
AN E-BOOK FROM READY-ED PUBLICATIONS

THE OUR ENVIRONMENT SERIES

For 9+ Year Olds

**BOOK ONE -
LAND**

By Sharon Szczecinski



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Name: _____



Profile of a National Park

Karajini National Park is situated in the north of Western Australia, in the Pilbara, 1400km from Perth. The park is a semi-desert which means that it is often very hot in summer.

This large national park has many different animals and plants including birds, kangaroos, euros, echidnas, bats, goannas, giant termite mounds and snakes. Some visitors are also lucky enough to see a pebble mound mouse.

Karijini's famous gorges are the main reason many people visit. Some of these are more than 100 metres deep and many contain pools, waterfalls and ferns.

It is believed that the park was originally part of the ocean. To find out more visit: www.australianexplorer.com/karijini_national_park.htm

Use the information above to answer the questions.

1. What is the name of the second largest park?

2. What could visitors to the park see?

Imagine you are able to visit the park. Write a diary entry for one day that you are there.

Date: _____



The Mining Process - 1

When we use sunscreen at the beach, or call home on a mobile phone, we often don't realise the stages involved in getting minerals from the ground and turning them into useful products like these. First, mining companies need to find out where the minerals are before they can start a mine, and when the mining is finished the land needs to be restored.

- Research to find out the stages involved in mining ore in Australia from rock to product. Write a sentence to describe what is taking place at each stage.

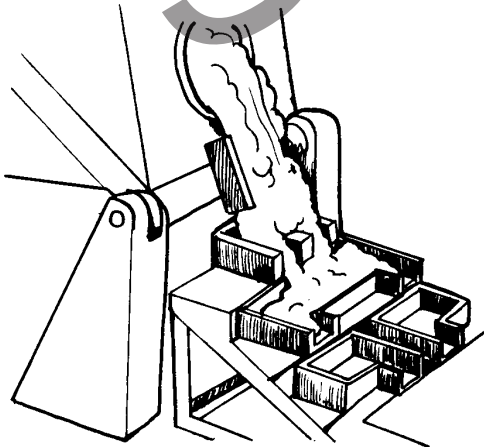
Exploration



Mining



Processing



Rehabilitation



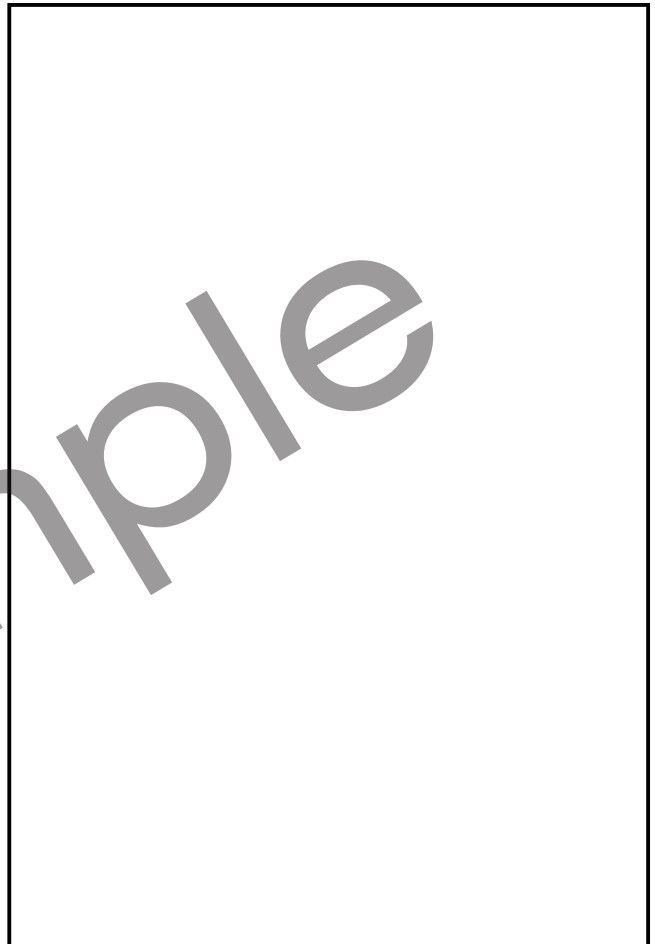


Soils Ain't Soils!

Soil is a very important part of the natural environment, especially the land. Soil is made up of rocks and minerals, decaying leaves, plant roots, water, air, and insects such as worms. There are many different types of soils but they all provide the nutrients for plants to grow. Some soils also provide minerals such as mineral sands and bauxite.

- Complete a soil profile at school.
- 1. Choose an area of land that can be disturbed and as a group, dig a reasonably deep hole.
- 2. Draw and label the parts of your soil profile in the box on the right and explain what was found at each level. The parts of a soil profile are shown below.

Soil Profile



For each part of your hole fill in what you found. For example, at the A Horizon you might find worms and the roots of plants. Write this down and draw illustrations for each level.

A Horizon (this often contains decaying and alive plants and animals)

B Horizon (this is often clay)

C Horizon (this is usually solid rock)

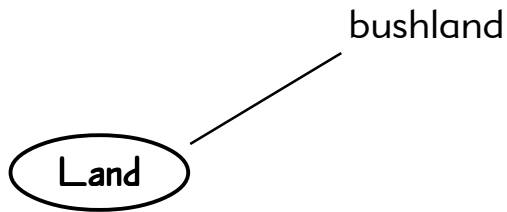
Name: _____



The History of the Land

How long has your school site been a school? What was the land used for before the school was built?

- In groups brainstorm what you think the land may have been used for before the school was built. List your group's ideas below.



- Complete some research in your local area to find out what your school land was used for. Good places to start are your school library, the local library, your council or shire offices or the Internet if your school is in a large or historical area.



Large ruled area for writing answers, featuring horizontal lines and a vertical border on the right side.