

9. Field trip question bank

ON ROUTE

On the journey to Kinglake National Park answer these questions.

1. Have you visited Kinglake National Park before?
2. If yes,
 - (a) How many times have you visited?
 - (b) What activities did you do last time you visited the park?
3. As you travel north on Plenty Road you will notice new subdivisions occurring. Estimate how many years it will be before Whittlesea becomes a part of Melbourne. _____ years.
4. Once the bus turns down National Park Road, describe the main land uses that are found near Kinglake National Park.
5. Suggest how the land uses near the park might affect Kinglake National Park. (Students might also like to ask the ranger this question.)

General questions at the park

6. What are the main features of this park?
7. What types of recreation is catered for in this park?
8. Is there any zoning of areas in the park? If so, give examples.

9. Who do you think would be the main users of the park? (Hint: consider age, home address)

10. What was the most enjoyable aspect of the park for you?

At the park ENTRANCE

11. At the entrance to this section of the park you will notice several signs. List them.
12. One sign says no dogs and cats are allowed. Why do you think this rule exists?
13. When does the park close? Why?
14. One of the signs states that all native plants and animals are protected. How do you think this rule is enforced?

INFORMATION CENTRE

BLOCK A

RANGER'S TALK

15. Describe the activities that the ranger does as part of his / her job.
16. What types of qualifications are useful/recommended for a Park Ranger?
17. What are some of the highlights of Kinglake National Park? Why is it an important conservation area?
18. Describe the problems that occur at Kinglake National Park and explain what management strategy (solution) is being used.

Problem	Solutions
<i>Example</i> Removal of wood which is a habitat for animals.	Install gas barbecues. Install signs prohibiting solid fuel fires. Include this information in park leaflets and information boards

19. If people break the rules of the park what type of consequences apply and who enforces them.

Note any other useful information you gained from the Ranger's talk.

SLIDE TALK

A. Past history

20. Briefly describe the early Indigenous history in the area and the effect of Indigenous lifestyle on the land.

21. Briefly describe early European settlers use of the Kinglake area.

22. What types of landuse are found around the Kinglake National Park today?

B. Animals and birds in the park

23. List 4 types of animals found in the park.

24. List 4 types of birds found in the park.

C. Park management

26. List at least five problems associated with managing the park today

27. Why are large areas needed for national parks?

28. List at least four regulations imposed on visitors to help with management.

29. What kind of activities can visitors to the park engage in? List as many as possible.

30. What are the duties of the Park Ranger? How do these vary throughout the year?

DISPLAYS

View the displays carefully and answer these questions.

A. Habitats

31. Name at least four characteristics of wet and dry habitats.

B. Melbourne's Bush Haven

32. Study the Landsat image of the area. What do the dark red areas show? Note the area of the park in

1928 _____

1980 _____

1984 _____

33. In what way has the emphasis in Kinglake National Park changed?

34. What are the main aims / functions of the park today?

C. Lyrebird display

35. What dangers do lyrebirds, wallabies or wombats face in this park?

36. What kind of evidence is used to monitor the presence of animals? What is this data used for?

37. Refer to the graph showing Lyrebird numbers. What trend does it show? How is data about Lyrebird numbers obtained?

38. What lyrebird management problems occur at Kinglake National Park? Make notes from the slides and talk.

39. What other animals are found in the park? Did you see any of them today? If not, why not?

MASONS FALLS PICNIC AREA

1. List the facilities available to visitors in this section of the park.
2. Are there particular groups of people who have been specifically catered for? If so, how?
3. What animals can you see around the picnic area?
4. List six management techniques used in this area?
5. How is litter managed here? How successful does the litter management policy appear to be?

At the picnic area

6. Suggest why the picnic area has been divided into a number of smaller areas.
7. Why are there a number of smaller car parks rather than one large car park?
8. Do you think the materials used for the shelter hut and toilet block blend in with the natural environment? Explain. Suggest why have timber logs been used rather than concrete and steel barriers?
9. Copy four signs that you can see in this area and explain why they are needed.

Sign	Reason for use

LYREBIRD TRACK

This track is a short circuit with information signs. Refer to these signs to make observations and complete the following questions.

1. Master Mimic

What were early names for the Superb Lyrebird?

What evidence is there in the park which suggests Superb Lyrebirds are present? What do Lyrebirds eat?

Which sex has the spectacular tail? What colour are the tail feathers?

2. Mudstone and Fossils

What was the area around Masons Falls like more than 300 million years ago? How do we know?

How is mudstone formed?

What effect did volcanic activity have on the sea bed?

Why are fossils important to the park?

Three common marine (sea) fossils have been found here. Write their names and the names of any modern day relatives that exist.

3. Ferns and Fungi

How many fern species are found in the park?

Circle the correct answer:

Ferns grow best in full sun / filtered light.
They require damp / dry conditions.

Two main fern groups exist here: Tree ferns and Bracken. What is the main difference between these two types of ferns. Sketch an example of each.

Old logs may have _____,
_____ or _____
growing on them. These then attract animals
such as _____,
_____ and _____.

Draw a food chain that starts with a log.

How do the fungi found growing on a log
contribute to recycling in a forest?

4. Plants of the gully

Explain why broad-leaved shrubs and ferns
are common in this area.

Draw a leaf of Blackwood Wattle after you
have found a tree of this type.

How did the Musk Daisy-Bush get its name?
How did Hazel Pomaderris get its name?

5. Carman's mill site

During what time span was this area
logged?

This area was cleared for logging many
years ago. Park management has not
replanted this area. Why do you think this is
the case?

Draw a food chain that involves a lyrebird.
Use the information provided at this site to
help you.

When did Kinglake become a National Park?

Post 2

What activity used to occur here? What
evidence is there of this?

How did the Mountain Grey Gum survive
logging?

What happens to the bark of the Mountain
Grey Gum near the tips of the branches?

What did the loggers use the notches in the
base of the tree trunks for?

Post 1 Timber tramway

What was the tramway used for?

There are many fallen logs along the sides
of the track. Park rangers leave them there
because they are slowly broken down into
humus by fungi, tiny insects and bacteria.
Humus is rich in nutrients and breaks down
to become soil.

Look for vine-like plants that use other
bushes and trees for support. Some of
these vines are Wire Grass and the Wonga
Vine. Feel them and look at them closely.
How do they cling to plants? What
advantage is it for a plant to climb?

Epiphytes are plants which live on other
plants without harming them e.g. moss and
Kangaroo Fern. Draw one of these
epiphytes.

What evidence of fire did you notice during
this walk?

MASONS FALLS / WALLABY TRAIL

Wallaby Trail- 1.5 km, 30 minutes one way.
This short track links the park office with
Running Creek Track. It goes through open
messmate forest with bracken understory,
the habitat for the Swamp Wallaby.

Grass Trees

A stand of Austral Grass Trees occurs on
the lower reaches of the track. What are
the leaves like? Feel a leaf and describe it.

When they flower, grass trees produce a tall
black spear shaped flower. Although the
flowers grow quickly, the grass tree is noted
for its very slow growth – it is estimated they
only grow about one centimetre every year.

In Spring, look along the track for the small
pea plant called an Egg and Bacon plant
because of its yellow and orange flowers
which occur in spring. Note its small leaves.
What do they feel like?

How do the leaves of the Grass Trees and
shrubs here compare to those in the gully?

After walking for about 20 minutes your teacher will ask you to stop, be seated and rest. Sit in silence for five minutes and listen to the sounds of the forest. Then list some values of the forest for bushwalkers and other groups.

Use a plant field guide to find the three main tree species present in this part of the park: Messmate, Mountain Grey Gum and Narrow-leaf Peppermint.

Can you find evidence of a natural disaster these trees have lived through? What evidence have you found? What disaster does this evidence indicate?

What animals have you seen on your walk? Why didn't you see more animals on your walk?

As you get close to the Masons Falls picnic area, record evidence of humans affecting the environment.

Is there evidence of people walking off the paths? What effect does this have?

How can this be prevented or managed?

Along Masons Falls track, there are tracks leading off that have been closed. Why do you think the tracks have been closed?

Have you noticed any misuses of the park? How could these be managed?

Make a line drawing of the vegetation here.

BOUNDARY TRACK

Commencing from Mason Falls Picnic area.

This track follows the western boundary of this part of Kinglake National Park. Name two park management problems linked to the adjoining private land

N.B. At the signpost "no entry" (on a left hand fork in the track) take the right hand fork.

The cleared area along the boundary is a firebreak - you are walking along part of it.

Why has a firebreak been made in this section of the park?

Describe the contrasts between the National Park land and the private land adjoining the park.

Study the fence bordering the park and private land. Is this adequate. Are there any gates or holes? Is there any evidence of dogs, cats or livestock getting into the park?

As you leave the park look closely at the landuse adjacent to the park. What is this land used for?

What do you think would have happened to the Kinglake area if it had not been declared a National Park?

FRANK THOMSON RESERVE

This is a good site for views to Melbourne.

Sketch the topography, labelling the features.

ANDREWS HILL EDUCATION AREA

This is the only site at which students can collect samples. It can be used for stream studies, detailed transect and / or quadrant work and soil samples. Note it has no toilet facilities.

THE GUMS CAMPING AREA

How many sites are there?

What facilities are available?

Would you like to camp here? Explain.

PLANT STUDIES (around Mason Falls picnic area)

Vegetation within the picnic ground has been cleared so the three layers of the forest are not distinct here. Look towards the forest walks. You should see the forest has three layers. Give examples of the types of vegetation in each layer:

- Canopy layer
- Mid-storey layer
- Understorey (ground layer)

The tallest trees form the canopy. Estimate the height of the canopy.

Look at the trunks of these trees and follow them to their tips. Can you distinguish at least two different types of trees based on your observations? How do the trunks of the two types of trees differ?

TRACK TO MASONS FALLS

Blanket Leaf

Just after the start of the track at the car park, look for a small tree called a Blanket Leaf. Feel one of its leaves. Why do you think it was given its name?

If you walk further along this track look to your right and you will see many more Blanket Leaf trees in the understorey. Do they get more or less light than the canopy?

Bracken ferns

As you walk further along, look for ferns in the understorey. Draw one of the young fern leaves before it uncoils. Ferns are the only plants whose leaves coil up like springs when they first form.

What covers the leaves when they are young?

Ferns never have flowers, but reproduce by means of tiny spores which form on the undersides of the leaves. Can you find any spores on an older leaf?

Fallen logs

Look for fallen logs and record any thing you see growing on them. How might this help the forest as a whole?

Shady banks - Liverworts

Liverworts are small green strap-like plants related to mosses. Before the track reaches Falls Lookout, it dips into a shady bend. Look for some liverworts growing in the damp soil of the banks and draw one.

Masons Falls Lookout

As you look down at the falls, notice that the vegetation on the hillside opposite you is different from that growing on the banks below your feet. Suggest a possible reason for this.

Suggest why people are not permitted to walk to the bottom of the falls.

Messmate forest

After the falls, the path climbs into Open Messmate Forest with Bracken Fern understorey.

Follow the signpost to Wallaby Trail.



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