

Bush Jewellery



Activity prepared by Landcare Education - ph 92964727

Aim: For students to create jewellery using objects from nature, such as leaves, twigs, nuts, flowers. This lesson can be used to provide students with some back ground to indigenous plants of their area

VELS Links: Domains and Levels : Science (1,2) Arts (1,2)

Materials: Scissors (1 per student)
Glue
Hole punch
Paper or cardboard
Jute (string)
Pegs
Leaves, twigs, bark, flowers, nuts from native and indigenous plants - (collect from garden rather than the bush)

Questions to ask the students prior to starting

Does anyone know the names of some native plants?

Does anyone know what an indigenous plant is?

Steps in activity

1. Give some information about the different types of plants that the students will be working with – have the indigenous plant material in a separate box to the native plant material. Show the students some indigenous material and obtain information that links this native plant to animals or other plants of the area. Can make reference to the plant being food/shelter
2. Show students some examples of things they can make with the materials provided – use either photos or actual pieces of jewellery
3. Go through the equipment available to the students – point out safety requirements
4. Let students start work on their jewellery

- Cardboard and paper is useful for making pendants or brooches*
- Students can use pegs to attach brooches to their clothes*
- String can be used to make garlands, necklaces and bracelets*

Background information

Indigenous plants – These are plants that are native to a particular area. For example if you live near Ballarat there is a whole suite of plants that are native to this area. Plants such as the Stringy Bark, Silver Wattle and Pink Heath are plants you will find in the Ballarat area, which have evolved over many years to the conditions represented in this area.

Native Australian plants – These are plants that are native to Australia. For instance you may have a plant in your garden which is a native, but you wont find it in the native bush near your house, this is because this plant grows naturally in another area for example it may come from Western Australia.

Did you know that some native plants are weeds in areas away from where they naturally grow? An example of this is the Cootamundra Wattle, which many people grow, it comes from NSW but when grown around Ballarat it has weedy tendencies.