

The Bush Classroom Activities Overview

Early Childhood - Kindergarten to Year 3

Bush Play

A fun-filled adventure where students use their senses to explore the bush. They discover the sights, sounds, smells and feel of the bush through play. The session involves hands-on activities, like making an Earth cake, that encourage an appreciation of the natural environment.

F (Science) - Explore and make observations by using the senses (AC SIS011)
 F (Geog) - The reasons why some places are special to people, and how they can be looked after (ACHGK004)
 F-2 (Art) - Use and experiment with different materials, techniques, technologies and processes to make artworks (ACAVAM107)
 1 (Science) - Living things live in different places where their needs are met. (ACSSU211)
 1 (Science) - Living things have a variety of external features (ACSSU017)
 2 (Science) - People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things (ACSHE035)
 3 (Science) - Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things (ACSSU044)
 3 (Science) - Scientific knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions (ACSHE051)

Bush Bugs

Students will be led on an adventure in to a bushland environment full of mini-beasts hiding under logs and dangling from tree leaves and branches. They will have the opportunity to explore the amazing diversity of bug life and the habitats where they live on land and in the water (*Water activities - dip netting for water bugs available at Para Wirra*).

F (Science) - The way objects move depends on a variety of factors, including their size and shape (ACSSU005)
 F (Science) - Living things have basic needs, including food and water (ACSSU002)
 1 (Science) - Living things have a variety of external features (ACSSU017)
 1 (Science) Living things live in different places where their needs are met (ACSSU211)
 2 (Science) - Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves (ACSSU030)
 2 (Science) - People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things (ACSHE035)
 3 (Science) - Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things (ACSSU044)
 3 (Science) - Scientific knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions (ACSHE051)

Bush Habitats

Explore the Bush for native animals and discover where they live and why. Students will use their investigative skills to try and find evidence of animals that are hard to see. They will play games to discover the relationships between plants, animals and their habitat.

F (Science) - Living things have basic needs, including food and water (ACSSU002)
 F (Science) - Explore and make observations by using the senses (AC SIS011)
 1 (Geog) -The natural, managed and constructed features of places, their location, how they change and how they can be cared for (ACHGK005)
 1 (Science) - Living things live in different places where their needs are met.
 2 (Science) - Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves (ACSSU030)
 2 (Science) - People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things (ACSHE035)
 3 (Science) - Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things (ACSSU044)
 3 (Science) - Scientific knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions (ACSHE051)

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Middle School - Years 4 to 9

Bush Biodiversity *Bush Biodiversity - Focus on Fungi book in late Autumn/Winter.*

Students will discover the ecosystems within the bushland environment they are visiting. They will learn about the different species of plants, animals and fungi, and explore the relationships between them. The bush walk will encourage students to reflect on the significance of urban bushland environments and consider human impacts on these special places and what conservation actions can be taken to look after them.

4 (Geog) - The types of natural vegetation and the significance of vegetation to the environment and to people (ACHGK021)
 4 (Science) - Living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
 5 (Science) - Scientific knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions (ACSHE062)
 6 (Science) - The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (ACSSU094)
 6 (Geog) -The effects that people's connections with, and proximity to, places throughout the world have on shaping their awareness and opinion of those places (ACHGK036)
 7 (Science) - There are differences within and between groups of organisms; classification helps organise this diversity (ACSSU111)
 7 (Science) - Interactions between organisms can be described in terms of food chains and food webs; human activity can affect these interactions (ACSSU112)
 9 (Science) - Ecosystems consist of communities of interdependent organisms and abiotic components of the environment; matter and energy flow through these systems (ACSSU175)

Bush Adaptations

Students are led on an exploratory walk discovering native animals and plants and investigating how they have adapted to their particular habitat. Through hands-on activities students learn about specific characteristics these species have developed to allow them to survive in their environment and climate. They will consider the impacts of threats to these species and reflect on actions that can be taken to conserve these special environments.

4 (Geog) - The types of natural vegetation and the significance of vegetation to the environment and to people (ACHGK021)
 5 (Science) - Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043)
 5 (Science) - Science knowledge is used to inform personal and community decisions (ACSHE217)
 6 (Science) - The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (ACSSU094)
 7 (Science) - There are differences within and between groups of organisms; classification helps organise this diversity (ACSSU111)
 9 (Geog) - The distribution and characteristics of biomes as regions with distinctive climates, soils, vegetation and productivity (ACHGK060)

Bush Creeks

This activity focuses on exploring the plant and animal species that live near and in waterways. Students gain an understanding of catchments by discovering more about how water moves through the environment. They will investigate the health of waterways through activities such as dip netting for water bugs, surveying vegetation and banks and water quality testing.

4 (Science) - Living things have life cycles (ACSSU072)
 4 (Science) - Living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
 5 (Science) - Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043)
 6 (Science) - The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (ACSSU094)
 7 (Geog) -The ways that flows of water connect places as it moves through the environment and the way this affects places (ACHGK038)
 7 (Science) - Water is an important resource that cycles through the environment (ACSSU222)
 9 (Science) - Ecosystems consist of communities of interdependent organisms and abiotic components of the environment; matter and energy flow through these systems (ACSSU175)

The Bush Classroom Activities Overview

IncurSION - Years 4 to 7

Fungi Fun

Students are introduced to the Fungi Kingdom through a talk, foray and ecosystem game. A fungal foray (search for fungus) is a great way for children to connect to the natural world. Fungi play essential roles in all ecosystems, many are recyclers, while others form partnerships with plants.

4 (Science) - Living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)

5 (Science) - Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043)

6 (Science) - The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (ACSSU094)

7 (Science) - There are differences within and between groups of organisms; classification helps organise this diversity (ACSSU111)