

2. The climate of Kinglake National Park

Aim

To construct a climate graph, analyse the graph and interpret the data for Kinglake National Park.

Materials

- Resource sheet 2: Climate data for Kinglake National Park.
- Graph paper.

Activities

1. Locate Mason's Falls, Jehosaphat Gully, Boggy Creek and Gordon's Bridge on a basemap of Kinglake National Park.
2. Construct a rainfall graph for the four sites within the park. Describe the general rainfall pattern for the area.
3. What are the similarities and differences between rainfall patterns at Mason's Falls, Jehosaphat Gully, Boggy Creek and Gordon's Bridge? Which of the four sites has the most rainfall? Which has the least?

4. Construct a climate graph for Mason's Falls which has columns representing precipitation and two lines representing mean maximum and minimum temperatures. Make sure that the climate graph you have drawn has a title and each axis is clearly labelled with the appropriate unit e.g. precipitation (mm).

5. Describe the climate at Mason's Falls in a paragraph which includes:

- The month of highest and lowest precipitation.
- The month of highest and lowest temperature.
- The general characteristics of each season.

6. In which months of the year would you choose to visit to Kinglake National Park? Give reasons to support your choice.



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2. Climate data for Kinglake National Park

The climate is cool temperate with January averages of 12.2°C minimum and 22.5°C maximum, making it a popular place with visitors seeking cooler places in summer.

Fogs and frosts are common in winter - an average of 20 frosts annually are recorded in the area. Snow falls occasionally in the park,

although it rarely produces a snow cover as it usually melts as it hits the ground.

The national park receives between 950 mm and 1120 mm of rainfall each year, the variation being mainly due to differences in elevation.

Average Rainfall in Kinglake National Park

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Masons Falls (1)	68.42	53.71	69.75	88.51	92.96	97.65	89.50	112.95	104.77	107.56	92.83	90.30	1068.89
Jehosaphat Gully (2)	61.0	40.2	80.8	99.2	97.8	104.8	106.3	136.9	110.48	94.2	87.21	101.2	1120.0
Boggy Creek (3)	51.4	47.2	67.5	86.4	112.1	95.3	92.5	121.1	107.0	89.6	79.4	60.7	995.4
Wallaby Creek (4)	67.3	59.3	71.6	96.4	113.6	132.5	127.2	130.7	120.2	115.0	95.9	87.2	1216.9

(1) average from 1973 – 2001

(2) average from 1975 – 1990

(3) average from 1967 – 1983

(4) average from 1885 – 2001

Average Temperature in Kinglake National Park (taken at Masons Falls)

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual mean
Mean minimum °C	12.2	12.1	11.7	9.8	8.7	5.7	5.4	5.7	6.2	8.3	9.7	11.7	8.93 °C
Mean maximum °C	22.5	22.7	21.4	17.3	12.5	9.7	8.9	10.0	12.6	15.9	17.9	20.9	16.02 °C

average from 1988 -1993