

Redback Spider Lessons

The following lessons are designed to accompany the redback spider craft activity and extend the students' learning. They are written for primary students, but can be adjusted to suit lower or higher year levels.

Curriculum Alignment

Science

Science Understanding

- Animals grow, change and reproduce. In order to survive they rely upon each other and their environment.

Humanities and Social Sciences – Geography

Geographical Knowledge and Understanding

- Environments provide habitats for animal populations and these need to be protected and nourished.

Broad Learning Outcomes

Participating in the lessons will assist students in achieving the following outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify and discuss the habitat, life cycle, behaviour, diet, etc. of a particular Australian creature/animal.
- Students will explore how creatures/animals adapt to survive in their environment.

Lessons Ideas

- Brainstorm a list of dangerous Australian creatures/animals.
- Research the redback spider using the following headings: scientific name, habitat, diet, life cycle, behaviour, appearance and interesting facts. Indicate on a map where the redback spider can be found.
- Investigate which Australian animals are classified as vulnerable, threatened or endangered. What are the reasons for these classifications? What action can students take to help these animals? What classification applies to the redback spider?
- Select an Australian creature/animal, then describe and list how it has adapted to suit its particular environment. Select two Australian creatures/animals and compare and contrast them on a Venn diagram.

- Look at various Australian creatures/animals and describe the attributes that help them to survive. Students may draw and label the characteristics, or create a model of one.
- Use plasticine or modelling clay to make a representation of the redback spider's life cycle.
- Students research the first aid requirements of a redback spider bite for both adults and children.
- Students to investigate the features of the redback spider that help them to survive.
- Sort a list of Australian creatures/animals into the categories of 'predator' or 'prey'. Is the choice always easy? Discuss and debate choices. How else could the creatures/animals be sorted?
- Create a habitat diorama for the completed redback spiders.
- Brainstorm a list of Australian creatures/animals then create an 'achievement list'. Consider:
 - fastest
 - slowest
 - biggest
 - smallest
 - deadliest
 - cutest
 - most unusual looking
 - best camouflage
 - most adaptable.
- Conduct an internet image search of redback spiders. Do they all look the same? How do they differ? Are any differences due to gender, habitat, age, etc.? Create a digital photo story with the images.