Penrith Lakes Safari | Stage 1 | Science & Geography

Summary	Duration
This excursion addresses outcomes from the NSW Science K-6 Syllabus.	4 hour on-site excursion to Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre.
Focus - Science	
Knowledge and Understanding - Natural Environment	Arrival time - 9:45am
Substrand - Living World	Departure time – 2:00pm
Students conduct an investigation of a Penrith Lakes habitat and make and record their observations	
identifying animals, links between them and their environment. Evidence will be collected over the course of the day to answer the inquiry question, "Is Penrith Lakes a good place for animals and insects to live?"	Arrival and departure times are guides only. Distance and bus schedules may require modifications to the timetable.

About Penrith Lakes	Learning across the curriculum
Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre is located on Old Castlereagh road near Sydney International Regatta Centre. This great location allows us to provide studies of land and water management at Penrith Lakes along with local heritage sites and the environmental issues associated with the Nepean River and Blue Mountains.	Cross-curriculum priorities enable students to develop understanding about and address the contemporary issues they face. Sustainability is addressed through developing in students a sense that people use science in their daily lives including when caring for the environment and living things (ACSHE035).

Outcomes	Key Concepts	
Science K-10 (inc. Science and Technology K-6)	Observe living things in different places in a local terrestrial and aquatic environment	
> ST1-4WS investigates questions and predictions by collecting and recording data, sharing and reflecting	Explore and describe the needs of plants and animals in their environment	
on their experiences and comparing what they and others know	 Use scientific knowledge and skills to observe, record and classify living things in the environment 	
> ST1-11LW describes ways that different places in the environment provide for the needs of living things	Describe the features of, and activities in, places	
Geography K-10		
> GE1-1 describes features of places and the connections people have with places		

Content	Teaching, learning and assessment	Resources
Stage 1 - Living World	Activity 1 - Introduction	Provided by PLEEC:
 Students learn that Penrith Lakes is a unique environment where living things can be found and begin to enquire whether the needs of living things are being met. 	 Students are introduced to an unfolding narrative of Penrith Lakes as a place where animals, insects and humans interact. 	Interactive Presentation
Stage 1 - Features of Places		
 description of the natural and human features of placessTVR 		
 investigate activities that occur within places, for example: (ACHGK007, ACHGK008) 		
 examination of why various activities in an area are located where they are eg rowing, fishing MF **		

Content	Teaching, learning and assessment	Resources
 discussion of why and how the spaces within places can be rearranged for different purposes eg Sydney International Regatta Centre for triathlons and School Cross Country events 		
Stage 1 - Working Scientifically working cooperatively and individually when participating in different types of guided investigations to explore and answer questions, such as manipulating materials, testing ideas, and accessing information sources, surveys and fieldwork (ACSIS025, ACSIS038) using a range of methods to gather data and/or information, including using their senses to make observations safely and carefully, using simple tools and equipment Stage 1 - Living World observe the different places in a local land or aquatic environment where living things can be found, eg a schoolyard, pond, beach or bush Stage 1 - Features of Places description of the natural and human features of places	Activity 2 - Nature Walk Students are guided on an investigative walk around Penrith Lakes where they look for evidence of different animals and invertebrates.	Provided by PLEEC: Lanyards with magnifying glass and pouch Provided by visiting school: Student hats Sunscreen First aid kit and student medications
Stage 1 - Working Scientifically working cooperatively and individually when participating in different types of guided investigations to explore and answer questions, such as manipulating materials, testing ideas, and accessing information sources, surveys and fieldwork (ACSIS025, ACSIS038) making observations and measurements Stage 1 - Living World describe some external features of a variety of living things, including plants and animals use a range of methods, including fieldwork, to identify plants or animals in their local area devise simple classification systems based on the observable external features of plants or animals identified in the local area	Activity 3 - Tree Shake Students observe terrestrial invertebrates in their natural habitat distinguishing unique features and classifying them into subgroups.	Provided by PLEEC: Lanyards with magnifying glass and pouch White sheets Invertebrate classification tokens Token banner Specimen jars Provided by visiting school: Student hats Sunscreen First aid kit and student medications
Stage 1 - Working Scientifically working cooperatively and individually when participating in different types of guided investigations to explore and answer questions, such as manipulating materials, testing ideas, and accessing information sources, surveys and fieldwork (ACSIS025, ACSIS038)	Activity 4 - Dipnetting Students observe aquatic invertebrates in their natural habitat distinguishing unique features and classifying them into subgroups.	Provided by PLEEC: Freshwater ecosystem with freshwater invertebrates Dipnets Invertebrate classification tokens Specimen jars Provided by visiting school:

Content	Teaching, learning and assessment	Resources
Stage 1 - Living World describe some external features of a variety of living things, including plants and animals use a range of methods, including fieldwork, to identify plants or animals in their local area		 Student hats Sunscreen First aid kit and student medications
Stage 1 - Living World describe how some different places in a local land or aquatic environment provide for the needs of the animals or plants that live there describe some external features of a variety of living things, including plants and animals Stage 1 - Features of Places description of the natural and human features of placessture consideration of how a place can be cared for eg water recreation areas	 Activity 5 - Wrap-up During the fieldwork activities, PLEEC staff will collect a variety of invertebrate species. Back at the Environmental Education Centre, each species will be put under a video microscope allowing students to closely examine and appreciate their external features. Through an interactive puppet show, qualified teaching staff help students to identify how people's interactions with three animals' habitats (a possum, a platypus and a green tree frog) have affected their way of life. Students finalise their narrative by answering the inquiry question, "Is Penrith Lakes a good place for animals and insects to live?" 	Provided by PLEEC: Interactive Presentation SmartBoard Video microscope Terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates Puppets