

La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary

Nesting Box Game (F - 2)

This engaging activity enables students to understanding why nesting boxes are important and how they assist in providing adequate habitat for animals. They will build nesting boxes as they try to figure out what might live within them.

Learning Intention	Success Criteria
Students will understand the life cycle of a River Red Gum and why young trees cannot provide habitat for animals, as well as how nest boxes counteract this problem. Students will be able to build a nest box from the pieces. Students will be able to name the animal that a particular nest box is designed for based on its size, shape and other features.	Students can build different nest boxes in their teams. Students can identify the animal that would live in the nest box they have built. Students gain an understanding of the importance of nesting boxes in the housing of the animals in the sanctuary. Students can work cooperatively to collect leaves for their sugar glider 'nest'.

Student Activity

In this activity students will learn about the life cycle of a River Red Gum and the creation of hollows. Students will hear about how the trees within the sanctuary are too young to have hollows and thereby cannot provide adequate habitat, and that we build nesting boxes to help address this. Students will learn that there are different designs for different animals. Students will also participate in a team game, working together to build a sugar glider nest from leaves.

Learning Outcomes

Cognitive	Students will learn how nesting boxes can be a solution to a lack of hollows, a common problem in sanctuary environments. Students will think about the types of animals that would live in the nesting boxes they are building.
Affective	Students will recognise one of the issues with sanctuaries and the effect of having a lack of habitat, as well as see the value of nesting boxes in helping to alleviate this problem. They will enjoy building a nesting box from the pieces and figuring out how it fits together. Students will enjoy collecting the leaves for their sugar glider nest.
Observational Skills	Students will be directed towards a working nesting box in the nearby trees. Students will gather pieces and build them using a picture guide, holding the pieces with their hands. Students will run for the leaves, holding one at a time.



La Trobe University's Outdoor Laboratory

Critical Thinking



Communication



Collaboration



Creativity



Character



Citizenship



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Curriculum Links

Year F-2:

Living things have a variety of external features and live in different places where their basic needs, including food, water and shelter, are met ([VCSSU042](#))

Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves ([VCSSU043](#))

Respond to and pose questions, and make predictions about familiar objects and events ([VCSIS050](#))

Participate in guided investigations, including making observations using the senses, to explore and answer questions ([VCSIS051](#))

Use informal measurements in the collection and recording of observations ([VCSIS052](#))

Compare observations and predictions with those of others ([VCSIS054](#))

Represent and communicate observations and ideas about changes in objects and events in a variety of ways ([VCSIS055](#))

Summary

Throughout this exciting activity, students will begin to understand some of the issues we deal with in running a wildlife sanctuary and how we solve these problems. Students will learn why nesting boxes are important, how they relate to the young trees in the sanctuary, and identify the types of animals they are designed for. Your students will investigate an arboreal habitat and the animals that live within it, as well as build on their collaborative skills. Your students will also find out what happens after an animal moves in to a nesting box, by working together to build a sugar glider nest.



A New Pedagogy Deep Learning (NPDL)

The LTWS incorporates the work of Michael Fullan and Maria Langworthy into their activities and support resources.

Instructional Model and incorporate a range of activities designed to develop 21st Century Learning Skills.

The **Nesting Box Game** activity provides an authentic link to a pedagogy for Meaning-Oriented (Deep) learning. The ticks below provide an indication of the skills this activity is designed to develop.

Support Materials

The LTWS have (and are) developing a range of support materials that provide additional resources for teachers to explore this NPDL framework.

Visit our Webpage – www.latrobe.edu.au/wildlife

Keep in touch via the sanctuaries Blog, Facebook and Youtube pages to discover more about the sanctuary and the opportunities your students can explore.

<http://bit.ly/1TdbMnN>
<http://on.fb.me/1WeQwfD>
<http://bit.ly/1V4yMTL>



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