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COOLANGARS, CORROBOREES and KALEEPS

Aboriginal Cultural Excursion supporting the schools Aboriginal Studies Curriculum

Overview

This program is for students at Levels 2 and 3 of their learning. It is mainly offered to students in Years 4 and 5.

The students meet and interact with Nyoongar educators at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre in the Darling Range jarrah forest, 45 minutes from Perth. The participants are led on a day of discovery, learning how traditional Aboriginal people hunted for food, the customs of different language groups and the importance of the corroboree for celebrating events. By the end of the day they will have learnt many Nyoongar words and will understand both the differences between and the similarities of their own lifestyle to that of traditional Aboriginal people.

The excursion is relevant to the Society and Environment learning area, particularly the Natural and Social Systems outcomes:

- **Investigation, Communication and Participation:** (Level 2, 3) Students will reflect and compare the customs and lifestyle of traditional Aboriginal people with their own lifestyle. In some activities they will work as a team to achieve a common goal.
- **Place and Space:** (Level 3, 4) Students will become aware that people and the environment are interdependent. They will learn that working together is more productive than working on their own. They will become aware that for our survival there is a need to look after the environment, just as the Aboriginal people cared for it.
- **Resources:** (Level 3, 4) Students will be made aware of how Aboriginal people survived on the land using the resources available.
- **Culture:** (Level 3, 4) In discussing how Aboriginal people survived, with all the family contributing to the welfare of the group, students may reflect on their own culture and any differences and similarities to those of traditional Aboriginal people. Students will learn some Nyoongar language after listening, responding and speaking to the leaders.
- **Time, Continuity and Change:** (Level 2, 3) Students will find that many customs and values that were important in the past are still important today.
- **Natural and Social Systems:** (Level 2, 3) Students are made aware of the need to preserve the environment so as to provide over the long term for their requirements. Students will learn that exchanging of goods between traditional Aboriginal language groups is similar to current trade practice, which is necessary for survival and a diverse lifestyle.
- **Active Citizenship:** Students become aware that the values promoted at school are relevant and expected on this excursion.

Outline of Activities

<i>Students' arrival</i>	<i>10.00am</i>
<i>Morning tea</i>	<i>10.00am – 10.20am</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>10.20am – 10.30am</i>
<i>Morning session: Fishing or Hunting</i>	<i>10.30am – 12.00pm</i>
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>12.00pm – 12.30pm</i>
<i>Afternoon session: Fishing or Hunting</i>	<i>12.30pm – 1.50pm</i>
<i>Conclusion</i>	<i>1.50pm – 2.00pm</i>



Introduction

A short talk about customs and values in traditional Aboriginal life, relating them to the students' own experiences and what is currently practised. Outline of the day's activities.

Fishing Activity

Students take part in a traditional method of catching fish. Volunteers will get their feet wet as they wade into a shallow fishing pond. Their plaiting experience will be tested when make traditional rope for construction of a fishing "fence."

Students then search with their bare feet for aestivating turtles buried in sand; a traditional method of searching for tucker.

Hunting and Corroboree Activities

Students take yonga bookas, kylies and kitj's as they role play a hunting trip, quietly searching for food. Their Nyoongar leader will show them the signs to look for and how to tune into their surroundings. After a successful hunt they celebrate by taking part in a corroboree.

Conclusion

The class sings a song they have prepared to thank their Nyoongar leaders for sharing their culture.

Excursion cost: \$7.70 (inc. GST)

Note: The 10% GST can be reclaimed from all curriculum-based activities

**To book an excursion or a PD day: Phone (08) 9295 6149 or (08) 9295 6300 or
E-mail jilllf@calm.wa.gov.au (Office hours 8.30 am and 2.30 pm)**

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