

LESSON 3 – Indigenous Flora Field Trip

“I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want.”

— Andy Warhol

INTENDED PARTICIPANTS: Children aged 6-8 with a maximum of 7 per teacher

INTRODUCTION/LEARNING OUTCOMES: At this age children are becoming much more confident and able in themselves both cognitively and physically. They are extending their learning about right from wrong to incorporate their impact on the world and how this affects others. They recognise they belong to a community beyond their family and are continuing to refine their social interaction skills. For this lesson the focus will be on Learning Outcomes 1, 2 & 4 and AusVELS environmental requirements. The lesson aims to expose them to the beauty of native Australia through an excursion to the stunning Royal Botanical Gardens in Cranbourne. It will further deepen their knowledge, respect and compassion for our natural world. Co-operation and resilience skills will be built upon as they journey out of the school yard into an unfamiliar environment and further expand their confidence in their ability to learn.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Excursion date organised with the Cranbourne Royal Botanical Gardens
<http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/visit-cranbourne>
- Parent permission
- Parent helpers
- Andy Goldsworthy images
- Australian Flora and Fauna you tube clip
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB9PArbHOA4>
- Resource material (worksheets) from the Gardens website
- Camera
- Sketchbooks and pencils for students

LESSON ACTIVITIES:

- Organising a trip to the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens is made very easy by the gardens as you are able to set up an itinerary that suits your student’s individual needs. Do keep in mind though that half a day will be ample at that age and limit the children to 2-3 exhibits (gardens) otherwise they will become overwhelmed.
- Before the lesson (the day before) discuss Australian flora, watch the above You Tube Clip aswell as showing the children some images of Andy Goldsworthy’s work.
- For this lesson I would organise to see (with a guide)
- “The weird and wonderful garden” – this garden features some of the peculiar and very interesting flora – ask children to sketch a plant they find interesting

- “Kids Backyard Garden” – this is a natural playground and excellent spot to have lunch and also experiment with some land art (permission may be required from the garden)
- “The Red Sand Garden” – a stunning visual contrast between the rich reds of the Australian soil and the greys of the flora.
- There are also many class activities run by teachers at the garden which are designed in line with the AusVels Curriculum. Please take advantage of these lessons and book the children in when making the excursion booking.
- To follow up discuss the excursion and ask the children to create an artwork about what they found to be the most interesting item they observed at the garden.

ASSESSMENT/OBSERVATION: In primary school children are assessed in line with AusVels. At this age though assessment is drawn from observation of each student’s participation, enthusiasm and personal growth. Observe how students involve themselves in the excursion. Are they actively participating, are they being respectful to the environment and their fellow students. Take notes and also where possible photograph their work for their folio.

REFLECTION/NOTES:

It is always wise to make notes on your lessons. The positives and negatives, what you would do differently (and how) and what worked well. Keep these notes for future reference