



Program Overview

The students observe a variety of different living things during a bushwalk along the Kalkari Track in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and investigate a variety of different environments to discover what animals live there and how their needs are met.

Inquiry Questions

1. What plants and animals live in the local area?
2. How can they be classified?
3. What do they need to survive in their environment?

Learning Experiences

Explore Kalkari

Kalkari Visitors Centre provides the students with an opportunity to learn about the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. Within the building, the students will be able to observe a range of preserved animals and remains of animals to get a sense of that type of animals that call the park home. Within the Centre, students will also be able to observe Aboriginal artefacts and learn about Aboriginal engravings - a significant feature of the Park.

Bushwalk - Kalkari - to Bobbin Head

Students will learn about invertebrates in the environment and the interconnected nature of invertebrates, habitat and other animals through observations of the Brush Turkey at Kalkari. Significant plant, animal and invertebrates of the local area will be identified along the walk. Students will hear of the interconnected nature of traditional Aboriginal people and the land. The importance of invertebrates in Aboriginal culture will be discussed.

Mini Beast Hunt

Students will work in groups to conduct an invertebrate survey in a bush habitat. If students are using cooperative learning teams the role for each member will be revised. Together the class will negotiate a code for caring for ethical and safe handling methods. Students will record the name and draw the observable features of the invertebrates they find. They will also collect a tally of the total number of that species found in their area. Students will use a simple dichotomous key to correctly identify the invertebrate species. The EEC teacher will facilitate a review of the field work with a focus on suggestions for comparing this data to the schoolyard survey and suggestions for improving the research methods/ invertebrate survey.

Mangroves

The Mangrove ecosystem at Bobbin Head is home to a variety of different animals and is the nursery area of many fish as well as home to crabs and birds. During the exploration of the boardwalk area, the students will learn why this is such an important area and how they can protect areas like this when visiting.

Key Syllabus Outcomes and Content

Note: This excursion is aligned with the Primary Connections Stage 1 unit Schoolyard Safari.

Science K-6

Explicitly teaches:

Living things have a variety of external features (ACSSU017)

Students:

- describe some external features of a variety of living things
- use a range of methods, including fieldwork, to identify plants or animals in their local area

Living things live in different places in where their needs are met (ACSSU211)

Students:

- observe the different places in a local land or aquatic environment where living things can be found, eg a schoolyard, pond, beach or bush
- explore the needs of a plant or an animal in its environment
- describe how some different places in a local land or aquatic environment provide for the needs of the animals or plants that live there
- observe and record ways people use science knowledge and skills in their daily lives to care for living things.. (ACSHE022, ACSHE035)