



DISCOVERING MY NATIVE FOREST - LESSON

Teacher Overview

Australia has 125 million hectares of forest, which amounts to about 16% of Australia's land area. Of this total forest area, 123 million hectares (98%) are native forests. Different types of parks and reserves in Australia

National reserves are large areas of public land that are kept free from development. It is considered the nation's way of managing the environment. The reserve system is made up of more than 9,000 protected areas covering more than 13 per cent of the country.

National parks protect native plants, animals and their habitats as well as places that are historically important. They also protect places of natural beauty and places that are important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Over seven percent of New South Wales (NSW) has been protected by National Parks and this percentage is growing.

State Parks are large areas of land set aside for a variety of recreation and nature study opportunities. There are currently nine State Parks in NSW.

State Parks have a similar purpose to National Parks, but they allow different types of recreational activities. There are over 600 parks and reserves in NSW.

State forests are areas of natural forest and timber plantations. These forests supply timber that is used for buildings, furniture making and woodchips. Sometimes in State Forests, there may be reserves that protect special plants. There are over 750 State Forests in NSW.

This lesson could be used over several lessons or as a supplement to lessons relating to forest sustainability, the role of forests as ecosystems and the socio-economic benefits of forests (for example, in tourism, recreation and employment).

Learning Objectives

This lesson will provide opportunities for students to learn about:

- A National forest in their State or Territory
- The flora and fauna species native to that forest

Resources

- Attached worksheets
- Internet
- Rulers and pencils



Activity 1 – A Native Forest in my State or Territory...

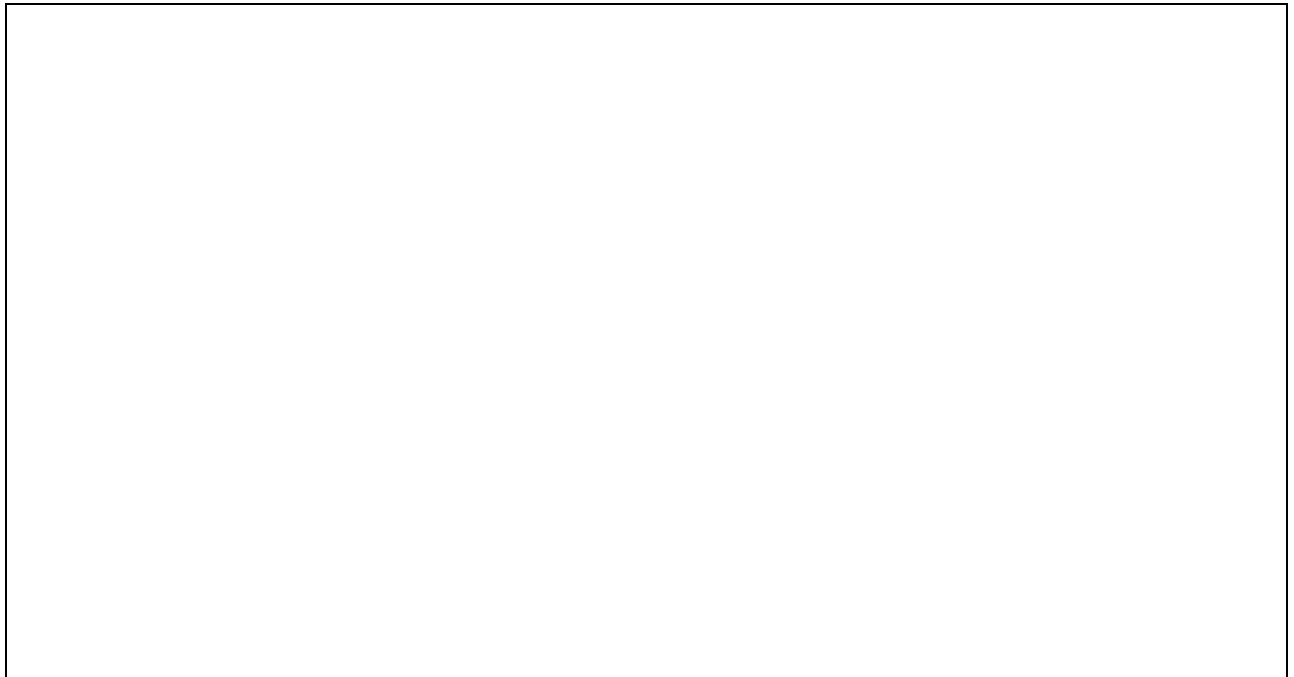
Working in pairs, do some Internet research and choose a native forest found in our State/Territory.

What is the name of the native forest you have chosen? OR In which National Park is the native forest located?

How big is the native forest in square kilometres? _____ km² OR How big is the national park in which the native forest is located?

What type of forest is it? (for example: eucalypt, casuarina or acacia etc.):

Now, sketch a map of our State/Territory below, and mark the spot where the native forest is found.





Activity 2 – The Fauna in this Forest...

How many species of native mammals can be found in the national park in which this forest is found?

List three native mammals found in this forest :

Draw a picture of one of these mammals below:



1. Where is this mammal typically found in the forest (for example: 'During the day, they sleep in the tree tops and at night, they forage for food on the forest floor ...')?

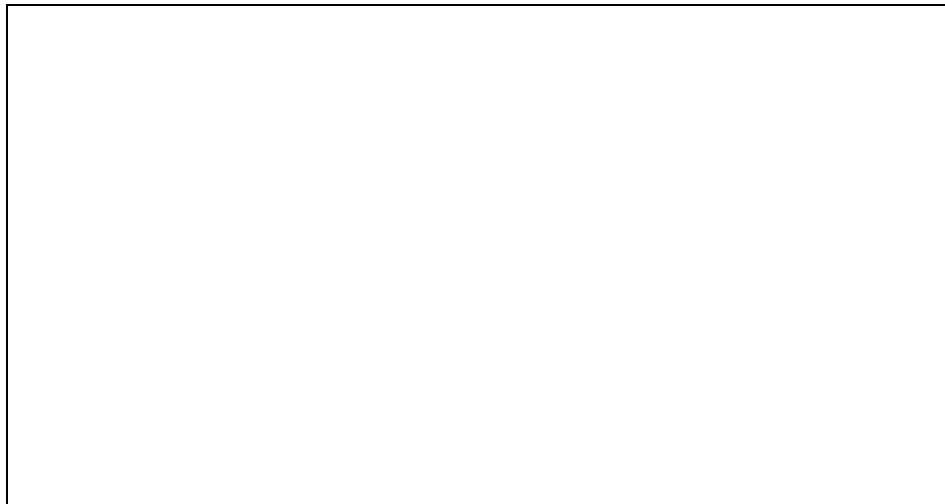
2. The native mammal I have chosen to talk about is a _____
3. Where it can be found in this forest:



Approximately, how many species of bird can be found in this forest?

4. Describe one of the bird species found in this forest:
- a. The bird I have chosen to talk about is a _____ Description (for example: 'Crimson rosellas have mostly dark red plumage....'):

5. Draw a picture of this bird below:



6. How many native reptile species can be found in this forest? _____

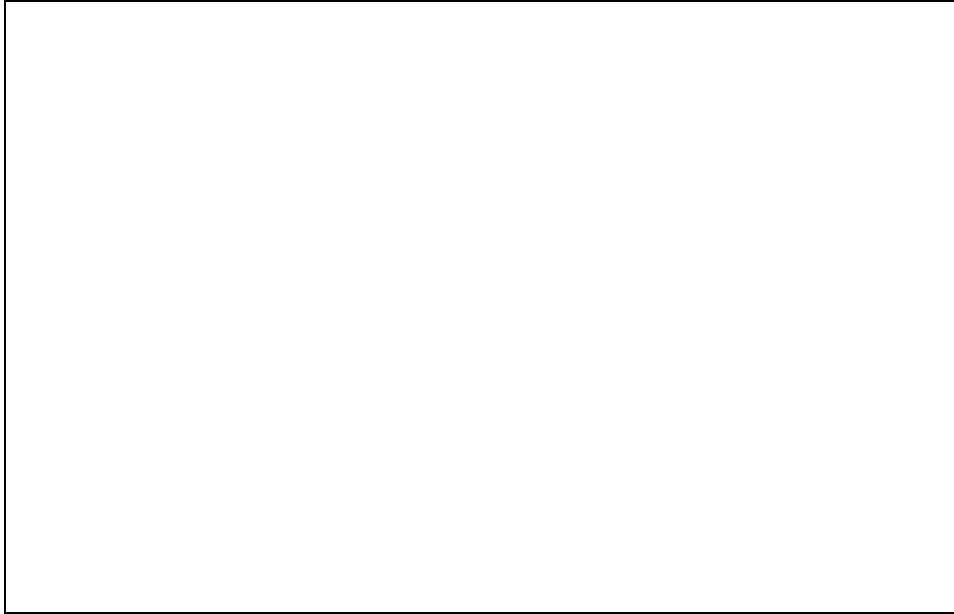
7. Describe one of the reptile species found in this forest:

8. The reptile I have chosen to talk about is a _____

9. Description (for example: 'Eastern Bearded Dragons have a spiky appearance....'):



10. Draw a picture of this reptile below:



Activity 3 – The Flora in this Forest...

How many species of native mammals can be found in this forest? _____

List three native mammals found in this forest :



Sources

Australia's different types of parks:

<http://www.skwork.com/p-c s-1 u-289 t-708 c-2650/nsw/hsie/state-and-national-parks/australia's-parks/australia's-state-and-national-parks>

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/v1500e/v1500e09.htm>

About National parks:

<http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/national-parks>

About quantity/distribution of Australia's native forests :

http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/Documents/criterion1_web.pdf

<http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/national-parks>

For New South Wales : <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/>

For Victoria: <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks>

Creative Commons License:



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

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.