



Stage 3

History and Geography – Aboriginal Wetland Connections

Outcomes

History

HT3-1 describes and explains the significance of people, groups, places and events to the development of Australia

HT3-2 describes and explains different experiences of people living in Australia over time

HT3-5 applies a variety of skills of historical inquiry and communication

Geography

GE3-1 describes the diverse features and characteristics of places and environments

GE3-2 explains interactions and connections between people, places and environments

Learning across the curriculum: 🖐️ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

🌱 Sustainability 🏛️ Ethical understanding

Content

History

The Australian Colonies

Key inquiry questions:

What do we know about the lives of people in Australia's colonial past and how do we know?

How did an Australian colony develop over time and why?

How did colonial settlement change the environment?

What were the significant events and who were the significant people that shaped Australian colonies?

The nature of convict or colonial presence, including the factors that influenced patterns of development, aspects of the daily life of inhabitants (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples) and how the environment changed (ACHHK094)

Students:

- outline settlement patterns in the nineteenth century and the factors which influenced them
- discuss the impact of settlement on local Aboriginal peoples and the environment
- discuss the diverse relationships between Aboriginal peoples and the British
- investigate the everyday life of a variety of men and women in post-1800 colonial settlements using a range of sources and explain their different experiences

The role that a significant individual or group played in shaping a colony; for example, explorers, farmers, entrepreneurs, artists, writers, humanitarians, religious and political leaders, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples (ACHHK097)

Students:

- use a range of sources to investigate the role of a particular man, woman or group and the contributions each made to the shaping of the colony

Geography

Key inquiry question

How do people and environments influence one another?

Factors That Shape Places

Factors that change environments

Students investigate the ways people change the natural environment in Australia, for example:

- examination of how people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, have influenced each country's environmental characteristics eg land clearing

Environments shape places

Students investigate how the natural environment influences people and places, for example:

- discussion of how climate influences the distribution of where people live
- comparison of how landforms influence where and how people live in Australia and another country

Program Description

Students investigate connection to place through the natural environment around Wetlands Environmental Education Centre, including links to the Hunter River (Coquon).

Students will explore a freshwater wetland ecosystem and examine wetland animal and plant species and their use by Awabakal people. Students investigate how people change the natural environment in Australia and examine ways people influence the characteristics of places, including the management of spaces, Aboriginal land use and management practices.

Activities:

Introduction including history and traditional land use of the Hunter Wetlands.

- Aboriginal use of wetland plants and animals.
- Aboriginal local history
- Seasonal calendars
- GPS Quest

This program is delivered over 4hrs from 10am to 2pm. The basic program will be changed to suit larger groups or weather conditions.

Location

Wetlands Environmental Education Centre (WEEC) located at Hunter Wetlands Centre, 412 Sandgate Rd, Shortland, Newcastle.
Please use school entry.

Site Description

WEEC is located at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, which is a managed wetland reserve with natural and artificial water features accessed by decks and established walking tracks. WEEC have a purpose built education centre including theatre, wet room and classroom.

The WEEC is a NSW Department of Education school and staff are trained DoE teachers specialising in Environmental Education.

Excursion information

What to bring: Printed student workbook, clipboard and pencil, recess and lunch, refillable water bottle, hat, sunscreen, covered walking shoes plus any special requirements of the group. (Wet weather gear when necessary). Non-aerosol insect repellent is advisable.

WEEC teachers rely on the participation of visiting teachers to meet recommended supervision levels. Visiting teachers are ultimately responsible for behaviour of students, students with existing medical conditions or special needs.