

7. How many people visit Victoria's national parks?

Aim

This activity provides information on the number of people visiting Victoria's parks to enable students to develop statistical and graphing skills. The discussion encourages students to consider the implications of increasing visitor numbers on parks in the future.

Materials

- Resource sheet 7: Visitor statistics.
- Pens, pencils, ruler.
- Graph paper.

Note: The figures provided in these resource tables are estimates of visitor numbers based on the accepted methodology used at the time. The methodology was improved in accuracy in 1997 and this partially explains the marked difference between 1995/96 and 1997/98. The methodology for collecting visitor statistics continues to be improved.

Parks Victoria provides visitor statistics on its website. Check the website for future updates.

Activities

Look at Table 1 in Resource sheet 7: Visitor statistics.

1. According to the statistics in Table 1,
 - a) describe the general trend in visitor numbers to national parks between 1980-2001?
 - b) Suggest possible reasons to account for the trend (one clue is in the last column on Table 1).
 - c) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of increased visitor numbers to parks. Briefly list these under the two heading.

2. Look at Table 2 on the resource sheet.

- a) In groups of four, construct a bar graph to show this information. Each student can complete two graphs for two parks to show the change.
- b) Which parks have increasing visitor numbers over this time period? Which parks have decreasing visitor numbers over this time period?
- c) For each park, suggest possible reasons for the change in visitor numbers between 1980 and 2001. Suggest possible reasons for any marked changes in visitor numbers between 1995/96 and 1997/98.
- d) Describe your graph results to the others in your group. Which of these parks attract the most visitors? Which of these parks attract the least visitors?
- e) Discuss then list possible reasons why some parks attract more visitors than others.
- f) With a workmate, discuss ways in which you could increase the number of visitors to particular national parks in Victoria. Write a brief summary of your ideas.

3. Discuss the benefits to Parks Victoria of gathering statistics on the number of visitors to national parks, statewide and for specific parks.



7. Visitor statistics

Table 1: Visitors to Victoria's national parks

Year	Visitor days	No. of parks included
1980-81	4 489 000	55
1981-82	5 878 000	58
1982-83	6 407 000	60
1983-84	5 735 000	61
1984-85	6 896 000	64
1985-86	6 992 000	64
1986-87	7 200 000	64
1987-88	7 502 000	73
1988-89	7 862 200	79
1989-90	8 229 600	79
1990-91	8 826 700	73
1991-92	9 228 500	76
1992-93	9 352 100	80
1993-94	9 892 500	82
1994-95	11 533 100	77
1995-96	12 153 600	88
1997-98	12,350,823	88
1998-99	13,592,615	90
1999-2000	13,919,502	90
2000-2001	15,206,141	90

Source: Figures prior to 1997 - Annual Reports on the National Parks Act. Figures post 1997 - Parks Victoria. Figures prior to 1997 are based on estimates made by staff for their parks. Figures post 1997 are based on survey estimates by contractors to Parks Victoria.

Table 2: Visitors to selected national parks 1980-2001

Park	Visitor days							
	1980/ 81	1984/ 85	1987/ 88	1995	1997/ 98	1998/ 99	1999/ 2000	2000/ 01
Grampians	1 030 000	1 470 000	1 547 000	1 491 900	1 228 268	1 286 943	1 375 585	1 505 428
Hattah-Kulkyne	46 500	53 900	73 900	91 700	76 486	69 565	57 808	42 814
Kinglake	98 000	124 100	149 400	221 500	126 158	86 043	73 167	89 547
Mt Eccles	15 050	18 900	14 200	34 900	31 523	31 523	30 369	28 410
Organ Pipes	85 400	109 700	106 900	114 900	60 409	50 863	47 261	47 261
Port Campbell	266 500	325 600	433 700	760 700	1 533 018	1 821 773	1 894 417	1 955 025
Wilsons Promontory	349 300	390 200	392 700	417 300	394 139	469 440	486 068	398 470
Wyperfeld	39 400	34 500	21 300	56 800	74 029	74 029	75 663	50 422

Figures prior to 1997 are based on estimates made by staff for their parks.
Figures post 1997 are based on survey estimates by contractors to Parks Victoria.

Note: "Visitor days" represents the total number of people visiting the park each day.