Geography Alive: Stage 3 Geography (Topic 1; Unit 4)

Lesson 5: Kakadu National Park

Content focus:

In this lesson students will be introduced to Kakadu National Park as an example of an Australian landmark of great natural and cultural significance. Students investigate the location of the park, the characteristics that make it so unique and ways in which it is managed.

Resources:

- Access to Google Maps Kakadu [https://www.google.com/maps/place/Kakadu+National+Park/@-13.0930806,131.28165,8z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xf0217a90db10660!8m2!3d-13.0922931!4d132.3937658]
- Access to Google Earth
- Resource Sheet 1: Photographs of Kakadu National Park
- Teaching resource: YouTube clip: Kakadu [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvrJGFjxlZI]
- Lesson 1 PowerPoint: Famous Australian Landmarks

Key inquiry questions:

- Why is Kakadu considered such a special national landmark?
- Where is Kakadu located?
- How is Kakadu managed?

Outcomes:

A student:

- describes the diverse features and characteristics of Kakadu National Park
- explains interactions and connections between people, places and environments with specific reference to Indigenous Australian's links to the region
- compares and contrasts influences on the management of places and environments
- communicates geographical information.

Lesson sequence:

- Step 1 Introduce students to Kakadu National Park by showing them its location on Google Maps and viewing the area and its features using Google Earth. Students can mark the National Park on their individual maps of Australia (Lesson 1; Worksheet 1). Highlight the relative size of Kakadu National Park on a map of Australia. Display photographs of the National Park for students (Resource Sheet 1)
- **Step 2** Discuss with students what makes this National Park unique (different) from other national parks? Why do they think Kakadu is national landmark? Record student's answers to assess their knowledge of national landmarks.
- **Step 3** Explain to students that Kakadu is one of the largest national parks in the world. It was proclaimed in 1979. It was named for the Gagudgu language, once spoken in the northeast part of the park and recorded as 'Kakadu' by Baldwin Spencer, an early anthropologist who visited the region. The park is inscribed on the World's Heritage list for both its natural and cultural values.
- **Step 4:** Ask students to view the **YouTube clip: Kakadu**. Discuss with students the difference between human-made (cultural) landmarks and natural landmarks. Are there any other national landmarks in Australia that students can identify as being natural? How have cultural elements contributed to Kakadu's uniqueness?
- Step 5: Conclude the lesson by reshowing the Lesson 1 PowerPoint: Landmarks. Distinguish between those landmarks that are natural and those that a cultural. Students then investigate other natural Australian landmarks. Students are required to provide a brief description and pictures of each landmark.