

Lesson 1 – Bush Tucker

WA Curriculum Links

Main curriculum area: Humanities and Social Sciences

Year 3

- **Humanities and Social Sciences** Locate and collect information from a variety of sources (e.g. photographs, maps, books, interviews, internet)
- **Humanities and Social Sciences** Record selected information and/or data (e.g. use graphic organisers, develop note-taking strategies)
- **ACHGK015** Language groups of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples divides their Country/Place and differs from the surveyed boundaries of Australian states and territories

Year 4

- **Humanities and Social Sciences** Locate and collect information from a variety of sources (e.g. photographs, maps, books, interviews, internet)
- **Humanities and Social Sciences** Record selected information and/or data (e.g. use graphic organisers, develop note-taking strategies)

General capabilities

- Literacy
- Critical and creative thinking
- Intercultural understanding

Resources

- Aboriginal Australia language map
- A range of printed or online information on bush foods

Preparation

- Download and print a copy of the Aboriginal Australia language map from nationalunitygovernment.org/pdf/aboriginal-australia-map.pdf
- Print information on bush food, access books from the school library and/or ensure sufficient computer facilities for students to access online information sources, e.g.
 - ▶ sercul.org.au
 - ▶ www.northernriverslandcare.org.au/bush-foods.html
 - ▶ www.gofor2and5.com.au/Portals/0/PDFs/2and5_NSW_FeedingYour%20Mob_RecBk.pdf
 - ▶ www.anfab.org.au
 - ▶ tasteaustralia.biz/bushfood
- Check that multimedia facilities play online videos

LESSON OVERVIEW

In this lesson students are introduced to Australian bush tucker foods and conduct research to learn more about one of the bush tucker vegetables. The significance of bush foods in traditional Indigenous Australian culture is also explored.



ACTIVITIES

1. Ask students if they know what **bush tucker** is. Ask if anyone has ever tried eating or growing bush tucker.
2. Explain to students that life in Australia was very different before European settlement. Aboriginal people lived a hunter gatherer lifestyle (ask if anyone knows what the term **hunter gatherer** means) and they had to have good knowledge of the land and plants in order to survive. The kind of vegetables and fruit that Aboriginal people ate during these times was very different to what we see in the supermarket today.
3. Show students the video **Bush Food** – www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3775984.htm
4. Discussion questions
 - What bush foods were mentioned in the video?
 - Do you ever see bush foods at the supermarket?
 - Why is it important for younger generations to learn about bush tucker?
 - What is the name of the traditional owners of the land on which the school is built? Refer to the Aboriginal Australia language map to assist with this.
 - What do you notice about the language groupings? (Many different languages, no dominant language). Explain that Country is defined by the different language groupings and each language group has unique customs, beliefs, history and laws.
 - Are the divisions between language groupings the same as the Australian state and territory boundaries? Why not?
5. Using printed or online resources, identify some bush tucker vegetables (e.g. Warrigal greens, bush tomato, bush yam, milkmaids, bulrush).
6. Ask each student to research one of the bush tucker vegetables and record some information in their exercise books such as:
 - Scientific name
 - Describe or draw what the plant looks like
 - What part of the plant is eaten
 - What regions in Australia the plant grows
 - Interesting fact about the plant
7. Now is a good time for a Crunch&Sip® break!

Additional activities

- **WATCH:** Bush Tucker – www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3527750.htm.
- **LISTEN:** Invite a member of the local Aboriginal community to the class to talk with students about different bush foods.
- **FIELD TRIP:** Visit a local cultural centre that has information on Australian bush tucker foods.
- **APP:** Download and explore the **Welcome to Country** app. Details available at www.welcometocountry.mobi/about/.