

The traditional owners of this land in Western Australia are the Nyungah people. We will need to talk with them so that they can tell us the stories of this country we are walking on. We need to find out more.

Our inquiry question: What is happening down the track?

I wonder....



Tuning in: How will we begin to find out? Let's find a bush track and go and have a look



Go down the track a bit and find a comfy place to sit. [don't forget your water bottle] Hope you have got a camera or your ipad to take photos and record the sounds you hear. Maybe you have a microscope to fit your ipad? That will be very useful.

Listen quietly.... What can you hear? Record a minute's sounds on your ipad. What sounds are you hearing? Are there birds calling to each other? Are they different birds? Do you know what sorts of bird you might be hearing? Can you hear Magpies? Can you hear crows? What about Willy wagtails or wrens hiding in the bushes calling to each other? Is the wind blowing? Is there a breeze ruffling the leaves of the trees? Notice what you are hearing.

When you get back home check the Birdlife Australia's 'Aussie Backyard Bird count' app or find out more about what you were hearing on birdlife.org.au

Now: Look around you... What can you see?

Take a Panoramic photo all the way around you... 360 degrees... go very, very slowly.



Now have a look at the photo with care. Notice the shadows from the trees and bushes on the track. What about shade? What time of day is it? Where is the sun? How hot is it?

What does it smell like here?

Notice ... does it smell sweet or damp? Is it dry and dusty? Does it smell fresh? Crisp? How would you describe the smell?



Look very, very carefully.

Zoom in with your camera on your ipad to the ground and look for things that you hadn't noticed before. Perhaps use your microscope? Does it feel soft or crunchy under your feet? How does it feel under your hands? What are you noticing? Are there more leaves or gum nuts in one place than another? Count them and start thinking about why there might be more in one place than another...



What else can you see on the ground around you? Can you see an ant's nest or a burrow? The soil looks different and it is a variety of different yellow to

dark brown colours. Some of it is sandy, some of it looks like it's full of mulch and decaying leaf matter. On top of the soil in some places there are a lot of dead and decaying leaves, grasses and gum nuts... in other places not so much. I wonder why? I wonder what lives under that leaf litter?



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Can you lift up some of the leaf litter and count the slaters, slugs, ants that you find underneath? Take a photo.. now go to anew spot and try again.

What do you think might have made the holes in the soil? Is it a burrow? Are there any animals near you that you can see or hear? Stay quiet and listen. Could it be a bandicoot? Perhaps a possum or a wallaby or even a kangaroo? I wonder. How will you find out what lives here?

Are there any trees or flowers that you think you want to look at more closely?

Look at all the different types of leaves.... there are many, many varieties of plants and trees... have a look at them closely. The Bibra parklands environment centre app will give us the names of these trees and their leaves



Look at all of the leaves carefully. What is the job of the leaves on plants? Why are they there? Are there more on some trees than others? What do they do? Can you draw them? What makes a leaf a leaf? I wonder.

There are lots of dead grasses and perhaps weeds on the edge of this track. How can you tell what is native grass and what is a weed?



The eucalyptus trees on this track are old, very big and healthy and look like they are home to many species of birds and animals.

I wonder what variety that they are?

I wonder what might live within their branches? Are you noticing any animals or birds?



What might live in the bark of the trees. What might have its home here? I wonder?





There are many Xanthorrhoea or grass trees down this track. They have been here for many, many years. How many are in this patch. Measure 5 metre by 5 metre square and count them Now choose another space and do the same. Are there the same amount of xanthorrhoea in each square? What sort of soil do they need to thrive? I wonder what changes that they have seen going on around them? How much rain do they need?





I wonder what lives underneath
the grass trees?

Have a look.

What are you noticing?



Look at the bark on this old grass tree. It is amazing. It looks like
snake's skin. I wonder what all these markings on the bark signify? Look
at it through a microscope.... perhaps draw or trace over the markings
with a sheet of paper and see the patterns.



This is the stamen or flower of a large Xanthorrhoea... look at the patterns on this. I wonder if they are designed like this to attract wasps and bees? It is pretty amazing... are these holes for seed pods?

I think we need to look more closely at some of these with a microscope. See what you notice when you zoom right in close. What can you see? Do a bottle top sized pencil drawing of what you see. Do some more at different viewpoints.



All of the flora and fauna discoveries down this track are species from 'banksia/tuart woodland' ecosystems. i

I wonder what this means? I think we need to know more. This is Nyungah country the Nyungah elders know all about this land. We need to ask them about the story of these woodlands.

Interview:

Make a list of some questions that you might have...

Now.. on your notes page of your ipad or a piece of paper, make a diagram of all the connections that you noticed down the track... what relies upon what? What goes with what? I wonder...

Finding out:

What made you very curious when you went down the track? What were you wondering whilst you walked along?

You might have wondered where the birds that were singing in the big tree have built their nest? Did you wonder what might have been living inside the hollows of the trees? Were there any plants that you wondered how they got on to this track? Did you think about what the animals that were living down this track might be finding their food? What were the spiders doing? What was living under the leaf litter? Are there frogs here? What about bees? Did you see any?



Think about what you want to find more about?

Where can you find the answer do you think? Brainstorm all that you can think of about what you are curious about... now...

You might like to visit this track at different times of the day or on different days. What are you noticing? Are there more birds/ less birds/ more ants/ less ants? Does the time of day matter?

Check out some videos about what local birds, reptiles, flora or animals might live near the track. There are some excellent websites from the local state and Australian Government and local councils...

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/plants>

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/category/topics/wildlife/>

<https://www.wa.gov.au>

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au>

<https://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/our-country/our-natural-environment>



Are there any people that you could ask your questions to?

Can you ring them up or facetime or skype them with your questions?

Are there some books that you can find in the Library or online about your local community? See if they can provide some answers for you.



Sorting out:

Now: What do you want to know more about?

Birds?

Insects?

Reptiles?

Soil?

Leaves/ Plants?

What interests you most? What is your inquiry question now?

Can you create a framework such as: WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? and HOW? for your exploration?

Make a WWW template/ table on a sheet of paper or notes page to put in all that you know and what you find out about your topic of interest: Check the key words, images and phrases that are important to your inquiry. Think about how you could show these in an image or a diorama

Perhaps set up a lightbox to create your scene of down the track using your photos to cut and paste to make the scene

<https://www.wikihow.com/Create-an-Inexpensive-Photography-Lightbox>

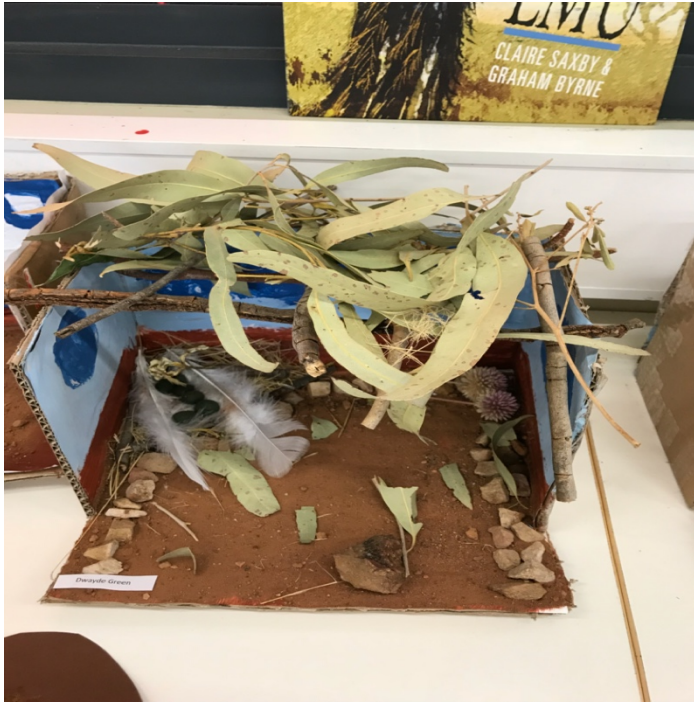


Making conclusions:

Now: Can you create a WWWWH diorama or a large scene with your animal or bird in the scene down the track? Make sure that you look at

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the photos that you have taken so that your diorama looks like what you saw. How many birds or insects or reptiles did you see? Try to make your Diorama as factual as you can.



Here is what the Year 3 class at Fitzroy Crossing put into their diorama of what they found down a track in their community. They were curious



Here is a bird on a branch that a village teacher from a school on the Mekong river in Luang Prabang Laos, made with leaves, sticks and seeds that they collected based upon an image of the birds found down the track near their village.

Reflecting:

Have a look at your diorama:

Did you manage to incorporate all the WWW and H that you had written into a framework into your diorama? Does it demonstrate your new learning? Does it help you answer your inquiry question?

Check it again.

What might you be missing?

Is it tricky to create the HOW or the WHY?

Do you need to make some signs or symbols to go with your diorama to demonstrate these?