Life on the Murray River

Activity 3

View the 'Life on the Murray River' VR tour at www.lsv.com.au/vr

LEVELS 7 & 8

Key Learning

During this lesson, students will investigate the animals and organisms that rely on the river red gum and create a food web to show how they depend on each other for survival.

Resources

- Smartboard
- Computer access for students
- Small pieces of cardboard or Post-it notes
- Appendix A: *T-Chart*

Engage

- Look at the photos of river red gums on the Smartboard or projector.
- Tell students:

  The River Red Gum is a type of Eucalypt that can live for over 500 years. They grow along rivers and lakes. River Red Gums make the perfect habitat for many different animals, and older trees can have up to 300 hollows in their trunks that provide shelter for many types of animals.
- Ask students what creatures and organisms might live on or in these trees. Write each of their suggestions on a separate piece of card or Post-it note.
- Display these on the board or arrange them on the floor where all of the students can see them. Now ask students to think about what each of these creatures might eat and which would be at the top/bottom of the food chain.
- Rearrange the cards into a food chain.

Curriculum

Science – Science Understanding

Biological sciences

Levels 5 & 6

- Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (VCSSU074)
- The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (VCSSU075)

Explore

- Students now need to do some research to find out which creatures and organisms make their home in river red gums and what these animals eat. They need to sort the information they collect into Appendix A: *T-Chart*.

Explain

- Model and explain how a food web works using the Antarctic Food Web Game on the Smartboard.

Elaborate

- Students can now create a food web using the information they have gathered in their T-Chart. This could be done on paper or using a computer application such as Canva (if students have email addresses they can start a free account), otherwise Microsoft Word or PowerPoint could be used.

Evaluate

- In pairs, students can compare their food webs. Then together as a whole group, ask students to explain any similarities/differences. Discuss the importance of the river red gum to environment.

References

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. River Red Gum, https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/plants-andanimals/river-red-gum [viewed 16 July 2021]

PBS Learning Media. Antarctic Food Web Game https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/lsps07.sci.life.eco.oceanfoodweb/antarctic-food-webgame/#.W0iWAtIzbIU [viewed 13 July 2021]

Canva. https://www.canva.com/ [viewed 14 July 2021]

Appendix A
T-Chart

List as many creatures as you can that make their home in or on the River Red Gum, then find out what they eat to survive.

Animal	What does it eat?