

Life on the Murray River

Discussion Q&A

Please use this as a guide for leading discussions throughout the tour. Each 'scene' is one of the 360° panorama photos.

Scene 1

Beginner Question: How many different clan groups or 'nations' were there in Australia before colonization?

Beginner Answer: Over 500.

Intermediate Question: What skills did Colin learn growing up on the banks of the river?

Intermediate Answer: He learnt how to fish and hunt and which plants can be used as medicine.

Advanced Question: Why do you think it is important to have 'Elders' in the community? Who are the Elders in your community?

Advanced Answer: Answers will vary.

Scene 2

Beginner Question: How were the lock gates opened before 1970?

Beginner Answer: Passengers from the vessels passing through the lock had to disembark and turn the handles manually.

Intermediate Question: What sorts of recreational activities might take place on the river?

Intermediate Answer: Swimming, fishing, and watersports such as kayaking, water skiing and wakeboarding are just some of the recreational activities that might take place on the Murray River.

Advanced Question: Why would rain events that happen hundreds of kilometers away affect the Murray River?

Advanced Answer: Many inland river systems feed into the Murray River. If rain events occur at these systems, the water is carried hundreds of kilometers downstream to the Murray River.

Scene 3

Beginner Question: How long does it take for a child to drown?

Beginner Answer: It only takes 20 seconds for a child to drown.

Intermediate Question: What are some of the dangers associated with irrigation channels?

Intermediate Answer: Irrigation channels contain unseen dangers such as strong undercurrents, varying depths, pollutants and hidden pipes and gates.

Advanced Question: Why are irrigation channels being filled in and replaced with fully enclosed pipes?

Advanced Answer: Replacing the irrigation channels with pipes ensures that water is not lost due to evaporation or seepage. It also removes the danger of having an unfenced, open body of water.

Scene 4

Beginner Question (fewer than 300 characters): Why do the volunteer lifesavers check the water before each patrol?

Beginner Answer (fewer than 300 characters): Lifesavers check the water to make sure there are no snags, logs or holes in the water that may cause injury.

Intermediate Question (fewer than 300 characters): What does 'the river is always changing' mean?

Intermediate Answer (fewer than 300 characters): The flow and the current of the river is different everyday depending on a number of factors. Rain upstream may affect the amount of water in the river and submerged objects may move and cause the water below the surface to move in a different way.

Advanced Question (fewer than 300 characters): Do you think the nippers program is important? Why/why not?

Advanced Answer (fewer than 300 characters): Answers will vary but may include things such as; builds community spirit, children learn how to save a life, great way to make new friends.

Scene 5

Beginner Question (fewer than 300 characters): Explore the image. What can you see in this image that shouldn't be there?

Beginner Answer (fewer than 300 characters): Answers will vary but may include; rubbish on the ground, the remains of a campfire that was not in a fire pit or dug into the ground and a rope swing.

Intermediate Question (fewer than 300 characters): Why do you think Park Rangers would remove rope swings?

Intermediate Answer (fewer than 300 characters): Rope swings are dangerous because rivers are constantly changing and there is no way to be certain that there are no hidden dangers below the surface of the water. Jumping into the water from a rope swing may result in injury or death.

Advanced Question (fewer than 300 characters): Eucalypt trees along the Murray River are more likely to drop their limbs on hot, still days. Why do you think that is?

Advanced Answer (fewer than 300 characters): Some eucalypts drop limbs as a way to conserve water in hot, dry conditions.

Scene 6

Beginner Question (fewer than 300 characters): Why is it important to wear a lifejacket if you are out on the water?

Beginner Answer (fewer than 300 characters): If you accidentally fall in, you will stay afloat. Even if you are not intending to enter the water, wearing a lifejacket is an important safety precaution.

Intermediate Question (fewer than 300 characters): Why is a sudden drop in the temperature of the water dangerous?

Intermediate Answer (fewer than 300 characters): A sudden unexpected drop in the temperature of the water can cause people to cramp or have an asthma attack.

Advanced Question (fewer than 300 characters): Why do you think people would wear a life jacket that only operates when it makes contact with the water?

Advanced Answer (fewer than 300 characters): A self-inflating lifejacket might be more comfortable for people to wear if they are not intending to get in the water, such as people who are fishing. Wearing a lifejacket even if you are not intending to enter the water is a good safety precaution.

Scene 7

Beginner Question (fewer than 300 characters): What potential hazards could be in the water?

Beginner Answer (fewer than 300 characters): Answers may vary but may include; submerged logs, strong currents, extreme temperature changes and debris.

Intermediate Question (fewer than 300 characters): Name three things that you could do to ensure that you are safe when you are near the water?

Intermediate Answer (fewer than 300 characters): Answers may vary but may include things such as; wear a lifejacket, always swim with a friend, stay away from overhanging river banks, learn how to save a life, do not dive or jump in to the river or use any kind of swing.

Advanced Question (fewer than 300 characters): The Murray River supports over 350 types of bird species and many other types of animals. It is also an important resource for agriculture in the region. What do you think some of the challenges might be in managing this important resource?

Advanced Answer (fewer than 300 characters): Answers will vary but may include ideas about the importance of sustainable agriculture and the impact of irrigation and farming on the environment. The removal of water can cause an increase in salinity which may impact negatively on the ecosystem and threaten water supply for people and livestock.