



# THE BUSH

Explorer Level

## Purpose

To enable you to appreciate God’s creation in Australia’s unique bushland.

## Exploring

Let us explore how God made Australia’s bush unique. Australia has many different types of bush. This varies from dry banksia forest in Western Australia through the various types of desert areas to the mountain forests of Victoria and Tasmania. In parts of Queensland we have tropical rain forests. From this we can see the diversity that God in His wisdom has created. These differences occur because of soil types (e.g. sandy or rocky to deep mountain soils), weather conditions (e.g. from dry and hot to tropical). To survive in the Australian bush requires knowledge and planning. The Aboriginal culture has been established keeping the nature of the bush in mind. They have managed to survive very well in it and know what they can and cannot use. The Aboriginal tribes were nomadic (wanderers) so that no area of the bush would be over used.

- 1. List four types of Australian bush and write down where they occur.

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- 2. Give a full description of your local bush areas, stating type, approximate height of trees and type of understorey and undergrowth.

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- 3. Australia’s bush is used by various people in their respective activities. Some of these can affect the bush by either destroying or severely disturbing it.
  - a. List six activities that bring man in contact with the bush, both for creation and for economic gain.

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  - b. For each of these six activities list ways in which they could affect the bush.

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- c. Given the effects of these activities, explain how you could limit the effects of one of these activities while still using the bush.

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## Doing

Take a walk into the bush and peg out an area of nine square metres.

- a. Find as many different species of plants as possible. Collect a small specimen of each if this can be done without severely damaging the plant. Press and dry these pieces and make a collage (or poster). Identify at least 75% of them.

N.B. If you need help, go to your library or contact either a knowledgeable person or your State office of the Department of Conservation, Forest and Lands.

- b. Find evidence of animal activity e.g. scratch marks on the ground and trees, small paths, paw prints, chewed plants. Disturb the bush as little as possible.
- c. In the space below, draw a plan of your plot, showing where north is, the direction of slope and draw in major plants and other items of interest such as birds' nests, ant hills, old stumps etc.

## Reflection

On completion of the above activities, discuss with your Counsellor the various areas you have studied and point out any new things you have learnt about the wonderful world God has created.

Ask your Counsellor to sign below and arrange for the presentation of your badge.

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