10. Has Tom ever climbed 100-metre trees before?

11. How do the tree climbers test the safety of the climbing rope? Do you think this method is very 'scientific'? Why or why not?

12. Around how many metres high is the tree that is standing next to the Centurion?

13. In which years did wildfires sweep through Tasmania's state forest?

14. Around how many old trees were left in the forest after the wildfires?

15. Once he reaches the top, what does Tom use to reach the highest leaves of the tree?



16. How many metres high is the Centurion according to the tree climbers' calculations?
17. Starting with the letter 'H', what type of tree is the Centurion?
18. Starting with the letter 'L', what sort of technology does Forestry Tasmania use to find giant trees?
19. What does Forestry Tasmania do with all the giant trees it finds in the state forests?

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

Tasmania is home to the biggest hardwood trees and the tallest flowering plants in the world!



The only trees taller than Tasmania's hardwoods are found in north-west America and those are softwood trees.

A softwood is a tree that bears cones. A hardwood is a tree that bears flowers. To make the grade of a 'giant', a tree must be at least 85 metres tall or at least 280 cubic metres in volume.

So it has to be pretty**BIG !!!**

At last count, Tasmania has more than 100 giants! Below is a list of Tasmania's top 10 tallest trees, and right at the top of the list is the famous Centurion, the star tree in the Forestlearning video. Before you proceed, make sure you know the common name for E.regnans.



Take a look at the list and answer the questions below:

| POPULAR NAME | SPECIES | HEIGHT (m) |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Centurion | E. regnans | 99.8 |
| Icarus Dream | E. regnans | 97 |
| Mount Tree | E. regnans | 96 |
| Firebird Wonder | E. regnans | 95.9 |
| Erato | E. regnans | 94 |
| Damocles | E. regnans | 92.9 |
| Dr Phil | E. regnans | 92.6 |
| Ourania | E. regnans | 92 |
| Calliope | E. regnans | 92 |
| Kermajesty | E. regnans | 92 |

- As you can see, Centurion is actually a little taller than what Tom, the tree climber, first estimated. How much taller is it here?

- Which tree is exactly 3.8 metres shorter than Centurion?

- How many centimetres taller is Centurion than Icarus Dream?

- How much taller is Firebird Wonder than Erato?

- What do you notice about the height of the three last trees in the list?

- How much taller is Damocles than Dr Phil?

- Which tree is two metres taller than Kermajesty?

- How much taller is Mount Tree than Calliope?

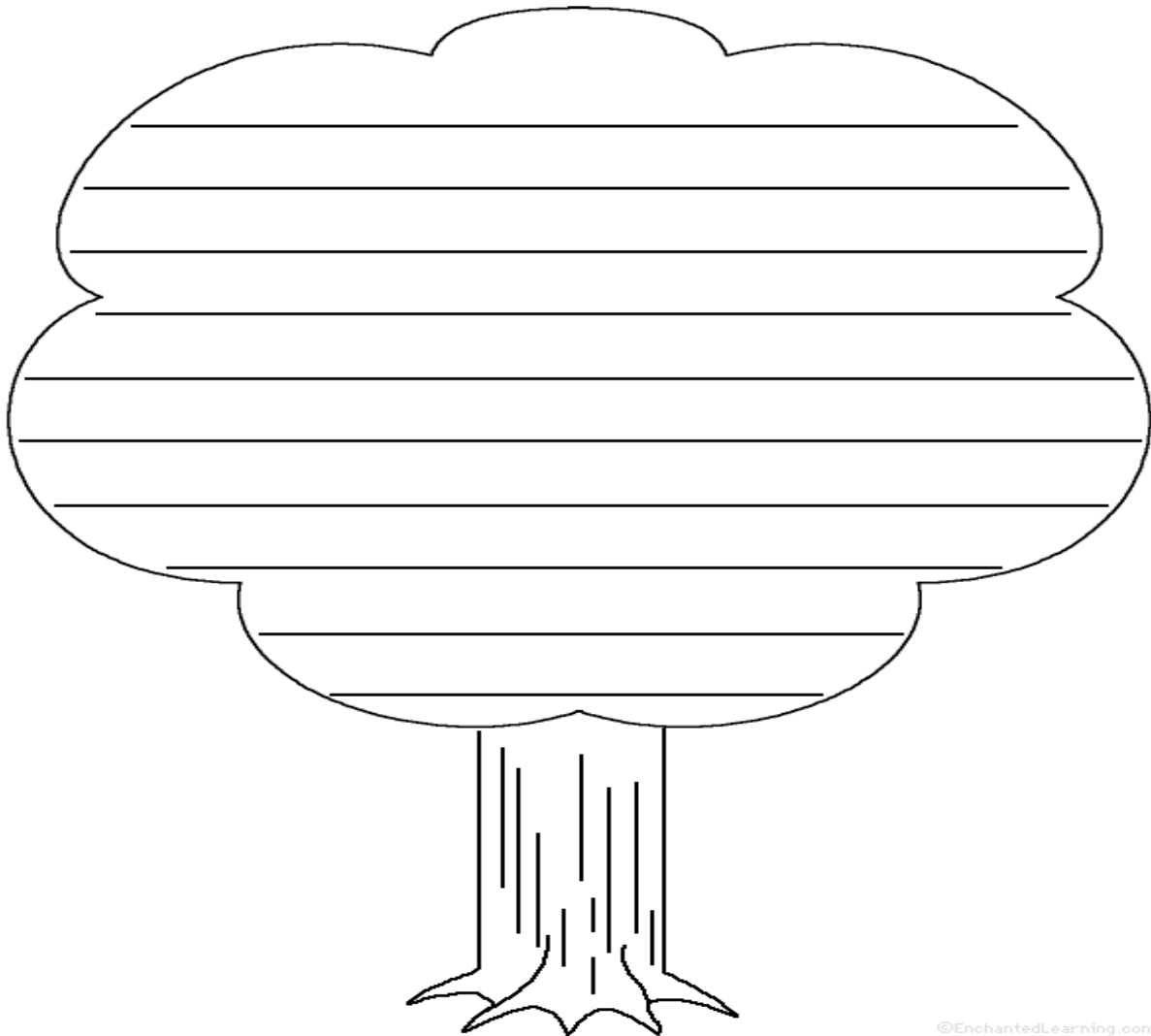


Activity 3 – Ode to a tree

Have you ever sat under a tree on a hot day and looked up at the sky through its leaves? When you think about it, trees are pretty wonderful things – we can climb them, hang a swing, rope, tyre or hammock from them and even build a tree house in them! Or we can just simply sit under them!



Write a poem about a fun tree experience you have had inside this tree:





Activity 4 – Portrait of a tree

Pick a tree in the school playground or local park and draw it. Look carefully at the colours of its leaves and bark and, using paints, pastels or coloured pencils, colour it in.

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