



eXplore

EXTREME TASSIE TREKKING!

Sharlene G Coombs

**KNOWLEDGE
BOOKS**

28

Reading Recovery Level: 17

Word Count: 1780 words

Content: Personal Recount, Description, Explanation

ACARA F-10 References:

Learning Areas:

English; Humanities and Social Sciences; Science; Health and Physical Education.

General Capabilities:

Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability.

Cross Curriculum Priorities:

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures; Sustainability.

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Teacher Notes:

Australia's smallest state has so much to see and do! Tasmania is a nature-lover's paradise and where many serious hikers go to test their endurance on the tracks. Come on a journey with the author as she relives one of her favourite and most challenging Tassie hikes – The South Coast Track.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. Discuss the importance of preparation prior to setting off on this kind of hike.
2. Discuss how the hikers left one boat on either side of New River Lagoon.
3. Discuss the pros and cons of tourism in special areas like the South Coast Track.

Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:

wilderness, exploring, favourite, National, Tasmanian, Heritage, Aboriginal, environment, Melaleuca, endangered, traditional, registration, duckboards, buttongrass, destination, Antarctica, blizzards, exhausted, injuries, yesterday, muscles, rivulet, congratulated, achievement, adventure.

Acknowledgement of the First Nations' People:

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Contents

1. The “Apple Isle”
2. Planning and Preparation
3. Flying in to Melaleuca
4. Louisa River
5. Up and Over the Ironbonds!
6. Beach Walking and Rowboats
7. Granite Beach
8. South Cape Rivulet
9. Almost There!



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1. The “Apple Isle”

I love Tasmania! It’s a small island but a great place to visit. It has amazing wildlife and epic landscapes.

Tassie people are very friendly and love their little island. They are very proud to call the “Apple Isle” their home.

One of the most amazing things about Tassie is the wilderness. I love getting out into nature and exploring. There’s no better place to do this!

Tasmania

A map of Tasmania, Australia, with a light green landmass and a dark blue ocean. A semi-transparent orange circle highlights a region in the southwest. The word 'Tasmania' is written in large black font at the top. A diagonal watermark 'www.kbs.com.au' is visible across the map. Various locations are labeled in black text.

Launceston

Strahan

Southwest

Wilderness

Lake
Pedder

Port Davey &
Bathurst Harbour

Hobart

Melaleuca
Cockle
Creek

I've hiked many of Tassie's wilderness walks. It's hard to pick a favourite. If I had to, it would be the South Coast Track.

You can find it in Southwest National Park. It is part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It's full of Aboriginal culture and history.

Aboriginal people lived here for over 42,000 years! They knew how to look after their environment. Thanks to them, we can still visit this amazing place today.





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2. Planning and Preparation

You need to plan well for the South Coast Track. First, you need to get very fit! It's 85km one way and can take up to 8 days.

A heavy backpack makes it even harder. You must carry everything you need. This includes your food, your clothes, your tent, and much more.

Fires are not allowed so you must take a fuel stove. The www.parks.tas.gov.au website has some great information. It can help you plan for everything you need.



South Coast Track

85kms - 7 days

Southwest Nation Park



10km

3. Flying in to Melaleuca

You start the South Coast Track from Cockle Creek or Melaleuca. Most people start at Melaleuca. The only way in here is by boat or plane. We chose to fly in. It gave us a great view of the track we were about to walk!

Deny King called Melaleuca home for years. He was a big nature-lover. Deny started a research group to protect the orange-bellied parrot. It's an endangered bird. This is the only place in the world where they breed.

Melaleuca was also home to the Needwonnee people. You can learn all about the traditional stories of these people when you visit Melaleuca.

