

Paradise Country – Activity Trail

Treat your students to an educational excursion where motivation is linked to Australiana.

A day at Paradise Country Aussie Farm encourages students to actively participate in the various rides and attractions. Through this interaction, they should gain the insight and knowledge necessary to respond to a series of cross-curricula challenges at their own ability level. You, the teacher, can become the tour guide by selecting appropriate attractions and activities to meet your curriculum needs and for students to demonstrate achievement of particular outcomes. The worksheets become data collection for students and samples of work indicative of each student's ability.

How can a visit to an Aussie Farm be educational?

Learning implies a state of physical, mental and/or emotional change through the observation and restructuring process needed to alter social, behavioural and intellectual norms. Through adventure education and activity trails, exposure to risk, which is normal in our daily lives and essential to our education, promotes student motivation, interest and preparation to undergo more complex forms of behavioural change which can assist the development of self esteem. To stimulate creativity, interface between the individual and the physical, mental and emotional environment is essential.

A visit to a farm provides the creative environment that oozes enjoyment, stimulation and socialisation, while the activity trail challenges the thinking skills of the students through introspection and reflection of their experiences. The relaxed environment motivates students to demonstrate and present curriculum-based skills through personal interpretation of set tasks.

How do I get started?

1. Check that you have downloaded the latest version of the **Paradise Country Activity Trail**.
2. Select the outcomes you plan for students to achieve on the day from your curriculum documents.
3. Select the attractions appropriate to your outcomes and length of visit.
4. Select or modify the activities to suit the needs of your students.
5. Plan your itinerary for the day and allow for queuing.
6. Decide on pre-visit activities to prepare students for the experience.
7. Create a post visit contract of set activities to present for assessment.
8. Decide on the student dynamics for optimum results during the visit.
9. Submit your own activity suggestions to have the chance to win a Gold Coast Theme Park Holiday.

For more information on your Paradise Country excursion contact:

Paradise Country
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Oxenford, Gold Coast 4210
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Before you visit

Students should be involved in an historical journey through the creation and settlement of the continent of Australia, relative to the SOSE level outcomes to be achieved. This journey could include:

- Movement of tectonic plates and the possibility of a land bridge to Asia
- Mapping of Australia in relation to the rest of the world
- Native fauna and flora
- The lifestyle of the early aboriginal inhabitants
- European discoverers and white settlement
- Exploration and establishment of colonies
- The lifestyles of the pioneers, timber-getters and farmers
- Expansion of settlements and the effect on the environment
- The discovery of gold and the resultant population increase
- The establishment of industries
- Federation, the flag and government
- Mapping the states of Australia with relevant geographic features
- Australia involvement in the world wars
- Depression and the swagman
- Australian literature, art and Aussie icons
- Moving from natural resources to tourism to provide employment
- Protecting the environment and managing our resources
- Australia into the 21st Century, a future perspective

As the interactive presentations of Paradise Country demonstrate a snapshot of rural Australiana, prior knowledge of the context of the various sessions will greatly assist student understanding and their ability to become involved in a meaningful way. The following integrated activities have been designed to stimulate student thinking and promote discussion of Australia as to why it truly is paradise country.

The activity trail is presented at two levels of comprehension:

1. Factual recall and association of the interactive presentations through directed questioning and
2. Conceptual event programming and production of the interactive presentations through simulation processes.

Level 1 activities are appropriate for all students and should be completed prior to Level 2, while Level 2 activities are more suited to middle and senior school students as a rich task which may involve pairings or small group dynamics. Activities should be selected and modified to suit local school curricula needs and outcomes.

The Koala Habitat

LEVEL 1

1. How many koalas live in the enclosure? _____

2. How are their basic needs of food, water and shelter met?

3. Draw a sketch of a koala in its home

4. List words that describe how a koala looks, feels, smells and sounds

5. Create a shape poem inside the koala image about the koala



The Koala Habitat

LEVEL 2

1. From the information presented at the enclosure, create a one minute talk for tourists about koalas

2. Create a traditional Australian bush yarn that would encourage visitors to be photographed holding a koala



Australian Bushcraft

LEVEL 1

1. Number these instructions in correct order to make billy tea



- _____ Twirl the billy in a circle
- _____ Make a fire
- _____ Gather timber for a fire
- _____ Add tea leaves to the boiling water
- _____ Place a water-filled billy into the fire
- _____ Remove the billy from the fire

2. Write the instructions for each of the following activities in order, to inform a friend who wasn't able to attend the visit

Rounding up a cow _____

Penning sheep _____

Making and cracking a whip _____

Throwing a boomerang _____

Milking a cow _____



Australian Bushcraft

LEVEL 2

1. Create an interactive play to involve as many visitors as possible in the tea making and damper procedure while presenting the relevance of billy tea and damper to the Australian life

2. Describe and review the methods of entertainment used to involve and educate visitors through the presentation of each attraction. Write a 100 word newspaper review of the presentations with a suitable headline



The Shearing Shed

LEVEL 1



1. What is a male sheep called? _____

2. What is a female sheep called? _____

3. What is a baby sheep called? _____

4. What breed of sheep is the number one wool producer in Australia?

5. What breeds of sheep are introduced into the shearing shed?

6. Use alliteration to give each sheep an appropriate name, and write a tongue twister for each sheep named. Eg, Martin Merino met many mates at the muddy markets on Monday

7. How long does it take the shearer to shear one sheep?



The Shearing Shed

LEVEL 2

1. What interpersonal skills does the shearer employ to involve the audience with the shearing presentation?



2. Write a descriptive review of the shearing presentation, in less than 50 words, for an advertising brochure for Paradise Country

3. Rewrite the story of 'Click Go The Shears' in more modern language for the audience to relate to the context

After your visit

At the conclusion of your Paradise Country adventure, students should reflect on their experiences to consolidate understanding and provide evidence of learning outcomes achieved. A contract or rich task can be created containing a variety of activities, as well as responses to the challenges of the activity trail, which use the visit as a focussing activity.

Here are some suggestions for post-visit activities:

- Draw an aerial view of Paradise Country using appropriate scale and directional orientation
- Draw a tourist map of the Gold Coast showing the location and access routes to Paradise Country
- Sketch, or draw perspectively, historical buildings or structures
- Create caricatures of the presenters or animals
- Create a cartoon strip using one, some or all of characters from the visit
- Draw a logo or crest to represent Paradise Country on a letterhead
- Design simple but representative captions and illustrations to screen print onto merchandising products
- Create an advertising jingle or song for radio publicity
- Create a 30 second scenario for a television advertisement
- Simulation - You have been hired to attract more visitors, both overseas and local, to the venue. What changes or additions would you make and why.
- Write Aussie trivia questions in a variety of categories and conduct a community challenge e.g. history, geography, flora, fauna, literature, art, sport, industries, locations, etc
- Debate the topic: 'Is Australia Really Paradise Country?'
- Write a story that contrasts Australian city life with life in the bush
- After visiting the gift shop, discuss the attributes of an Aussie Icon for use in merchandising. What other objects should become icons?

