

SENIOR GEOGRAPHY AND DISCOVERING DEMOCRACY MATERIALS

SOUTH WEST TASMANIA – WHAT IS THE BEST RESOURCE USE?

Rationale/purpose

The purpose is to use the Franklin River dispute in the Discovering Democracy Unit *Getting Things Done* as a case study when teaching *Unit 3: Resources* in the Victorian Senior Geography course (Victorian Certificate of Education). Links can easily be made with DD materials by referring to the Government's 'external affairs' powers, the Constitution and international conventions.

In Unit 3, students are required to examine the development and use of a resource as well as its management. The Franklin River case study lends itself to meeting a number of the requirements of the unit including:

- Definition and classification of resources (including differing perceptions of what constitutes a resource)
- Factors affecting resource development and use (including economic processes, government policies and national priorities)
- The effects of resource development and use

Unit Outline/Overview

The Franklin Dam dispute of the late 1970's, early 1980's provides an excellent case study to demonstrate how perception of a resource varies and the factors that affect resource development. One important outcome of the dispute was the creation of the *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area*. The Franklin Dam dispute is still Australia's most controversial conservationist battle.

Resources

Discovering Democracy Secondary Kit

Middle Secondary Workbook

Discover Democracy Video

Web sites

Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/wha/whatswha/whatis.html>

World Heritage Convention. <http://www.unesco.org/whc/heritage.htm>

Practical Activities

1. Where is South-West Tasmania?

Study the 6 dot points on p171 and the map, p172

- a. Describe the location of the region
- b. List the 4 national parks in the region
- c. The parks make up the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Which park is located at the centre of the World Heritage area?
- d. Name the 2 rivers in this park on the map and calculate the length of each
- e. Calculate the direct distance from Hobart to Strahan
- f. Describe the location of Lake Pedder

2. What is World Heritage?

Go to <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/wha/whatswha/whatis.html>

- a. Read the notes under the heading *A brief history of World Heritage*. When was the World Heritage Convention adopted by the United Nations and when did it come into force?
- b. Read the notes under *The World Heritage List*. Why was the World Heritage Convention established
- c. Read *The process of listing*. Outline the steps needed for a site to be placed on the World Heritage List
- d. Read *Australia's World Heritage Area*. How many World Heritage properties does Australia have?
- e. Suggest why World Heritage areas are a resource

Go to <http://www.unesco.org/whc/heritage.htm>

1. The total number of World Heritage properties is _____ of which _____ are cultural sites, _____ are natural sites, and _____ are mixed cultural and natural sites.
2. The total number of countries with World Heritage sites is _____
3. To be accepted as a World Heritage Property, a site must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

Cultural heritage properties must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Australia has _____ natural sites, _____ cultural sites, and _____ mixed cultural and natural sites
- b. The natural criteria which appears most frequently is number _____. The cultural criteria which appears most frequently is _____
- c. The site which meets the greatest number of criteria is _____

3. Why is Tasmania's South-West a World Heritage area and how is it a recreation resource?

- a. Go to <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/wha/whatswha/whatis.html> Read *So how does the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area compare?* What is so special about this particular World Heritage area?
- b. Go to <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/wha/introcon/intro.html> List 6 features of the South West which are of outstanding global significance
- c. Go to <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/wha/recreat/rec.html> List the main recreation activities undertaken in the World Heritage region
- d. Using the information collected, classify the World Heritage region as a resource

4. The Franklin River – a Hydro Electric resource or a World Heritage resource? - Australia's greatest conservation battle

Study the dot points, p171 and the article p172.

- a. Locate the Franklin and Gordon Rivers on the map, p172. Outline what was proposed in 1979 for the Gordon River below its junction with the Franklin River.
- b. List the main characteristics of the Franklin region which made it important to The Hydro-Electric Commission
- c. Using Sources 1 and 2, p173 as a guide and drawing from information from information you have already studied on pp171-172, write a sentence describing the Franklin as an officer of the Hydro-Electric Commission might see it. Include a reference to what his or her point of view would be regarding the value of the river as a resource.

- d. There was an immediate reaction from conservationists to this proposal. Using Sources 1 and 2, p173 as a guide and drawing from information you have already studied on pp171-172, write a sentence describing the Franklin River as a conservationist might see it. Include a reference to what his or her point of view would be regarding the value of the river as a resource.

5. What factors determined that the Franklin River would not be dammed but part of a World Heritage area?

- a. Read the introduction, p171. Which SHEEP factor (Social, Economic, Environmental, Political) do you feel was the most important in stopping the damming of the Franklin River and the creation of a World Heritage area?
- b. The action of ordinary Australians was critical in stopping the damming of the Franklin River. Study sources 3-17, pp174-175 and view the Discovering Democracy Secondary Video segment *Getting things Done* (start at 17.21 minutes. Total length is 25 minutes)
- Complete activity 3a, p173
 - Complete activities 4a-d, p176
- c. How did governments respond to the proposal to dam the Franklin River and to the controversy surrounding it?
- Complete activity 3a and 3b, p179
 - Complete activity 4a, p182
 - Complete activity 5a, p183
 - Complete activity 6a, p185

6. What are the effects of use of South West Tasmania as a World Heritage area?

- a. Positive effects. Go to <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/wha/whatswha/whatis.html>
Read *Benefits of World Heritage Listing*. List the benefits which may come from a World Heritage listing. Classify each benefit according to SEEP (Social, Economic, Environmental, Political)
- b. Negative effects. Go to <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/wha.wha/threats/threats.html>
Outline the nature of each threat and how each is being managed

7. Extension Work

In groups or individually conduct research into controversial dam projects elsewhere in the world such as the Narmada project in India, the Gorges project in China, the Ataturk project in Turkey, Snowy Mountains Scheme, Australia.

Investigate:

- The nature of the controversy
- The groups involved and their viewpoints
- The actual or anticipated positive and negative effects of the project
- The outcome/resolution (if any) of the controversy