

Activity

Episode 6
11th March 2014

World Heritage

Key Learning

Students will develop a deeper understanding of what World Heritage sites are, the importance of protecting them and threats to sites in Australia.

The Australian Curriculum

Geography / Geographical Knowledge and Understanding/Unit 1: Water in the world

The economic, cultural, spiritual and aesthetic value of water for people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and peoples of the Asia region ([ACHGK041](#)) *year 7*



The similarities and differences in individuals' and groups' feelings and perceptions about places, and how they influence views about the protection of these places ([ACHGK018](#)) *Year 3*



Humanities and Social Sciences/History/Historical Knowledge and Understanding/Investigating the ancient past

The importance of conserving the remains of the ancient past, including the heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples ([ACDSEH148](#)) *Year 7*



Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, describe what World Heritage sites are.
2. Name three World Heritage sites.
3. Give some reasons why some places are put on the World Heritage list.
4. UNESCO is part of which organisation?
5. How many World Heritage sites are there in the world
 - a. 781
 - b. 881
 - c. 981
6. How many sites does Australia have?
7. Describe what is happening at Abbot Point in North Queensland.
8. Why are some people worried about the dredging?
9. What sorts of strict conditions will be placed on dredging?
10. Do you think it's important to protect World Heritage sites? Why?

Activities

Define these terms

Students will think about what the words '*heritage*', '*conservation*', '*preserve*' and '*protect*' mean in the context of the BtN *World Heritage* story. Students will compare their definitions. Come up with a class definition for World Heritage.

As a class, construct a mind map with World Heritage at the centre. Students think of as many World Heritage sites as they can and record them on the mind map.

Discussion Questions

- Why are World Heritage sites special?
- What types of places around the world are World Heritage sites?
- What are cultural, natural and mixed World Heritage sites?
- How does a site make it onto the World Heritage list?
- Why are sites protected?

Students can choose one or more of the following activities to complete.

World heritage sites

Look at the photos of some well known World Heritage sites from around the world then answer the following questions:

- Where is the World Heritage site located? Find it on a world map.
- Is it a natural, cultural or mixed site?
- Why is the site significant?
- Are there any threats to the site?
- How is the site being protected?



Stonehenge



Kakadu National Park



The Great Wall



The Grand Canyon



Pompeii



Machu Picchu

Research a World Heritage site

Students choose a World Heritage site from the list on the UNESCO website <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list> and research the site.

Research

- A description of the site including where it is located, what kind of place it is, whether it is a cultural, natural or mixed site
- Features of the site
- The criteria that were listed in nominating it to be a World Heritage site
- The significance of the site (include importance to Indigenous people)
- What is the value of preserving this site
- Photographs and a map (including latitude and longitude)
- Students present their research about the site they chose. These could include an electronic brochure or poster (glogster) or Prezi presentation Students will need to include a bibliography.

Threats to World Heritage

Students will explore threats to Australia's World Heritage places. Begin by defining what a threat is. Brainstorm some potential threats to World Heritage sites (natural and human). These could include

pollution, threats associated with climate change, human activities such as mining. Students then choose a World Heritage site in Australia to focus on.

- Name, location and significance of the site
- Specific threats to the site
- Who is responsible for managing the site?
- How are the threats being managed?
- How would you manage the threats/challenges to the site? What action would you take?

Related Research Links

Behind the News – Reef Threat

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3363010.htm>

ABC News – Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority approves plan to dump Abbot Point spoil

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-01-31/abbot-point-spoil-dredging-approved/5227774>

UNESCO – World Heritage list

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

UNESCO World Heritage List – Interactive map

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

Schools A-Z – World Heritage sites

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/geography/world-heritage-sites>

Australian Geographic – World Heritage sites of Australia

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/travel/destinations/2011/08/world-heritage-sites-of-australia/>

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority – What is dredging?

<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/about-us/consultation/legislative-requirements-for-permits/dredging-and-spoil-disposal-in-the-marine-park>

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service – Threats to Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspX?base=667>

Department of the Environment – World Heritage Criteria

<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/heritage/about-australias-heritage/world-heritage/world-heritage-criteria>