

The National Park Auction

Purpose

To highlight the interdependence of all living and non-living things and the complexities of managing a national park.

Year level

5 and above

Equipment:

Auction sheet, character cards

Instructions

Each person is given a character card. These need to be large enough to sit on the desk and be visible by all participants. Each participant is then given an auction record sheet which they will select the items they need the most for survival, financial or purely pleasurable reasons.

The game is run like an auction with you as the auctioneer. Each character is given \$1000 to spend during the game. Participants soon realise they are also competing with others for the same resources. Bidders may then argue their case (and join forces with other like minded bidders) to generate discussion. During the debrief, students should be encouraged to consider ways of establishing management strategies that best suit all of the park user groups.

Variations:

1. Different characters may receive different amounts of money depending on their influence in the environment e.g. koalas because of their perceived cuteness value may receive more money than mosquitos
2. Add management issues relevant to a park near you eg domestic animals, pest plants, over grazing by kangaroos.

Debrief

After the auction, question bidders why they chose particular aspects, did they think someone else could (or should) have made a bid and establish how the needs of each person could be met.

Character cards (sample only)

Parks Victoria Chief Executive	Shop owner	Park ranger
School group	Bushwalker	Family
Tour Operator	Rock Climber	Endangered species
Wombat	Wallaby	Rosella
Aboriginal Community Member	International tourist	Elderly visitor
Fox	Feral Cat	Person with limited mobility
Native orchid	Banksia tree	Manna Gum (Eucalyptus)
Koala	Mosquito	Bus company
Local Business (identify some)	Politician	Friends Of Park (Volunteer Group)
Local Government Environment Officer	Cyclist	4WD Club
Frog	Wedge Tailed Eagle	Research Group eg REEFWATCH

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Items	Available Funds	Top Bid	Purchaser
1. Extensive grasslands.			
2. Wellbeing of all animals and plants.			
3. Old trees with plenty of hollows.			
4. Friendly, fun-loving tourists.			
5. Rubbish free environment.			
6. Facilities for visitors.			
7. Wide variety of indigenous plants.			
8. More asphalt roads.			
9. Access to remote areas of the park.			
10. Safety from cars.			
11. Burrows for habitat.			
12. Small animals.			
13. Protection from predators.			
14. Increased ecological and fuel reduction fires.			
15. Attractive natural environment.			
16. A source of fresh water.			