

Lessons in the Gardens – Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha



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Overview

The Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha offers a wide range of hands-on outdoor learning opportunities for early childhood, primary and senior school groups. Our lessons are aligned with both the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines and Australian Curriculum, and have been designed to suit specific early childhood, prep, primary and secondary levels. Help your students see science theory in action, explore geographical concepts, immerse themselves in botanical art and develop sustainable approaches to living with our trained and knowledgeable education staff.

We are currently in the process of re-writing the lessons to suit the v9.0 Australian Curriculum and are adding these as they are completed. Teachers are encouraged to contact the Education and Interpretation Coordinator on BotGardensEd@brisbane.qld.gov.au for more information.

Please note: you can use 'Ctrl f' (for PCs) or 'Command f' (for Macs) to search this document for specific words.



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HASS (Years 1 – 5)

Make HASS one big adventure. With plants and plant habitats from all corners of the globe, the botanic gardens is the perfect setting for your students to travel locally and 'overseas' exploring the concept of place. Students can gather data to create a map, investigate the impact of climate on plants and animals (including humans), identify the natural, managed, and constructed features of a place or explore the historical role and importance of the botanic gardens to the development of Brisbane.

Lesson Details	Overview
Prep	Curriculum links: ACARA v9.0 lesson currently in development.
Year 1 Exploring a local place Delivery location: Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Duration: 1.5 hours	Students investigate the Waterlily Lakes and surrounds. Engaging in activities that assist them to identify and explore the natural, managed, and constructed features of this place, students conclude by collectively creating a map highlighting these features. Curriculum links: ACARA v8.4 HASS: Geography • The natural, managed, and constructed features of places, their location, how they change and how they can be cared for (ACHASSK031) • Activities in the local place and reasons for their location (ACHASSK033) ACARA v9.0 HASS: Geography • Students learn about the natural, managed and constructed features of local places, and their location (AC9HS1K03)



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Year 2 Exploring special places in the gardens Delivery location: Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Duration: 1.5 hours	Students visit three special places within the botanic gardens. At each location they explore the place and gather data, including the key features of each. The data is used by the students to create a mud map about one of the places visited. Curriculum links: ACARA v8.4 HASS: Geography • Collect data and information from observations and identify information and data from sources provided (ACHASSI035) • Sort and record information and data, including location, in tables and on plans and labelled maps (ACHASSI036)
Year 2 Exploring special places in the gardens Delivery location: Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Duration: 1.5 hours	Students visit special places within the botanic gardens, exploring each to discover its history, significance and how people connect with it. Using their findings, students create a mud map about one of the places visited. Curriculum links: ACARA v9.0 HASS: History • Students learn about a local individual, group, place or building and the reasons for their importance, including social, cultural or spiritual significance (AC9HS2K01) HASS: Geography • Students learn about how places can be spatially represented in geographical divisions from local to regional to state/territory, and how people and places are interconnected across those scales (AC9HS2K03)



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Year 3 Places are both similar and different Delivery location: Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Duration: 1.5 hours	Using directions and map reading skills students locate and investigate three climate types (arid, temperate, and tropical) within the botanic gardens. The features of these climate types, adaptations of endemic plant species and the needs of people who live there are explored. Curriculum links: ACARA v8.4 HASS: Geography • The main climate types of the world and the similarities and differences between the climates of different places (ACHASSK068) • The similarities and differences between places in terms of their type of settlement, demographic characteristics and the lives of the people who live there (ACHASSK069) ACARA v9.0 lesson currently in development.
Year 4 Plants are important everywhere Delivery location: Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Duration: 1.5 hours	Students explore the botanic gardens to locate three different plant species – one each native to South America, Africa, and Australia. After learning where these plants grow and how they are important to the people in these countries, students explore a plant of unknown origin, considering possible uses and how it might be sustainably grown and used. Curriculum links: ACARA v8.4 HASS: Geography • The main characteristics of the continents of Africa and South America and the location of their major countries in relation to Australia (ACHASSK087) • The importance of environments, including natural vegetation, to animals and people (ACHASSK088) ACARA v9.0 lesson currently in development.



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Lesson Details	Overview
Year 5 City Gardens time traveller Delivery location: City Botanic Gardens Duration: 1 – 1.5 hours	Step back in time and explore the history of Brisbane through the City Botanic Gardens and its vital role in the establishment of the colony of Brisbane. Enjoy the convict role-play and then discover some of the historically significant plants still living in the botanic gardens today. Optional subcomponent: Find the ecologically and economically important plants that tell the story of Brisbane from penal colony to modern state capital. Sketch and record your findings as the early botanists did. Curriculum links: ACARA v8.4 HASS: History • The nature of convict or colonial presence, including the factors that influenced patterns of development, aspects of the daily life of the inhabitants (including Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples) and how the environment changed (ACHASSK107) • The impact of a significant development or event on an Australian colony (ACHASSK108) • The role that a significant individual or group played in shaping a colony (ACHASSK110) ACARA v9.0 HASS: History • Students learn about the impact of the development of British colonies in Australia on the lives of First Nations Australians, the colonists and convicts, and on the natural environment (AC9HS5K02) • Students learn about the role of a significant individual or group, including First Nations Australians and those who migrated to Australia, in the development of events in an Australian colony (AC9HS5K03) HASS: Geography • Students learn about the influence of people, including First Nations Australians and people in other countries, on the characteristics of a place (AC9HS5K04)



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	<i>Additional options:</i> Make the most of your visit to the beautiful City Botanic Gardens by combining our lesson with a visit to one of the other educational venues nearby. They offer curriculum-aligned programs that complement student understanding of Queensland's history, democracy, science and culture. • Old Government House • Parliament House • Commissariat Store Museum