



Awesome Adaptations

Year 5 Science

Department of Education

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Our vision is for a community that cares for self, others and the environment to achieve enough for all forever.

The Big Idea: Exploration of how plants adapt to their environment.

Students' Blanket Role: They are invited to be **Amateur Botanists**.

Program Snapshot

During this program, students explore a botanic park rich with examples of plant adaptations. They are able to see, feel and touch the features that assist a plant to survive in its environment. We also discuss any examples of wildlife adaptations we may find in the park. If time permits, we examine invertebrate adaptations. This program is run at Peacehaven Park, Highfields.

Curriculum– Year 5 Science

For schools using C2C, this program compliments **Unit 1- Survival in the Environment**.

Achievement Standard (extract)	Students analyse how the form of living things enables them to function in their environments.
Content Description	Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043).
Elaborations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Describing and listing adaptations of living things suited for particular Australian environmentsExploring general adaptations for particular environments such as adaptations that aid water conservation in deserts



Cross Curriculum Priorities

Sustainability– addresses the ongoing capacity of Earth to maintain life. Students develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary to contribute to more sustainable patterns of living, which means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Main sections covered: **Systems O1.2**- All life forms, including human life, are connected through ecosystems on which they depend for their wellbeing and survival. **Futures O1.7**- Actions for a more sustainable future reflect values of care, respect and responsibility, and require us to explore and understand environments.



Pre-visit:

Your class will be given a set of “Crazy Creatures” (hand- crafted pet rocks with features such as googly eyes, shiny skin). Students can use their imagination and hypothesise about their structural features. For example, “My creature has big eyes because it is nocturnal and this helps it see at night” or “The creature has leaf-shaped scaly skin to camouflage” They can then make predictions about behavioural adaptations for their creature.

Visit Day- Program

- Orientation to Peacehaven Botanic Park
- Discussion and recording ideas about adaptations: definition, functions, examples of structural vs behavioural.
- Investigation of different seed pods and dispersal methods
- Construction and test flight of students’ paper seed pods.
- Bush walk during which structural adaptations are investigated, students sketch a few.
- Investigation of insects in resin, noting features and hypothesising adaptations (if time permits).

Conclusion:

- Group matching activity, discussion of adaptations between types of animals and plants.



Call to Action:

- Leave with an appreciation of local plants and their unique adaptations

Post-visit

- Research a local native animal or plant and do a report/poster/video or sound recording on its features, habitat and adaptations.
- Draw a proper scientific diagram showing 4-5 adaptations on a particular local plant or animal.

Amaroo EEC pedagogy

Amaroo is guided by the Place-Responsive Pedagogy, in particular Learning Beyond the Classroom.

This particular program utilises the strategies of **Learning By Doing** and **Being in the Natural Environment**.

Also at the fore-front of our pedagogy is connectedness, real-world context, authentic cultural experiences, sense of place, and recognition of difference, which can lead to other powerful, long-term, lifestyle outcomes, often not assessable in traditional curriculums.



For more information please refer to Amaroo’s [Pedagogical Framework](http://amarooeec.eq.edu.au/supportandresources/formsanddocuments/documents/pedagogical-framework.pdf) (amarooeec.eq.edu.au/supportandresources/formsanddocuments/documents/pedagogical-framework.pdf)