Volunteering for Threatened Flora

Worksheets



Coastcare Victoria School Kit

Coastcare Victoria

VICTORIA State Government | Energy, Environment and Climate Action

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Activity 1: Quiz

1.Which of these wasn't a step Naomi gave to protect the habitat?

a) Always stick to paths
b) Leave only footprints
c) Always go in a large group
d) Consider volunteering to help

2. Coastal Moonah woodland is a _____plant community

a) Large
b) Threatened
c) Resilient
d) Critically endangered

3. What are one of the biggest threats that the Moonah woodland faces?

a) Invasive woody weeds
b) Invasive birds
c) Pollution
d) Poor soil quality

4. *Polygala myrtifolia* is a

a) Native species
b) Non- invasive species
c) Woody weed
d) None of the above

5. *Polygala myrtifolia* drops how many seeds each year?

a) Hundreds
b) Thousands
c) Millions
d) Billions

6. Invasive weeds compete with natives for

a) Soil and Water
b) Fruits and seeds
c) Carbon Dioxide and Air
d) Light, Nutrients and Space

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7. What were the volunteers doing in the video?

a) Removing weeds
b) Removing native plants
c) Planting native plants
d) Planting weeds

8. What did volunteer Marvyn see once the Polygala was removed?

a) Small native trees and shrubs coming through
b) In season orchids
c) More weeds
d) Both a and b

9. Why is this work especially important in this area?

a) A lot of land clearing in the area so not much native vegetation left.
b) Few animals live in the area
c) Remote and hard to get to.
d) The area is regularly visited by many people

10. What was one of the other benefits of volunteering that was mentioned?

a) Takes a lot of time
b) Can be hard work
c) Good for mental health
d) Make a lot of money

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Activity 2: Native plant names

Binomial nomenclature means "two-part name-system" because scientific names are made of two parts: 1: Genus 2: species.

In this activity, you will use the scientific names of eight plant species to research the common name or names and if they are native or introduced to Australia. Note many of these species will have several common names.

Species Name	Common name(s)
Melaleuca lanceolata	
Spinifex sericeus	
Tetragonia implexicoma	
Alyxia buxifolia	
Sea celery *Apium prostratum*	
Coast Beard-heath *Leucopogon parviflorus*	
Kakalla *Carpobrotus rossii*	
Murnong / Yam Daisy *Microseris lanceolata*	

1. What are two advantages of using species names instead of common names?

2. What are two problems with using common names only?

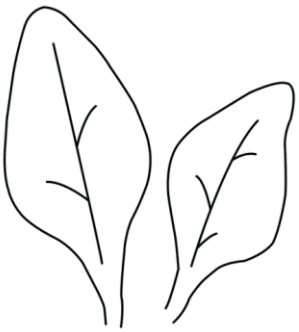
3. True or false: A genus can include more than one species.

Activity 3: Botanical illustration

Bower Spinach: *Tetragonia implexicoma*

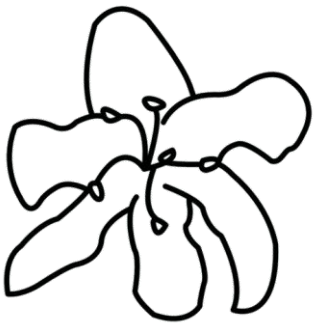


Leaf sketch





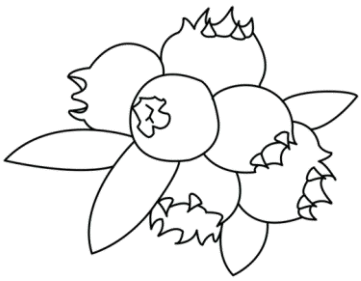
Flower sketch



Moonah: *Melaleuca lanceolata*



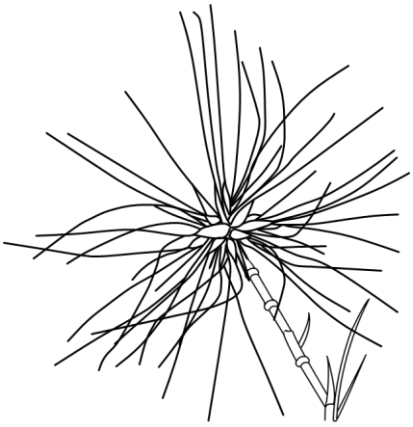
Seeds sketch



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Hairy spinifex: *Spinifex sericeus*





Sea box: *Alyxia buxifolia*

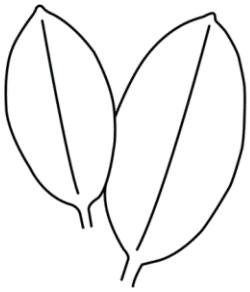


Flower sketch





Leaf sketch



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Investigation 1: Native plants and weeds

Common name	Scientific name	Plant type (grass, tree)	Plant size	Flowering Season	Unique features
Moonah					
Hairy Spinifex					
Bower Spinach					
Sea Box					

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Common name	Scientific name	Plant type (grass, tree)	Plant size	Flowering Season	Aboriginal uses
Myrtle-leaf Milk-wort					
Bridal Creeper					
Boneseed					
Gorse					

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Colour in the boxes to create a visual flowering chart – pollinators like gardens where flowers are available to feed on all year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Moonah												
Hairy Spinifex												
Bower Spinach												
Sea Box												
Myrtle-leaf Milk-wort												
Bridal Creeper												
Boneseed												
Gorse												

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Investigation 2: Gardens for Wildlife

Establishing a natural habitat garden helps you encourage native animals like birds, bats, lizards, frogs, butterflies, and other insects to your garden. Native gardens can also help reduce garden maintenance costs, decrease gardening, and time commitments, conserve local native plants and animals, and make our urban areas more ecologically sustainable.

The largest trees, flowering gum, are already growing at your site, design a wildlife garden around them. Include the native plant species you have learned about to create different forest layers, and for habitat and food for different animals.

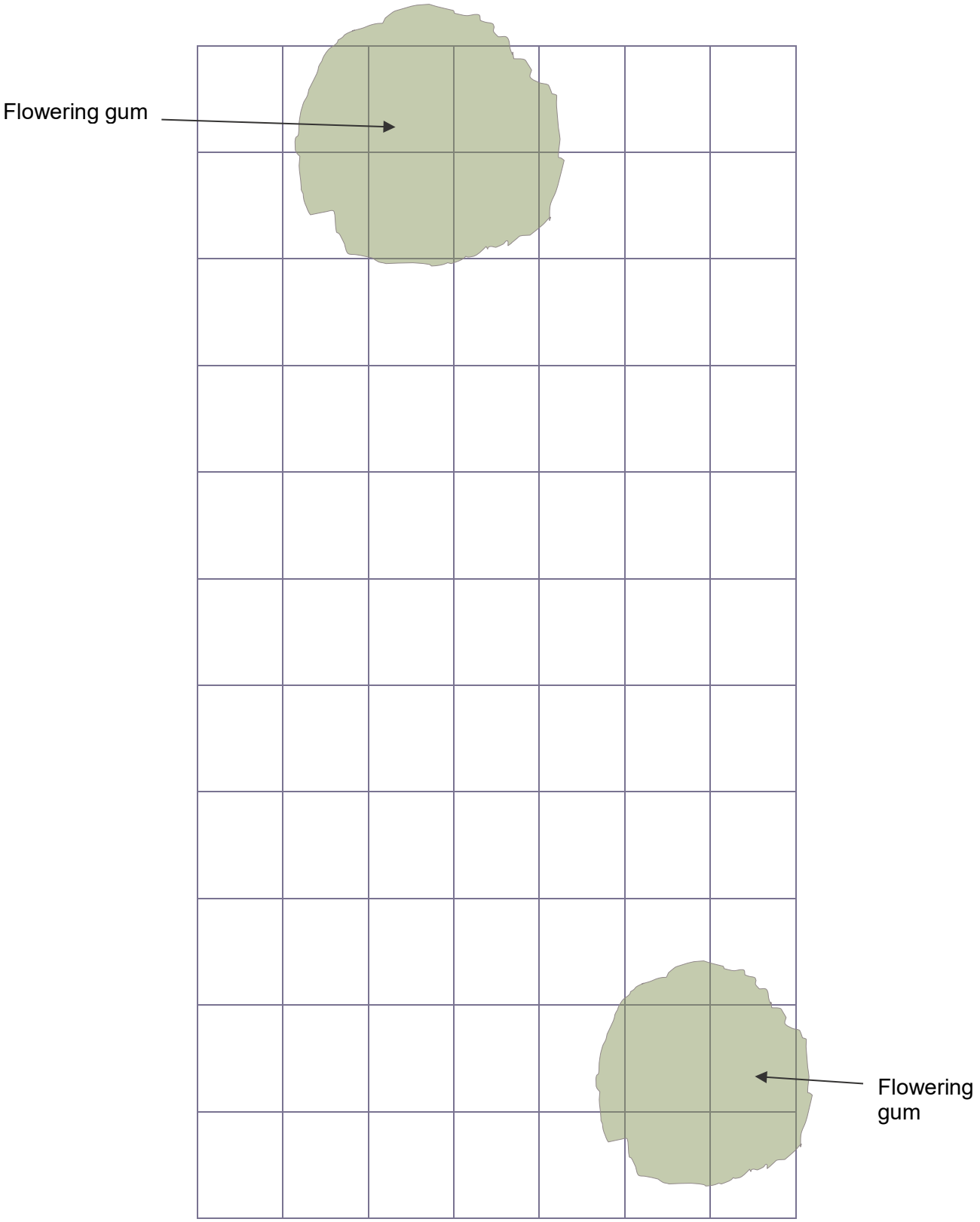
Watch the video "Make your garden wildlife friendly" by Gardening Australia. Students should create a short list of tips to make a garden more wildlife friendly. There are other videos in the playlist which also may help with the task.

1. Native groundcovers and grasses - food and shelter
2. Dense shrubbery - protection for creatures
3. Planting natives and a diverse range of plants
4. Variety of habitats and layers
5. Water source

Visit the Gardens for Wildlife Victoria website and click on Elements of a Wildlife Garden as well as the online article Make your garden a wildlife haven. Your task is to research locally native species in your area and design a native garden for your school or home. Use the basic ingredients listed on the site and create a plan for your garden. For extra inspiration on a design students may also like to view the Creating a wildlife friendly garden PDF.

Use the 6 Ds for this lesson.

1. Define - What is your challenge? Read your brief carefully and write a definition of the tasks and challenges.
2. Discover - What makes a good garden for native wildlife? Which species could be selected?
3. Dream - What features would the ultimate garden have?
4. Design - How will the components of the garden come together? How might the garden look?
5. Deliver - Draw a plan for your garden. Label the sections and describe the features and benefits.
6. Debrief - What have you learned from this task? How did your garden compare to others?



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Review questions

1. What are the two parts of a scientific name? (2 mark)

2. What makes a good botanical illustration? (2 marks)

3. What makes invasive weeds a problem in native habitats? (2 marks)

4. What can volunteers do to help threatened flora? (2 mark)

5. Describe some benefits of planting a native garden. (2 marks)

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