

OUTBACK MOBS



OVERVIEW

Overarching questions:

Why is the pastoral industry so significant in northern Australia?

How has history shaped the cattle industry in northern Australia?

Compare past and present grazing practices. Were they and are they sustainable?

The overarching **learning outcomes** for *Outback Mobs* focus on:

Historical Literacy

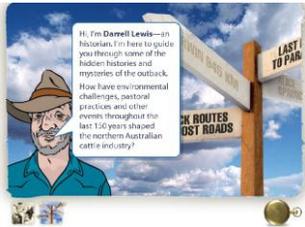
- Compare and contrast different sources of evidence (primary vs. secondary)
- Observe, predict and explain changes in landscapes over time using paired photography technique
- Link cause and effect of pastoral practices on the environment over different and contrasting periods of time
- Connect continuity and changes to social, political, environmental and economic values, thinking, and decision making over time.

Scientific Literacy

- Develop an enhanced understanding of current issues (sustainable grazing) that involve implications of research, applications of science for future sustainability.
- Recognise the work of researchers and scientists enable people to make informed decisions.

SECTION (Inquiry)	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	KEY UNDERSTANDINGS	LEARNING OUTCOMES Learners:
<p>Timeline</p> 	<p><i>What are the key events and patterns of change that have influenced people and the pastoral industry in northern Australia?</i></p> <p><i>How are events connected in time, in character and by causal relationships?</i></p>	<p>Key periods marked the history of northern Australia and reflected continuity and change – especially in the light of the cattle industry.</p> <p>Periods of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (pre-European settlement) - Maritime Exploration (European) - Overland Exploration and Attempts to Settle the North - European Settlement and Pastoral Industry Frontier - Pastoral Expansion and Droving; Aboriginal Incorporation into the Pastoral Industry - World War II - Post-War Boom and Demise of Stock Routes - Indigenous Land Rights; Land Management and Technological Change in Cattle Industry 	<p>-Reflect on their existing knowledge and understandings of historic events in northern Australia.</p> <p>-Develop an historical and chronological context for events that shaped northern Australia.</p> <p>-Develop an overarching understanding of regional, national and world events that influenced the cattle industry in the North.</p> <p>-Understand that many events and causes have affected the natural and grazing ecosystems.</p> <p>- Identify that during and after European settlement, Australia forged a culture of introducing species of plants and animals from around the world.</p>

Crossroads of Change



Last Paradise to Paradise Lost



How have environmental practices, challenges and changes through modern history shaped the north Australian pastoral industry?

How do we use primary sources as evidence to document environmental change?

The open range system of cattle grazing was widely practiced until the 1960s.

Land management and environmental practices were introduced in the 1960s.

Using the Victoria River District (in the north-west of the Northern Territory) as a case study, its environmental history can be traced and documented using primary and secondary sources. The skills and technique of repeat photography are used in this case study which is the rephotographing of scenes in earlier (historic) photographs from as close to the original vantage point as possible. The technique is transferable and can be used to document change in other regions.

Understand that past practices for cattle grazing were unsustainable.

-Develop historic inquiry skills using primary and secondary sources.

- Understand that changes in world events had significant short and long-term effects, especially in the cattle industry.

-Understand the cause and effect relationships through historic inquiry.

-Observe, predict and explain changes in landscapes over time using techniques comparing paired photographs.

<p>Stock Routes to Ghost Roads</p> 	<p><i>What was the cause and effect of the decline of droving in northern Australia?</i></p>	<p>The cattle industry, including droving, played a key role in sustaining the million allied troops who were stationed in Australia during World War II.</p> <p>The Murrnaji Track has social and historical significance as one of the most famous stock routes in Australia. Known due to its harshness as the “ghost road of the drovers”, the Murrnaji Track has continued to live on as part of the folklore of the Australian cattle industry.</p> <p>The Murrnaji was infamous for its lack of water and its unreliability; its impenetrable bullwaddy scrub; as well as government inaction, poor maintenance of facilities, a lack of stock reserves and poisonous plants added to the trials of cattle and their drovers.</p> <p>As the road system was expanded dramatically during World War II (and post-WWII for mining projects) large-scale trucking of cattle became possible and viable. The major benefits by road trains was that stock arrived at their destination within a day or so of being loaded, thus avoiding the loss of condition usually associated with droving; and it was more financially viable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empathize with the drovers on their hardships, courage and consummate skills. - Recognise the important role the cattle industry played in World War II and the impact of the bombing of northern Australia. - Understand that changes in world events had significant short and long-term effects, especially in the cattle industry.
---	--	--	--

Environmental Hoofprints



How have science, research and technology specifically contributed to a more sustainable pastoral industry?

What do ecosystem managers (including pastoralists and graziers) need to do to ensure their grazing practices are sustainable?

Take the Pulse



How do we try to ensure that the long-term health of ecosystems is sustainable?

Cattle stations are fundamentally modified ecosystems and need to be managed as such. The role of ecosystem components: climate (the amount and seasonal distribution of rainfall); land types (both soils and vegetation); and land condition (how well the land type is functioning) and the cycles that affect these ecosystems including the water cycle and nutrient cycle. Land condition is one of the key principles underpinning sustainable grazing practices.

- Understand that principles of ecosystems apply to grazing ecosystems.
- Compare and contrast different cattle properties.
- Critically analyse and justify decisions made in managing a cattle station.
- Understand that managing stocking rates is critical to land condition and the long-term health of the environment.

<p>Take the Reins</p> 	<p><i>As the ecosystem manager, which cattle station would you choose and why?</i></p>		<p>Apply the principles of ecosystems for managing grazing.</p> <p>Consider two very different cattle stations and compare and contrast their attributes as well as current and potential future land condition</p> <p>Choose the preferred cattle station and critically justify decision.</p>
<p>Meet the Mobs</p> 	<p><i>How are graziers adopting science, research and technology into their cattle grazing and management practices?</i></p> <p><i>Why is it important for the pastoral industry to be sustainable in northern Australia?</i></p>	<p>European pastoral practices are unsuitable for Australian environments and conditions.</p> <p>Social, economic and environmental considerations are integral to owning and managing a cattle station.</p> <p>Science and technology have been integral to the continuity of and changes to the pastoral industry.</p> <p>Cattle grazing is an extensive land use in northern Australia and so managing properties sustainably is critical.</p>	<p>-Understand the impacts of human activity on an ecosystem from different perspectives.</p> <p>-Recognise how the work of researchers and scientists enable people to make informed decisions.</p> <p>-Understand that science and technology contributes to beyond, contemporary issues in, and the pastoral industry</p> <p>-Develop an enhanced understanding of current issues (sustainable grazing) that involve implications of research, applications of science for future sustainability</p>