



ECOLOGY PROGRAM

(GRADES 3-6)

The following activities are offered in the CERES Ecology Program. Content and presentation are adjusted according to age level and language skills. Each activity runs for approximately 50 minutes. All programs directly relate to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (see www.ceres.org.au) and meet the following curriculum areas; Science (years 3-6), Geography (years 3-6).

Full Day program	3/4 Day program	Half Day program
Choose FOUR activities 10.00 - 2.30pm	Choose THREE activities 10.30 - 2.00pm	Choose TWO activities 10.00-12.15pm or 12.30-2.45pm

NETTING FOR WATER BUGS (50 mins)

Science: VCSSU058.

Mathematics: VCISM205

Geography: VCGGC073, 082

- Enjoy a hands-on experience of netting and discover the creatures living in our waterways.
- Identify the aquatic organisms caught and find out how they indicate water health.
- Consider the role of aquatic organisms in maintaining the health of freshwater ecosystems.
- Determine the health of the tested waterway based on what was found during the activity

BIODIVERSITY & HABITAT CORRIDORS (50 mins)

Science: VCSSU058.

Geography: VCGGC073, 082, 086, 087, 094

- Play the predator and prey game to explore the human impacts on ecosystems and species biodiversity.
- Discover the importance of habitat corridors that link fragmented vegetation and support the survival of species.
- Complete a habitat survey of the Merri Creek, and determine the ecological health of the creek through identifying diversity, places and environments and different plants and animals.
- Discuss ways to maintain, improve or restore natural habitats.

INDIGENOUS PLANT USES (50 mins)

Geography: VCGGC073, 082, 087, 094

- Go on a sensory exploration of the indigenous plants around CERES and the Merri Creek.
- Learn how to identify various indigenous plant species, and about their uses for food, drink, medicine, tools and building materials.
- Learn about the local seasons and how to identify them through ecological signals
- Discuss indigenous origins of common food plants.

WORMS & MINIBEASTS (50 mins)

Science: VCSSU058.

Geography: VCGGC073, 082

- Investigate the CERES worm farm and learn about setting up and maintaining a worm farm.
- Handle a real worm and learn about its role in the composting cycle.
- Hunt for mini-beasts and learn about food webs and their importance for a healthy environment.