



Teacher Resource

# Macquarie Island

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Macquarie Island is located in which ocean?
  - a. Southern
  - b. Atlantic
  - c. Arctic
2. What is a marine park? What did the government recently announce about the marine park surrounding Macquarie Island?
3. Name three species of animals found on Macquarie Island.
4. What challenges have animals on Macquarie Island faced?
5. What did you learn about Macquarie Island? Create a short fact sheet to display your knowledge.

## Activity: See, think and wonder?

After watching the Macquarie Island story students will respond to the following:

- What did you SEE in this story?
- What did this story make you WONDER?
- How did this story make you FEEL?
- Think of three questions you have about the BTN story.

## Activity: Discussion

Working in pairs or small groups, students discuss the BTN Macquarie Island story using the following questions as a guide.

- Where is Macquarie Island? Locate using Google Maps. Where is it in relation to Australia and Antarctica?
- Why have the government increased the size of the marine park around Macquarie Island?
- What do you know about the wildlife found on Macquarie Island?
- What makes Macquarie Island unique?



### EPISODE 16

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#### KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about Macquarie Island and what makes it unique. They will also create profile of a species found on the island.

#### CURRICULUM

##### Geography – Year 5

The management of Australian environments, including managing severe weather events such as bushfires, floods, droughts or cyclones, and their consequences.

##### Science – Year 5

Examine how particular structural features and behaviours of living things enable their survival in specific habitats.

##### Science – Year 6

Investigate the physical conditions of a habitat and analyse how the growth and survival of living things is affected by changing physical conditions.

Investigate how scientific knowledge is used by individuals and communities to identify problems, consider responses and make decisions.

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Macquarie Island story. Here are some words to get them started.

MARINE PARK	SUB-ANTARCTIC	WORLD HERITAGE
HABITAT	BIODIVERSITY	CONSERVATION

## Activity: Macquarie Island Research

### Questions to research

Students will develop their own question/s to research about Macquarie Island and what makes it unique. Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one of the questions below.

- Who lives on Macquarie Island? Investigate what living conditions are like on the island and write a diary or journal entry that tells first-hand what it's like living on the island. Look at photographs or [this short video](#) to help imagine what living on the island would be like. Listen to the podcast [Resupply Macquarie Island](#) to go behind the scenes for the resupply of goods on the island.
- What is the climate like on Macquarie Island? Graph average monthly temperatures, rainfall, wind speed and sunshine.
- What special geological features does Macquarie Island have?
- How does the isolation of Macquarie Island contribute to its unique ecosystem?
- What are the major plant and animal species on Macquarie Island and how have they adapted to survive in the harsh environment?
- How have native flora and fauna been affected by the introduction of animal and plant species? What progress has been made eradicating feral species?
- Why is Macquarie Island important in the survival of animals in the Southern Ocean?
- Macquarie Island Station is a permanent Australian subantarctic research base on Macquarie Island. [Take a tour of the research station](#). What is the history of the station and what research does it conduct?
- What was the significance of Macquarie Island in Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition?



[Frank Hurley, Macquarie Island](#)

## Activity: Macquarie Island Wildlife Profile

Students will imagine they are scientists and study a species that is found on Macquarie Island. Students will create a profile about the species, see below for some examples:

- [Royal penguin](#)
- [Elephant seal](#)
- [Wandering Albatross](#)
- [King penguin](#)
- [Petrel](#)

Students will research the following and then share their research findings with the class or create a display in the classroom.

- Name (common and scientific name)
- Biological illustration or photo
- Classification (class, family, genus)
- Description (size, colour, physical features)
- Habitat
- Diet
- Behaviours
- Conservation status
- Adaptations
- Threats
- Contribution to the biodiversity on Macquarie Island.



Image credit: Joe Baronio



Image credit: Joe Baronio

## Activity: Macquarie Island World Heritage

Students will learn more Macquarie Island and its significance as a World Heritage site. Working in pairs or small groups, they can use the following questions to guide their research.

- What does World Heritage mean? Come up with a definition.
- Why was Macquarie Island chosen as a World Heritage site?
- What geological features make Macquarie Island significant?
- What conservation efforts are in place to protect Macquarie Island's World Heritage status?
- What conservation challenges does Macquarie Island face?



Image credit: Joe Baronio

### Share

- Share and compare your research with your classmates.
- Present your research in an interesting way.

## Activity: Macquarie Island Quiz

1. Macquarie Island is part of which country?

- A. New Zealand
- B. Australia
- C. United Kingdom

2. Macquarie Island is closer to New Zealand than Australia.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Which of the following animals is NOT found on Macquarie Island?

- A. Seals
- B. Penguins
- C. Polar Bears
- D. Albatrosses

4. The federal government recently announced that the marine park around Macquarie Island would double in size.

- A. True
- B. False

5. Which species of penguin is only found on Macquarie Island?

- A. King
- B. Royal
- C. Gentoo

6. The scientific research on Macquarie Island provides important information on climate change and marine ecosystems.

- A. True
- B. False

Quiz Answers: 1B, 2A, 3C, 4B, 5B, 6A

## Useful Websites

- [Macquarie Island marine park set to almost triple in size](#) – ABC News
- [Macquarie Success](#) – BTN
- [Macquarie Island](#) – BTN
- [Macquarie Island Station: A brief history](#) – Australian Antarctic Program
- [Macquarie Island Research Station](#) – Australian Antarctic Program
- [Macquarie Island Research Station](#) – Australian Antarctic Program
- [Living on Macquarie Island](#) – Australian Antarctic Program
- [Macquarie Island](#) – UNESCO