

Unit: Trees



Lesson objective

These activities build knowledge and awareness of sustainable and eco-friendly ways to live. They require children/students to view, identify and discuss the environmental message/s embedded in the *dirtgirlworld* episode and build on this initial understanding by exploring different ideas/concepts associated with the selected materials. Each activity builds a clearer picture for environmentally sustainable choices. Each activity is developed with a curriculum perspective integrated into the learning experience.

Curriculum links: Australian Curriculum

This is an extract from the Australian Curriculum V3.0: English and Australian Curriculum: Science

English	Years F-2	ACELT1582	Discuss characters and events in a range of literary texts and share personal responses to these texts, making connections with students' own experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy • Personal and social capability • Critical and creative thinking • Listening • Speaking • Reading
		ACELT1586	Recreate texts imaginatively using drawing, writing, performance and digital forms of communication
		ACELY1674	Construct texts featuring print, visual and audio elements using software, including word processing programs
		ACELY1650	Use comprehension strategies to understand and discuss texts listened to, viewed or read independently
Science	Years F-2	ACSSU003	Objects are made of materials that have observable properties
		ACSSU004	Daily and seasonal changes in our environment, including the weather, affect everyday life
		ACSHE013	Science involves exploring and observing the world using the senses
		ACSSU017	Living things have a variety of external features
		ACSSU211	Living things live in different places where their needs are met
		ACSHE022	People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things
		ACSI233	Engage in discussions about observations and use methods such as drawing to represent ideas
		ACSSU030	Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves
		ACSI042	Represent and communicate observations and ideas in a variety of ways such as oral and written language, drawing and role play
		ACSI214	Through discussion, compare observations with predictions

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Viewing and interpreting

As a class, view [dirtgirlworld](#), Episode 47, *Trees*, where dirtgirl is talking about Arbor Day which celebrates trees. Ask students to listen to what she says about trees and their special importance for our planet, such as,

"Trees are the lungs of the planet, and they recycle carbon dioxide and turn it into oxygen."

Make a list of the things she suggests are the benefits of having trees. Have students add their suggestions to dirtgirl's list.

Exploring and identifying

Ask students to consider the types of trees they can see in their immediate environment, for example, the trees in and around the school grounds. Depending on where you live in Australia, your trees reflect a special type of environment.


As a class, take a short walk around the school grounds and take a digital photo of each of the different trees and scrubs. Upload the photos to a computer in the classroom and share and discuss what the students have found. Firstly, count how many different trees and scrubs there are. The more the merrier!

Print or cut/paste the images of the trees and scrubs, and start a scrapbook with a separate page for each variety. Dirtgirl had her own scrapbook in the episode. The scrapbook can be a physical or digital book. Divide the number of trees and scrubs between the members of the class so that each pupil has the responsibility to identify and document their own tree or scrub.

Ask students to label their images with the following information:

- What are the types of trees and scrubs located in and around the school grounds?
- Are the trees specific to this environment that they grow in?
- Are they Australian native flora?





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Categorising and interpreting

Each student should be responsible for accumulating information about their tree or scrub and lay it out on a page, for the class scrapbook.

Each student should include on their page:

- A leaf, flower, or seeds from the tree or scrub (if these are too large, the students could draw, take a rubbing, or take an image of it with the camera).
- The size of the plant: height and width.
- Information about how fast it grows, if it is deciduous, when it flowers, etc.
- Watering patterns, drainage, climate needed, etc.
- Where it originated from: is it a native tree or scrub? is there an Aboriginal name for it? what its scientific name?
- Position of the sun: does the tree grow best on the north, south, east or west side of the school?

As a class, develop a school map and position where each of the plants is grown. Print the photos of the trees and add these pictures to a school map.

Discuss where there should be more trees and scrubs planted in the school grounds.

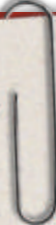
Upload your maps and pictures so we can compare all of the wonderful school locations around Australia!

Creating and celebrating

There are many ways in which students can celebrate Arbor Day. But first they need to know why they are celebrating trees and where the occasion of Arbor Day comes from. The first Arbor Day was held on April 10 1872 in the US. Check out Wikipedia to find out how each country celebrates this day: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arbor_Day or Arbor Day Foundation: www.arborday.org/arborday/arbordayDatesInternational.cfm

Dirtgirl and Scrapboy are celebrating Arbor Day by hosting a picnic. This may be a good idea for your class too. To celebrate the day, the students could:

- Make particular recipes that only use native plants and vegetables.
- Design and print invitations to the picnic on recycled paper using the leaf of their tree or scrub as the focus for the design.
- Learn to sing the song that dirtgirl wrote for Arbor Day.
- Plant more trees and scrubs that attract birds and bees.
- Build a May Pole that the students can decorate with drawings of the leaves and flowers of each of the trees and scrubs.
- Create an exhibition of their class scrapbook and take other students on a tour of the school grounds pointing out their particular tree or scrub.



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Name: _____

