



## Physical Conditions, Adaptation and Fire

*Students learn practical skills in mapping as they visit different field sites to collect data about the physical conditions of wet and dry forest types. Identify the structural and behavioural adaptations which support the growth and survival of animals and plants in these environments.*

### Program Outline

#### What is a forest?

Students explore the characteristics of a forest and identify the features of a forest ecosystem.

#### Mapping Mystery - Field Sites and Data Collection

Using a map of the reserve and scientific equipment, record and describe the physical conditions of different forest types. How does the topography of an area influence what grows here?

#### Adaptations to Fire

Walk through a dry eucalypt forest to observe evidence of fire and survival. Learn about the amazing adaptations of Tasmania's native plants and their responses to bushfire events.

#### Creature Features

Search the forest for evidence of wildlife. What are some of the physical and behavioural features which support their survival in forest environments?

#### Species, species everywhere!

Consider the diversity of living things in a forest ecosystem. Find out just how many living things are adapted to live in forest environments.



#### Hollybank Forest Reserve, Launceston:

Lightly sloped walks through wet and dry forests.

#### Waterworks Reserve, Hobart:

Walk from entrance to main sites: approx. 1km

Dry eucalypt forest walk: steep and loose under foot 200 meter section, optional steep stone staircase to lookout on Gentle Annie Falls, gentle down slope with some small stairs.

#### Both sites:

Recess and lunch breaks are held at main barbeque sites with toilets accessible.

*If any of the above would prevent your participation, please contact FEF to discuss tailoring a program for your class.*

### Curriculum Links

#### HASS

- The management of Australian environments, including managing severe weather events such as bushfires, floods, droughts or cyclones and their consequences (AC9HS5K05)
- The influence of people, including First Nations Australians and people in other countries, on the characteristics of a place (AC9HS5K04)

#### Science

- Investigate the physical conditions of a habitat and analyse how the growth and survival of living things is affected by changing physical conditions (AC9S6U01)
- Investigate how scientific knowledge is used by individuals and communities to identify problems, consider responses and make decisions (AC9S6H02)

#### Inquiry Skills

- Use equipment to observe, measure and record data with reasonable precision, using digital tools as appropriate (AC9S5I03 / AC9S6I03)
- Construct and use appropriate representations, including tables, graphs or visual or physical models, to organise and process data and information and describe patterns, trends and relationships (AC9S5I04 / AC9S6I04)