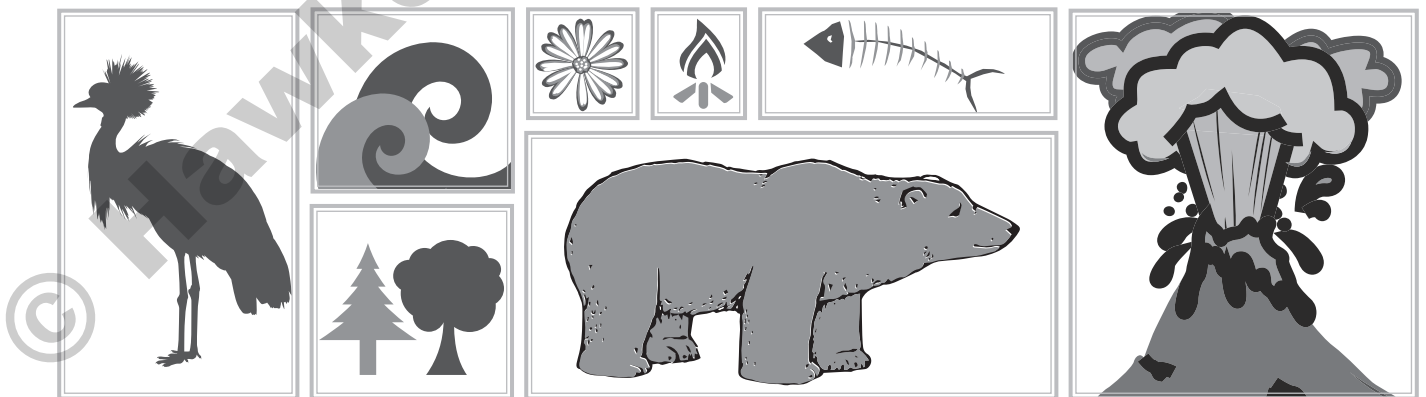


# CIRCLING THE WORLD

# NATIONAL

# PARKS

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# INTRODUCTION

When Yellowstone was established as the first national park in the United States, it started a worldwide concept of establishing national parks. There are now over 100 national parks and preserves worldwide. These are places that give meaning to life, enhance our appreciation of the earth's ecological processes, provide an understanding of history and help bridge our cultural diversity. Our parks protect and preserve the most valuable and the most fragile places on Earth. For this reason, the study of our national and international parks has an important place in our classrooms.

*National Parks* is a perfect complement for your units of study on world geography. Divided into six continental regions to correlate with the Australian Curriculum: Geography for Years 4–6, *National Parks* is intended to help you give your primary-age students an understanding of the amazing variety of places throughout our world. 36 specific national parks are described and explored.

Each park description is followed by an activity which students can complete to learn more about the geography of that park. Many of the activities involve a different learning area or skill set, supporting the integration of geography education with learning in other subjects. At the bottom of each activity page are websites that also relate to the activity, which will help the teacher to extend the activity and relate it to sites closer to home.

The activities in *National Parks* are a great way to introduce students in Years 4–6 to the study of continents prescribed in the Australian Curriculum: Geography. The table opposite displays the content descriptions and elaborations from the Geographical Knowledge and Understanding strand that deal specifically with the continental regions addressed in this book. However, the resources provided are also effective when used to support integrated study across a range of curriculum subjects, including science, civics and citizenship, the arts, history and more.

## **Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites**

Several national parks have received international recognition by UNESCO for their outstanding natural and/or cultural values.

Biosphere Reserves are representative examples of diverse natural landscapes, with a fully protected natural core and surrounding land that is being managed to meet human needs. A few Australian examples include Macquarie Island, Fitzgerald River, Croajingolong and Wilson's Promontory.

World Heritage Sites include natural and cultural sites with "outstanding universal values". They may show significant geological processes, may be crucial to the survival of threatened plants and animals, or may demonstrate outstanding human achievement. Examples include the Great Barrier Reef, India's Taj Mahal, America's Mesa Verde and Egypt's Pyramids.



# LINKS TO THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: GEOGRAPHY

## Continents in the Australian Curriculum: Geography Knowledge and Understanding Strand for Years 4–6

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Year 4 | <p>The location of the major countries of Africa and South America in relation to Australia, and their main characteristics, including the types of natural vegetation and native animals in at least two countries from both continents (ACHGK020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• using geographical tools, for example, a globe, a wall map or digital application such as Google Earth, to identify the major countries of Africa and South America and their relative locations</li> <li>• using a globe to investigate the Great Circle routes of aeroplane travel between Australia and the major countries of Africa and South America</li> <li>• researching the main types of natural vegetation and native animals in a climate zone in Australia and comparing them with those found in a similar climate in Africa or South America</li> </ul>         |
| Year 5 | <p>The location of the major countries of Europe and North America in relation to Australia and the influence of people on the environmental characteristics of places in at least two countries from both continents (ACHGK026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• using geographical tools, for example, a globe, wall map or digital application such as Google Earth, to identify the relative location of the major countries of Europe and North America and their environmental characteristics</li> <li>• researching the changes made by people to a particular environment in a country in Europe or North America</li> </ul>  |
| Year 6 | <p>The location of the major countries of the Asia region in relation to Australia and the geographical diversity within the region (ACHGK031)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• using geographical tools, for example, a globe wall map or digital application such as Google Earth to identify the geographical division of Asia into North-East, South-East, South Asia and West Asia (the Middle East)</li> <li>• exploring the diversity of environments, in the Asia region, or in part of the region, or in a country in either North-East, South-East or South Asia</li> <li>• investigating the differences in the population size, density, life expectancy and per capita income between countries across the world</li> <li>• describing the location of places in countries of the Asia region in absolute terms using latitude and longitude</li> </ul> |

*Adapted from ACARA 2014, Australian Curriculum: Geography,  
<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/humanitiesandsocialsciences/geography/Curriculum/F-10>*

# KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

## North-Eastern South Africa

### Republic of South Africa

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#### Overview

The Kruger National Park is situated in the far north-east of the Republic of South Africa. It is a park that focuses on *cultural heritage preservation*, as well as environmental conservation, for it is rich in its historical heritage.

The Kruger National Park is a significant part of South Africa's unravelling history. In this park alone, there are more than 250 recognised cultural heritage sites. More than 100 of these are important rock art sites, telling stories and providing crucial information about life long ago.

There are two areas of great significance within the Kruger National Park, which are being carefully preserved. The first of these is Thulamela, situated in the northern region of the park. When initial excavations in the area had been carried out by an archeological team in 1990, the team came across evidence of prehistoric habitation. Artefacts were uncovered that provided valuable insights into an era of South Africa's history which had remained a mystery for so long. Thorough investigations identified the artefacts as belonging to a settlement during the Late Iron Age. Results from radiocarbon testing deemed the site itself was used as a settlement between the 15th and 17th centuries. These results made preservation of the site a top priority and so the site was restored and in 1996 it was opened as cultural site museum.

The other area of significance within the Kruger National Park is Masorini. In the early 1970s a decision was made to restore Masorini's village. At the time, there were only some 19th century stonewalls and foundries at the site. Remarkably, some of the tools and utensils at the site dated back to the Stone Age. Excavations to the area unravelled vital information about an ancient way of life as hut floors and implements were uncovered. Although this site is not as old as Thulamela, it did provide valuable information about domestic and commercial activities of the people who once occupied the area.

#### Attractions and Interesting Facts

##### Local Arts and Crafts

Kruger National Park has endeavoured to economically assist locals in the community through the promotion and exposure of local arts and crafts. This provides tourists with a more complete experience of the park as they can see, touch and even purchase handmade bowls, carvings and mats made using traditional techniques.

This mutually beneficial program was very successful. Kruger National Park management teams further developed the program by providing locals with the skills necessary to improve the quality of their products and to manage their business activity more successfully. Since then, wider markets have opened up for locals to supply their traditional arts and crafts.



# A LIFE LONG AGO

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

## Background

It is difficult to imagine a life that is not filled with the conveniences available today. Electricity has given us lighting, heating and cooking facilities that operate with the touch of a button or flick of a switch. Our homes are built using durable materials that require relatively little maintenance. Our water is clean and abundantly available with the turn of a tap and fresh produce is available 24 hours a day in a variety of places and can be stored without spoiling with the help of refrigeration.

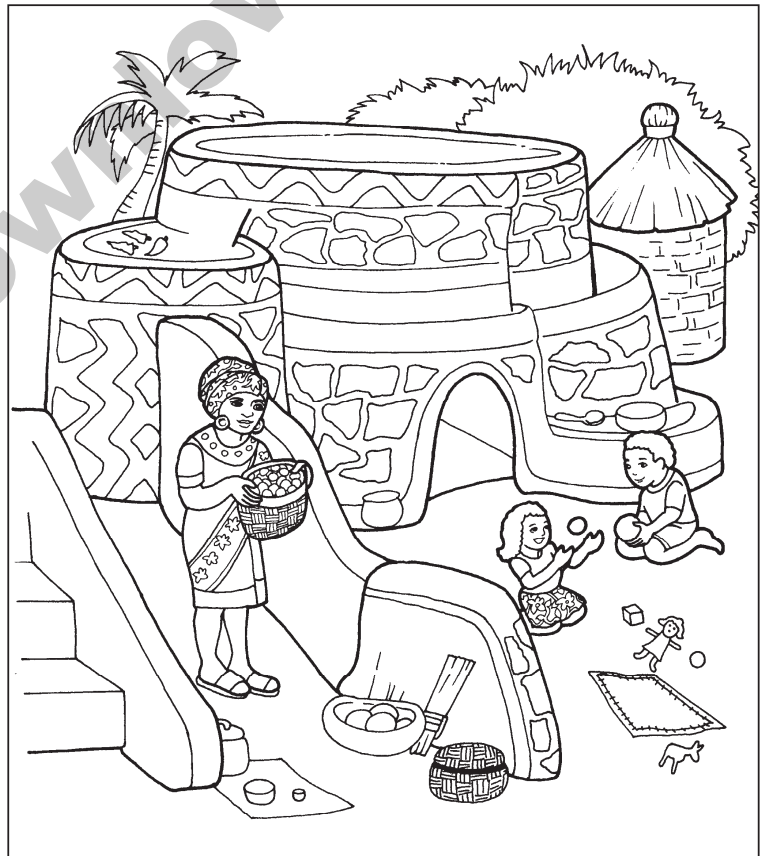
Life was not always this easy. In the settlements referred to earlier, the ancient communities living in the Kruger National Park had a difficult life. These people were self-reliant in a way that we will never experience. They had skills that we have not used, not ever having the need to master them. Their survival was in their hands and depended on them being resourceful and skilled.

## Activity

As a class, discuss each of the following key points. How was each of these needs met? What problems are associated with each of them?

- Water
- Shelter
- Food
- Heat
- Clothing
- Utensils and tools

Use the knowledge gained through this discussion to write a narrative text providing an informative insight into the traditional daily life of a family living in the village of Masorini.



## Related Websites

Kruger National Park  
[www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/](http://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/)

Ancient Africa  
[www.ancient.eu.com/africa/](http://www.ancient.eu.com/africa/)



Access this reproducible resource at: [go.hbe.com.au](http://go.hbe.com.au)