

Geography of Homestead Bend

Kinchega National Park

About this program

Learn how the Homestead Billabong was formed and how the environment changes as it leaves the Darling River. See Aboriginal occupation sites and the ruins of the Old Kinchega Homestead and interpret how and why both the Aboriginal people and early pastoralists lived here.

Objectives

Students will:

- Use maps and satellite images to interpret the natural and built environments
- Describe and record the environment using simple line drawings
- Interpret why Aboriginal occupation sites are located in this area
- Calculate distances using topographic maps
- Explain the geographical processes that formed the Homestead Billabong

Location description and highlights

Homestead Bend , Kinchega National Park

Walk along the edges of the Homestead Billabong with a National Parks Discovery Ranger. See the Homestead Billabong regulator, explore the ruins of the Old Kinchega Homestead and observe Aboriginal occupation sites including post contact sites.

Program outline

- Group meets at Campsite 34 on the southern end of the River Drive for an introduction to Kinchega National Park and the first activities.
- Activities continue on a walk to the Old Kinchega Homestead Ruins around the edge of the Homestead Billabong with time to record and collect information.
- Continue walking around the Homestead Billabong to interpret the Aboriginal occupation sites.
- It is then a short walk back to the Old Kinchega Homestead where the group can be picked up.

Resources

- Geography of Homestead Bend_Workbook
- Geography of Homestead Bend_topo
- Geography of Homestead Bend_site map
- Geography of Homestead Bend_Kinchega map

Additional references

- <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0017>
- <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkNature.aspx?id=N0017>
- <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkGeology.aspx?id=N0017>
- <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkAboriginalHeritage.aspx?id=N0017>
- <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHistory.aspx?id=N0017>

Program

Levels:

Stage 4

Key learning areas:

Geography
4G2 Global Environments - Rivers

Key outcomes:

- 4.3 uses a range of written, oral and graphic forms to communicate geographical information
- 4.6 describes the geographical processes that form and transform environments
- 4.8 describes the interrelationships between people and environments

Location:

Kinchega National Park, Menindee

Duration:

2 hours

Equipment provided:

- Workbook
- Maps

Additional needs:

- Clipboard and pens/pencils
- Calculator (mobile phone calculator suitable)
- cameras

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Kincheha National Park

Location map

Meet at campsite 34 on southern end of the River Drive

- Kincheha NP is 107km from Broken Hill on the Menindee Road.
- From the park entrance follow the Old Pooncarie Road 9km to the Woolshed Drive turnoff. It is then 4km to the River Drive turnoff and a further 1.5km to Campsite 34. This is a total distance of 14.5km from the park entrance to the meeting site on unsealed roads.
- Please allow 1 hour 45 mins to travel by bus from Broken Hill



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Level of difficulty



Homestead Billabong
Grade 3, 2km
some short steep sections
No steps

Park facilities



Pit toilet



Picnic tables, wood BBQs at
campsite 34.
More facilities at the Kinchega
Woolshed including toilet
block, shower block, picnic
tables, bore water, information
centre. Large gas BBQ on
request



Wheelchair accessible
carpark, picnic area and
toilets at Woolshed.



Aboriginal occupation sites

What to bring and wear

Long pants, enclosed shoes, hat, sunscreen and water

Supervision

Discovery Rangers will guide and encourage students as they carry out their field studies. It is the responsibility of the school to provide sufficient numbers of adult supervisors as required by the NSW Department of Education and Training. Students should be accompanied by their class teacher, who will be able to assist in keeping the students on focus and making the most of the day.

Student behaviour

For their own safety, students should be instructed to stay with the group at all times.

Excursion planner



Darling River.
Photography: Julieanne Nicholl



Kinchega National Park. Photography: David Finnegan/OEH

Be a considerate park visitor

- Here's what you can do to help protect parks when you visit
- Minimise your impact by not damaging or removing anything
- Stay on the walking tracks
- Walk as quietly as possible so you don't disturb the wildlife; you'll have a better chance of seeing it too
- Light fires only in the fireplaces provided
- Leave pets at home
- Please take all rubbish with you

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Safety information

The following information is a guide to assist teachers to carry out a risk assessment and to ensure there are control strategies in place. Contact the Discovery Coordinator if more information is required.

The walk is approximately 2km with some small steep sections where we cross dry water courses. In some sections the land is prone to "Crab holes" where the ground opens up. This is usually after extended periods of drought. Please be aware of snakes and spiders, do not lift vegetation and tin sheets to look underneath. Nightshade is found in this area.

Please do not eat any berries unless they have been identified by your Discovery guide as a bush food.

Potential risks	Suggested control strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poisonous and prickly plants Snakes and ticks. Biting insects such as bees, wasps and mosquitoes. Allergic reactions to plants and animal bites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discovery Rangers to provide safety talk identifying hazards and emphasising care and respect for each other and the public. Hazards on track to be identified to whole group when encountered. First aid kits to be carried by Discovery staff.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-existing medical conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students susceptible to asthma to carry personal ventolin inhaler. Students at risk of anaphylactic shock to have access to own EpiPen according to individual health plan. High risk students to be identified and monitored by teachers/carers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactions with other visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students to give way to other park visitors on walking tracks, keep noise to an appropriate level and respect the comfort of others.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students lost or separated from group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief teachers/carers on route and procedure for waiting at all track intersections.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variations in track surfaces (trip hazards) and overhanging branches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students to wear suitable walking shoes (no thongs or sandals) and long clothing. Adjust walking pace on steep sections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe weather conditions. Strong winds and storms causing falling vegetation, hail or lightning strikes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher to contact Area Office for advice if severe weather or very high fire danger is predicted. Postpone or shorten excursion if severe weather warning issued and high likelihood of storm impact in local area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to sun, rain or cold conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students should wear warm clothes and raincoats (no umbrellas) or sun hats and long sleeves/pants depending on forecast.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atmospheric conditions such as dust or smoke. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpone excursion in periods of very high dust or smoke pollution.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of bushfires in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpone excursion in periods of very high to catastrophic fire danger.

Safety information

Location:

Kincheha National Park, Menindee

Staff Accreditation:

Discovery Rangers have current Senior First Aid accreditation and carry first aid kits.

They have been screened for child-related employment and have completed a Prohibited Employment Declaration. OEH is committed to a Child Safe and Friendly Environment.

Access:

Suitable for all age groups and all fitness levels. Seek advice for wheelchair use. Wheelchair accessible carpark, picnic area and toilets at Woolshed.

Emergencies:

Staff are trained to deal with emergency situations and emergency procedures are in place.

Staff carry mobile phones with Next G coverage.

The emergency evacuation area is located at the Historic Kincheha Woolshed carpark.

Discovery Rangers have been instructed to call an ambulance whenever there is any doubt as to the continued well-being of a student or other visitor.

Contact details:

Education Program:
Julianne Doyle
Broken Hill Ranger
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FX 08 8080 3201
Julianne.Doyle@environment.nsw.gov.au

Site Management:
Broken Hill Area Office
183 Argent St,
PO Box 788,
BROKEN HILL NSW 2880
Ph:(08) 8080 3200
Fax: ((08) 8080 3201

**In an emergency
phone 000**