

1. What is a National Park?

Aim

This brainstorming activity asks students to consider what characteristics land should have to be declared a national park. It gives students an idea of their collective awareness of parks in Victoria.

Materials

- Resource sheet 1: What is a national park?
- Workbook and pens.

Activities

1. List all the national parks you have visited or heard mentioned.
2. Record their names on the board. Of the Victorian examples, which ones did students note most often? List the five best-known Victorian parks on the board.
3. Discuss briefly the main characteristics of these national parks.
4. Which of these characteristics are similar?
5. In your workbook, copy and then complete the table below. Add extra rows if necessary.

6. Read the resource sheet: What is a national park? In pairs, discuss the definitions of a national park given in the resource sheet. What does “protected permanently” mean?

7. In pairs, discuss what *you* think is meant by the following. Following a class discussion, write examples on the activity sheet.

- A relatively large area (some people consider an area larger than 1000 hectares to be a ‘relatively large area’).
- Features of predominantly unspoiled landscape, flora and fauna.
- Public enjoyment, education and inspiration.
- Essential management practices.
- Preservation of natural attributes.

7. Write each of the five dot points listed in step 6 as a subheading in your workbook. Beneath each statement list a park or place that gives an example of this part of the definition of a national park.

Example:

Essential Management Practices

Boardwalk and safety fences at the Twelve Apostles, Port Campbell National Park.

Personally known national parks	Most commonly known national parks	Common characteristics of these places
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

1. What is a national park?

Park management agencies throughout Australia and New Zealand use the following definition of a national park. *

A national park is 'a relatively large area, set aside for its features of predominantly unspoiled landscape, flora and fauna, permanently dedicated for public enjoyment, education and inspiration, and protected from all interferences other than essential management practices, so that its natural attributes are preserved.'

The Victorian legislation defines a national park as

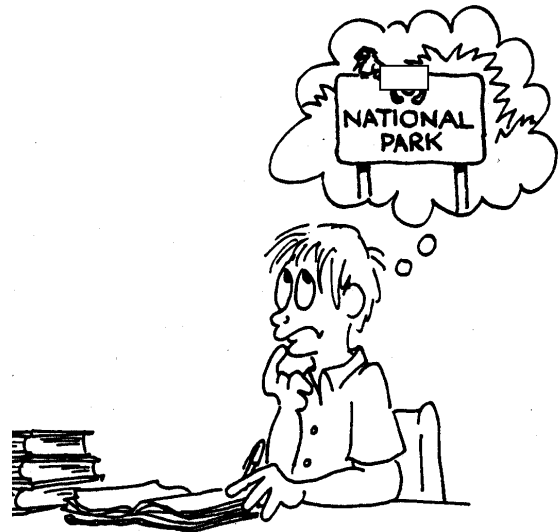
certain Crown Land characterised by its predominantly unspoilt landscape, and its flora, fauna or other features, that should be reserved and preserved and protected permanently for the benefit of the public.

(Preamble National Parks Act 1975 page 1).

The National Parks Act is a law passed by the Victorian Parliament in 1975. Under this Act, parks are named on one of five criteria (called schedules or lists). Decisions about which areas are placed in which schedule are based on their size, diversity of ecosystems, and significance of their conservation values.

Key parts of the definition

1. A relatively large area
Example:
2. Predominantly unspoiled landscape, flora and fauna or other features
Example:
3. Public enjoyment, education and inspiration
Example:
4. Essential management practices
Example:
5. Preservation of natural attributes
Example:



* Note: The definition was accepted in 1970 by the former Council for Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) now called the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC).