

STAGE 2 SCIENCE

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE LIVING WORLD

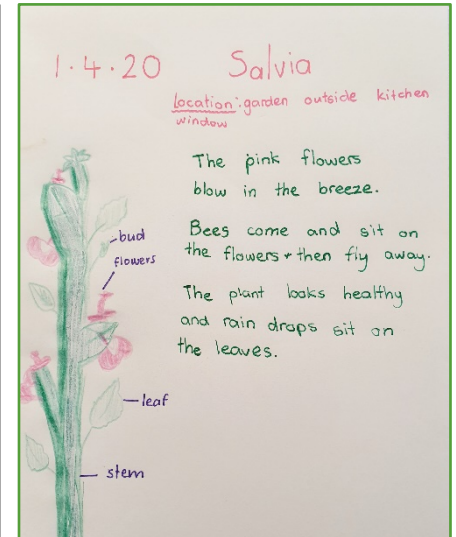
Learning intention: Activities are designed to engage students with the outdoors, focusing on the classification and survival of living things.

Activity 1: Explorer's journal

Go outside in your backyard or school playground. Choose three different living things (it could be a plant, animal, bird, insect). Sit quietly and observe each living thing for a period of time.

Create a journal entry for each living thing you observe. Your entry should include the date along with the name, location and a labelled sketch of the living thing you're observing.

Extension activity: Record any other observations you have made about the appearance or behaviour of your specimen. How do they move? Do they make any sounds? Does their appearance change as you watch them? How do they interact with other living things or their environment?



Activity 2: Classifying living things

Take a walk around your backyard/school playground with a piece of paper and a pencil. List as many different living things as you can find.

Ask a family member or friend to play a game of 'What am I?' with you. Choose one living thing from your list (don't tell your partner which one you've chosen). Your partner has to guess which living thing you've chosen by asking you a series of questions about it. Questions may include 'Does it grow in the ground?', 'Can it fly?', 'Does it have legs?' and so on. How many living things from your list can your partner guess?

Extension activity: Play the same game with living things from beyond your backyard/school playground. You might choose farm animals, zoo animals or ocean creatures.

Activity 3: Spreading seeds investigation

More than 1500 plant species in Australia rely on ants to disperse their seeds. Use your backyard or school playground to conduct an investigation into how ants spread seeds.

Place a blank sheet of paper on the ground. On top place three different piles of seeds that you have collected. These might have come from fruit or vegetables in your kitchen (such as tomatoes, kiwi fruit, watermelon, pumpkin) or from plants growing outside in the garden. Leave the seeds and return at different times throughout the day to monitor the ant activity. If possible, take photos (or make drawings) to record the dispersal of seeds.

Extension activity: Record answers to the following questions:

- 1) Which seeds did your ants prefer? How do you know that?
- 2) What did you notice about the way the ants dispersed the seeds?



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