THE WAY

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VIRTUAL REALITY SCIENCE INCURSION

As part of National Science Week, our Year 9 Science students attended a Virtual Reality (VR) incursion this week, focusing on the Australian mining industry. The course introduces students to Aboriginal peoples' use of natural resources, such as stone axes and grinding stones, to mine materials like ochre, before taking a deep dive into one of six major mines across the country. Here, they had a 360-degree view of the mine site, something that would be impossible for students to experience in the classroom.

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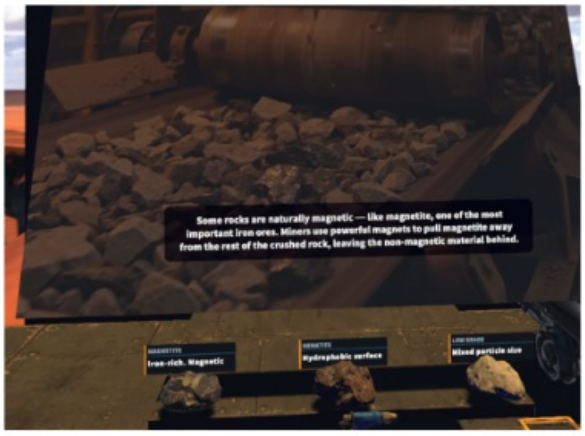


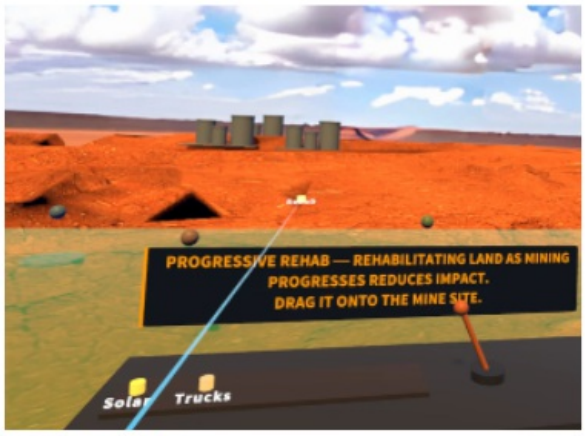
Students explored the process of mining precious metals, going from ore to mineral by examining the processes of crushing, magnetic separation and smelting, looking at gold, bauxite and iron. They examined the contribution these minerals make to the country's economy, how much is mined each year, and how much remains. In addition, students investigated rehabilitation and mitigation strategies to return the ecosystem around their chosen mine to its original state by adding biotic and abiotic factors.

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The team from EDGEVR worked tirelessly to design the program to our specific requirements, making our Year 9 students the first cohort in the country to experience this course. Rather than simply learning about the mining industry, the VR experience brought complex and abstract curriculum content to life, enhancing the learning experience by allowing students to create their own understanding.

Mr Calla Raats
Science Assistant Coordinator - Senior School Teacher

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