

Geography Alive: Stage 3 Geography (Topic 1; Unit 2)

Lesson 1: Natural vegetation of Australia		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson students explore the natural characteristics of Australia with a focus on vegetation. In doing so they study a map showing the distribution of vegetation types, develop their own annotated pictorial map and undertake a group-based research task investigating animals found in a selected vegetation zone.</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Sheet 1: Map of Australia's vegetation zones • Resource Sheet 2: Images of Australian vegetation • Worksheet 1: Base map of Australian vegetation zones (enlarge to A3 size)
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the different vegetation types found in Australia? • Where are the different vegetation types found? • What animals live in the different vegetation zones? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies natural vegetation types and native animals from each environment • processes geographical information using an annotated map. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Ask students to write down and share with a friend all the different types of vegetation types that they may have seen on television or visited in the past. List the different types on the board. For example, wetlands, gum tree forest, rainforest, desert plants. • Step 2: Using <i>Resource Sheets 1 & 2</i>, introduce students to the various vegetation zones of Australia. • Step 3: Print off the images of the different vegetation types (Resource Sheet 2). • Step 4: On a base map of Australia's vegetation zones (Worksheet 1) ask students to paste in images of each vegetation type and annotate with arrows the location of each vegetation type. • Step 5: Ask students to write descriptive words for each type of vegetation next to the images. • Step 6: Ask students to speculate on what type of animals may live in each type of environment. • Step 7: Group-based research task. Divide the class into students seven groups (one for each vegetation type). Direct student to research an animal from each vegetation type and report findings back to the class.