



PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY PRE-EXCURSION RESOURCES

ALL ABOARD PROGRAM

MAP MY JOURNEY

LEVEL

The Early Years, Level A-D (towards foundation),
Foundation – Level 2

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Students explore their journey on Puffing Billy Railway by undertaking a mapping task. They learn about location, direction, distance and time. They identify and label key features such as towns, bridges and animals of the Dandenong Ranges. Students discuss and reflect about why particular features are located in certain areas.

THEME

- Mapping Concepts
- Biodiversity

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Coloured pencils
- Pens
- Ruler
- Map

INSTRUCTIONS

Undertake a whole group discussion about the train journey on Puffing Billy. Discuss the location of the starting point (Belgrave Station) and final destination (Lakeside). Consider mapping directions, distance travelled and time. Explore the native wildlife that students may see on their journey and the importance of protecting natural areas. Discuss why the Dandenong Ranges are suitable for forests and farms and why townships are located in particular areas.

MAPPING TASK

On the map provided, either as an individual or whole group task, undertake the following.

- Label the Wombat, Echidna, Possum, Lyrebird, Koala, Platypus and Echidna
- Circle the Towns
- Draw Puffing Billy's Journey from Belgrave to Lakeside
- Draw the four bridges
- Shade the farming areas

SUGGESTIONS FOR ASSESSMENT

Display completed maps around the classroom.

Q BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The forests of the Dandenong Ranges are important habitat for some of Australia's richest and rarest wildlife. It is essential to provide native wildlife (indigenous origin in location) with protected habitat for their future survival.

SUPERB LYREBIRD

This bird is very mysterious and shy. Superb Lyrebirds spend most of their time on the ground, retreating to trees at night. The adult male has a long tail with plumed feathers that he spreads out when he is putting on a show. The females are greyish brown with long plain tails. They eat insects, spiders and worms.

KOOKABURRA

Hear any laughing along your journey? It will most likely be a Kookaburra. They are very abundant along the Puffing Billy corridor. Their beak is long and sturdy, designed to help catch many foods such as lizards, snakes and small mammals. They rely on hollow trees to breed.

WOMBATS

These creatures are large, weighing up to 36kg, with sharp claws and powerful little legs they use to dig burrow and tunnels for shelter. Wombats spend most of the day in their burrow. There are plenty of wombats here, see if you can spot a burrow on your next journey.

POSSUMS

There are many species of Possums that live in this environment including; The Common Brushtail Possum and the Common Ringtail Possum. They are both nocturnal species which rely on hollow logs, branches and tree trunks to retreat to during the day. They mainly eat leaves, blossoms and fruits.

ECHIDNAS

Have a long sticky tongue to catch insects and ants. The Echidna is a monotreme which means it is a mammal that lays eggs! The prickly coat is for protection against predators. The Echidna also has strong claws for digging and finding hidden insects.

PLATYPUS

They have short legs, a flat streamlined body, a duck bill and webbed feet designed to swim well in our waterways. The Platypus is another member of the monotreme group. They can be found in the waterways that pass-through Puffing Billy land.

▶ CURRICULUM LINKS

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES

THE HUMANITIES

GEOGRAPHY

Representation of the location of places and their features on maps and models, including a globe, and the location of the major geographical divisions of the world in relation to Australia ([VCGGK063](#))

Activities in the local place and reasons for their location, and the influence of purpose, distance and accessibility on the frequency with which people visit places ([VCGGK070](#))

SCIENCE

Living things have a variety of external features and live in different places where their basic needs, including food, water and shelter, are met ([VCSSU042](#))

FIND-A-WORD

In the find-a-word can you tell which species are native and which are pest?

BELGRAVE
Locomotive Depot
Sherbrooke Forest
Trestle Bridge

SELBY

Landslide

MENZIES CREEK
Steam Museum
View

CLEMATIS
Paradise Hotel
Steep Grade

EMERALD
(township)

NOBELIUS SIDING
("The Packing Shed")

NOBELIUS

Lakeside
(Emerald Lake)

WRIGHT
Wright Forest
Bridges

COCKATOO

FIELDER
View

Bridge

GEMBROOK

- Native
- Lyrebird
- Kookaburra
- Possum
- Echidna
- Platypus
- Wombat
- Pest
- Rabbit
- Dogs
- Rodents
- Deer
- Red Fox
- Cats

D	G	N	E	Y	E	V	I	T	A	N	P
H	C	A	K	U	B	E	P	A	X	G	T
E	C	H	I	D	N	A	J	B	L	Z	E
O	E	E	M	Q	X	O	V	M	Y	G	R
R	N	D	O	G	S	G	J	O	W	U	O
E	E	R	I	D	A	J	K	W	K	E	D
D	K	M	L	J	C	N	O	H	S	D	E
F	Q	D	B	Y	N	D	O	S	N	J	N
O	K	P	S	X	R	M	K	R	F	P	T
X	D	L	G	K	W	E	A	W	H	M	S
P	R	A	B	B	I	T	B	P	S	R	P
E	C	T	I	E	S	A	U	I	C	E	P
U	Q	Y	C	A	H	T	R	T	R	E	E
I	K	P	A	R	N	F	R	R	I	D	S
C	B	U	T	O	W	O	A	V	E	Z	T
M	U	S	S	O	P	J	X	O	H	L	Y

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