

FLEMINGTON FOOD FOREST - TEACHER'S NOTES

Written by Joanne Nataprawira from The Desert Echo

Educational signage made possible with the support of Moonee Valley City Council

Lesson 3 – Creatures in the garden

Objective:

This lesson explores the living organisms in the Food Forest and explores ideas that gardens are not just for humans but provides a habitat for many creatures.

Activities

1. As a group explain that some creatures are beneficial for plants while some harm them. Note that some gardeners use insecticides/pesticides to kill harmful creatures but if an ecosystem is in balance there are no “bad bugs” as they provide food for other creatures such as ladybirds, spiders and birds which will control their population so they don't destroy the garden. Brainstorm beneficial activities creatures could perform in the garden e.g. bees pollinating flowers, ladybirds eating aphids, birds eating snails, etc.
2. Discuss what herbivore, omnivore and carnivore mean. See if they can list some examples of each which can be found in the garden.
3. In pairs students should explore the garden and see how many creatures they can find in 5 minutes.

Extra Challenges

- a. Individually students should be instructed to find a creature in the garden and draw or describe it. Back in the group students should share what they found and see who has seen the same creature and if the group can identify its name. Some questions for them to consider:
 - What colour is it? Does it have any patterns or marks? Why could this be?
 - What plant is it on? What is it eating?
 - How does it move? Fly? Jump? Crawl?
 - How many legs does it have? Is it an insect?