

Spirits of the Wild Workshops



QPAC's
**OUT OF
THE BOX**
FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN
EIGHT YEARS & UNDER

QPAC'S OUT OF THE BOX PRESENTS
SPIRITS OF THE WILD WORKSHOPS
Queensland Museum

Come explore Queensland's vibrant First Nations cultures in a fun, interactive workshop for our littlest learners! Sing, dance, and move with purpose to explore Australia's native animals, from the majestic Green Sea Turtle to the mysterious Tawny Frogmouth, and uncover the powerful connections between animals and First Nations cultures. Get up close with Queensland Museum Kurilpa's native specimens to deepen your students' understanding of cultural identity, Dreamtime stories, and celebrate the creatures that guide us. This workshop is designed for Kindy to Year 2. Early years learners will connect with animals featured in Queensland Museum Kurilpa's Wild State exhibition.

CURRICULUM LINKS

Early Years Learning Framework

Children have a strong sense of identity

Children are connected with and contribute to their world.

General Capabilities

Personal and Social Capability

Critical and Creative Thinking

Intercultural Understanding

V9 Australian Curriculum Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

This workshop will provide teaching, learning, and assessment opportunities to cover the Achievement Standard aspects in the below examples from Prep to Year 2.

AC9LRF2U04

AC9L1RF10U05

AC9L1RF10U05

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

1. This workshop promotes cultural responsiveness and environmental awareness. Students will engage in activities that develop skills such as listening, creative movement, observation, and sharing.
2. Cultural Connections Explored in the Workshop:
 - **Cultural and Spiritual Significance:** Animals play a central role in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creation stories (Dreamtime or Dreaming).
 - **Totemism and Kinship:** In some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, individuals or groups are linked to specific animals, plants, or natural elements through totemism.
 - **Knowledge of Animals and the Environment:** Indigenous peoples possess deep knowledge of local animals and their behaviours, passed down through generations, including their habits, habitats, diets, and migration patterns.
 - **Animals in Dreamtime Stories:** Dreamtime stories often feature animals that influence the landscape, weather, and social norms.
3. The workshop will address questions such as: What is it? Habitat? Life cycle? Food source? Cultural connection?

SUGGESTED PRE- AND POST-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Pre-Preparing students for the museum visit:

1. Read the Queensland Museum Kurilpa – Visit as a school – Plan your visit | Queensland Museum Kurilpa
2. This exhibition will draw inspiration from our Wild State Exhibition. In preparation, take the Wild State virtual tour – Online exhibitions | Queensland Museum
3. For more information for teachers, download the Wild State – What's on | Queensland Museum Kurilpa

Post

Extension activity from the workshop:

1. In groups, students identify their favourite Australian animal and mimic its movements. Encourage students to learn about their animal through sounds and pictures.
2. Then, ask students to focus on their group's animal tracks and footprints.
3. Finally, encourage students to record their own footprints.

Further activities

1. Get in touch with the community – connect with parents, elders, or cultural centres, and have a yarn.
2. Read storybooks on Dreamtime stories. For example titles, visit the Children's Picture Books section at the AIATSIS Shop or your local library.
3. Reach out to animal conservation groups, national parks, and nature reserves to learn more about your local animals.

Extra resources

Respecting First Nations Art in the Classroom

When sharing First Nations artworks with children, it's important to be respectful. Here are some simple steps to follow:

1. **Ask First** – Talk to local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people before using their art or stories.
2. **Respect Who Owns the Art** – First Nations art belongs to the people who create it. Don't copy or change it without permission.
3. **Different Groups, Different Art** – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have many different cultures and art styles. Teach children that not all First Nations art looks the same.
4. **Be Careful with Symbols** – Some patterns and designs have special meanings and shouldn't be used without asking.
5. **Celebrate and Learn** – Help children enjoy and learn about Australia's Beautiful First Nations Culture. Acknowledge and celebrate significant First Nations dates throughout the year.
6. **Learn** from First Nations art in a way that honours the people and stories behind it.

Additional Resources

First Nations protocols and frameworks:

<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/about/k-12-policies/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-perspectives/resources/frameworks>

https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures?organising-idea=A_TSICP%2CA_TSIC%2CA_TSIP

<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/media/3739/guiding-principles.pdf>