

Introduction

The Murray-Darling Basin is a very important resource in Australia, in terms of its role in the natural environment and its contribution to the Australian economy.

Produce an annotated map to help build an understanding of this region.

On an outline map, making sure you satisfy mapping conventions (BOLTSS), mark in the following:

1. Bendigo, Shepparton, Albury-Wodonga, Wagga Wagga, Canberra, Orange, Bathurst, Dubbo, Tamworth, Toowoomba, Narrandera, Leeton, Parkes, Deniliquin, Griffith, Narrabri, Moree, Broken Hill, Mildura, Swan Hill, Echuca, Kyabram
2. Areas affected by salinity
3. Major irrigation areas

A map can be found on page 310 of *New Perspectives, VCE Geography Units 1-4*.

Other possible sources are:

http://kids.mdbc.gov.au/_data/page/75/Basin_Map.pdf This is part of the *Basin Kids* section on the MDBC website.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/mdb/pubs/mdb-map.pdf>

<http://www.murrayriverrescue.com.au/aboutdb.php>

Gather a set of articles and information about the Murray-Darling Basin. There is a range of sources: your faculty references, library files, newspaper archives and websites. Ideally the data will include images and text.

Based on your data ask questions to build an overall picture of the basin.

Possible questions include:

1. How large is the basin?
2. How long is each of the main rivers?
3. Which agricultural industries are important?
4. What other primary industries are important?
5. How many people live in the basin and rely on its prosperity?
6. What is the water in the river system used for?
7. Write a clear description of the importance of the system to the natural environment.
8. Write a clear description of the economic importance of the basin.

9. What have been the major effects of economic development on the natural environment?
10. Provide examples of the way in which the basin is being managed.
11. Provide suggestions for future management.