



SEPT/OCT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY
VIRTUAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Children learn about biodiversity by creating their own curiosity box. They explore the area around their home and suburb and collect evidence or take images that represent the biodiversity of their area. As an alternative, children and grown ups could walk to a local park or wetland. Children discover the importance of maintaining biodiversity and steps that can be taken to protect biodiversity in their area.

THEME

- Biodiversity

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Variety of boxes, one for each student.
- Pencils, Textas
- Variety of paint colours
- Pens
- Paint Brushes
- Access to backyard, natural areas or local park

INSTRUCTIONS

Begin discussion by asking children what they know about biodiversity? What does biodiversity mean? What is the difference between genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity? How can we demonstrate that we have biodiversity at school? Show children a feather that you found in the school ground. Discuss which bird the feather would have come from? Is it a Magpie or a Kookaburra feather? How can we find out?

Introduce the concept of a curiosity box. The box will be used to collect evidence of biodiversity in the local area. Once items are collected children write a paragraph about each item. The curiosity box can also be decorated resembling the biodiversity of the local area.

Children display their curiosity boxes around the house.

EXAMPLE: <https://littlepinelearners.com/cardboard-nature-display/>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity comes from two words, Bio meaning life and diversity meaning variability.

Biodiversity is the variety of all living things; the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form.

GENETIC DIVERSITY

Genetic diversity is the variety of genes within a species. Each species is made up of individuals that have their own particular genetic composition. This means a species may have different populations, each having different genetic compositions. To conserve genetic diversity, different populations of a species must be conserved.

Genes are the basic units of all life on Earth. They are responsible for both the similarities and the differences between organisms.

SPECIES DIVERSITY

Species diversity is the variety of species within a habitat or a region. Some habitats, such as rainforests and coral reefs, have many species. Others, such as salt flats or a polluted stream, have fewer.

In Australia, more than 80% of plant and animal species are endemic, which means that they only occur naturally in Australia.

ECOSYSTEM DIVERSITY

Ecosystem diversity is the variety of ecosystems in a given place. An ecosystem is a community of organisms and their physical environment interacting together. An ecosystem can cover a large area, such as a whole forest, or a small area, such as a pond.

An ecosystem is a community of organisms and their physical environment interacting together. An ecosystem may be as large as the Great Barrier Reef or as small as the back of a spider crab's shell.