

## Australian Curriculum

Cross curriculum priority – Sustainability

Grades 5-6

Through the priority of Sustainability, students develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary to contribute to more sustainable patterns of living.

Outdoor learning enables students to develop a deeper understanding of the relationship between humans and their environment in order to promote, support and sustain the wellbeing of individuals, the community and the environment, now and into the future.

Outdoor learning provides unique opportunities for students to reflect on the ways humans interact with each other and the environment. It encourages students to reflect on ways of interpreting and engaging with the world and enables students to explore how they connect and interact with natural environments, and with other people. Students consider how these connections and interactions within systems play an important role in promoting, supporting and sustaining the physical, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of individuals, the community and the environment as a whole, now and into the future.



In this activity, students grow their own sprouts and learn:

— **about the life-cycles of plants**

**Extension activities**

- Try growing herbs such as parsley, thyme and coriander.
- Conduct research into the different herbs that should be planted at different times of the year.

— **to re-use materials such as cardboard tubes, rather than throwing them away**

**Extension activities**

- What other shapes and formations can you create with your planters?
- Decorate the tubes using colour, line and pattern.

— **to minimise their consumption of plastic and other packaging by growing their own instead of purchasing from a shop**

**Extension activities**

- Compare the portion size, quality and cost of herbs grown at home vs bought in a shop. Include plants grown from seed and plants bought as seedlings. Graph the results on a bar or line graph.
- Design more sustainable packaging for herbs sold in supermarkets.

— **to use vegetables and herbs from their own gardens in their cooking, encouraging them to eat healthy, balanced diets**

**Extension activities**

- In small groups, create or follow a recipe using the sprouts or herbs and share your recipes with your classmates.

Outdoor learning gives students unique ways of experiencing and understanding ecosystems. Sensory experiences of seeing, hearing, touching and smelling can only be obtained in an outdoor setting. Understanding and appreciation resulting from a direct experience of ecosystems gives students an incentive to be active in preserving and restoring natural environments. With different world views across a student group, outdoor learning provides opportunities for the discussion of values that inform actions for sustainability.

Students can develop a deeper understanding of the relationship between the health and wellbeing of the individual and the environment. They develop this understanding through a range of activities including:

- learning in and about the outdoors
- the creation of spaces for outdoor learning
- growing, sourcing and choosing food products.

Through such activities, they will gain a capacity to advocate and act for a sustainable future.