**Recreational users’ understandings of outdoor environments.**

**Difference between ways of knowing and understandings…**

Humans use outdoor environments for a variety of reasons and a variety of activities. Through their particular usages of the environments they are often exposed to a variety of ways of “knowing” outdoor environments (as you should know through your Unit 1 studies). “Understandings” of particular outdoor environments is different to this concept though and you need to be able to differentiate between the two.

Ways of knowing:

* Experiential knowledge
* Environmental history
* Natural history
* Ecological perspective
* Social perspective
* Economic perspective

These are the basically the ways in which we come to see outdoor environments through historical knowledge and a variety of perspectives.

Understandings on the other hand, are reliant on how you interact with an outdoor environment and what you have gained from your ‘experiential knowledge’ specific to a particular style of interaction.

A brief recreation based example:

Mountain bikers – understand that rock surfaces are more stable than sandy areas due to needing to experience maintaining a fast and stable line on courses. They understand the foliage of smaller bushes is much more flexible than that of thicker eucalypts due to riding through them. They understand that after a cold morning dew can effect the amount of grip their wheels so they opt for thicker tyres.

***YOUR TASK***

Now research what each of these groups may understand about specific environments due to the needs or aims of their activity. You need to detail 3 things they may understand about a particular environment and why they would understand this.

* Rockclimber
* Surfer
* Mountaineer (Everest)
* Snorkeller
* Fisherman
* White water rafter
* Footballer
* Golfer

Now for your personal experiences Rockclimbing at Arapiles, Bushwalking and Camping at Lerderderg, describe what how you have come to understand about the particular environments due to your specific recreational view point.