



# Australia's Tropical Rainforests

WORLD HERITAGE

## A C T I V I T Y S H E E T

### Visit the rainforest

#### Activities

**Visit a local World Heritage visitor site in the rainforest. Do some research first and find out what you can about the site before you arrive. Volunteers at your local Wet Tropics visitor centre will be able to help.**

- Once you arrive, analyse the experience and fill out the activity sheets. Collate the responses and present a report to the class. Discuss the animals and plants you saw and how the facilities could be improved.

- When you arrive at the site, students divide into two groups. The first group spreads along the walking track and selects a natural thing to “become”. Each person mimes the object, using only their body. The second group walks along the trail and tries to guess what you are. Now swap places.

- Many Aboriginal people believe that trees, rivers, rocks and other landscape features are the spirits of people. Create a story to explain the human origin of a particular feature.

- Listen to the sounds of the forest. See how well you can mimic the bird calls and other noises. Can your friends guess what these sounds are?

- Draw or paint a picture of the site and then later develop them into abstract art and designs for clothing.

- Why was the site included as part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area?

What are its special features? Has the tourist situation changed since World Heritage listing?

- Study a range of advertising brochures about local World Heritage sites, then design and produce a tourism campaign – such as brochures and posters – to attract visitors to the site. Keep in mind the type of visitors you want to attract and the key messages you want to deliver.

- Design a poster about the need to conserve World Heritage sites.

- Make a list of suggestions for a campaign which would give tourists a new way of visiting the site. Share the suggestions with your visitor centre and local council.

- Design a program for tour guides which will vividly explain the site to tourists.

- Study erosion at the sites which may have been caused by visitors and discuss solutions.

- Research references to north Queensland’s tropical rainforests mentioned in a novel or story and discuss how the text could be included in brochures for tourists.

- Use graphs, pie charts or statistics to discuss tourist trends and their implications for local World Heritage sites.

- Carry out a survey of visitors at the site to find out what they think about it.

- Interview the local park ranger to learn about positive and negative effects of tourism.

- Collect newspaper articles on environmental issues for a month and analyse your findings in class.

- List the major environmental issues in your region (e.g. erosion, climate change, species extinction). Are any World Heritage sites threatened by these problems? How are these environmental problems being tackled and corrected?

- Imagine the newspaper headline if one of the problems were solved. Write a front page headline and story, and quote yourself in the article answering this question: “How do you explain this unexpected turnaround?” Draw a picture or use a photo to illustrate the story.

- Are there any reductions in the number of native birds, animals and plants in their local area? Ask your parents if local biological diversity is less or greater now, compared with when they were young. Are there any conservation efforts to stop the decline?

#### More information

This Fact Sheet has been adapted from the education section of the World Heritage website [whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org) which has additional useful information. Also check out the Commonwealth Gov’t site [www.deh.gov.au](http://www.deh.gov.au). For more information about the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, check out the Wet Tropics Management Authority’s website: [www.wettropics.gov.au](http://www.wettropics.gov.au)

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