

LESSON PLAN: BOUNTIFUL BLOOMS

Imagine all the artworks in the world that feature flowers. Many of the Cross River Rail station artworks have flowers – some are sculpted, some are printed and some are collaged. Explore what ideas and emotions one artist is expressing through flowers and create your own artwork with collage.

This activity is based on a study of *Apa Kausal* by Brian Robinson, and a comparison to *Nautilus* by Paula Savage, reflecting on the importance of the cycles of nature to both artists and the use of pattern in art. The session begins with an introduction to the artworks and the artists. There is a storytelling component that ties to elements of the artworks.

The session culminates in a creative task using materials to create collage inspired by the seasons. At the conclusion, students reflect on their work.

Suitable for: early childhood to year 2

Duration: 60 mins

Objectives

In this activity students will:

- build their knowledge of Queensland artists
- study, reflect on and respond to 2 artworks
- consider the concept of public art.

Curriculum Learning Area/s

- Visual Arts

General capabilities

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Ethical Understanding

Cross-curriculum priorities

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures
- Sustainability

Resources

- [Download from Cross River Rail](#)
 - Lesson plan
 - Presentation
 - Copy/copies of *Apa Kausal* by Brian Robinson and *Nautilus* by Paula Savage
- In this lesson plan, a guided reading of *Thank You Rain* by Sally Morgan is included. Similar questions could be used to discuss another picture book with relevance to the theme of rain and seasonal abundance.
- Blank paper (A4 size)
- Art materials such as crayons, pencils, water colours etc
- Collage materials including patterned background papers

Presentation

Slide 1	Title slide
Slide 2	<p>Introduce the activity and Cross River Rail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students if they have heard of the Gabba? What do they know about it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It is a sport stadium – It is located in the suburb of Woolloongabba (the Gabba) in Brisbane – Opposite the Gabba Stadium a new train station is being built, Woolloongabba station. – The new station is part of the Cross River Rail (CRR) project (a new 10.2km rail line that includes 5.9km of twin tunnels running under the Brisbane River and CBD; with four new underground stations at Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Albert Street and Roma Street. – The project will also deliver a new above-ground station at Exhibition, a rebuild for seven stations between Dutton Park and Salisbury; construction of three new stations on the Gold Coast; construction of two new train stabling facilities and installation of a new world-class signalling system. • Watch this video: Everything you need to know about Cross River Rail <p>Introduce the concept of public art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today we are going to be looking at about two of the artworks that will be in the new CRR train stations. • Let's find out more about the station art. Watch this video: Find out about the art inside the four underground stations • Has anyone ever seen art in a train station before, or in some other public place? • Why do we have art in public places? (Art can be beautiful to look at, or make you think about something, or send a message, or all of these.) It can make a place more interesting. • What are some things you might need to consider when creating public art? • The decision to include art in the stations was made many years ago, long before the construction of the tunnels and stations started. A panel of art experts chose the artworks. Imagine how hard it would be to choose the artworks from all the artists in Queensland.
Slide 3	<p>Find out more about Apa Kausal and Brian Robinson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the artworks we are going to look at is called Apa Kausal and the artist is Brian Robinson. This artwork will be on the platform screen doors at Boggo Road station. The other artwork is called Nautilus and the artist is Paula Savage. This artwork will be on the escalator wall at the northern entrance to Albert Street station.

<p>Slide 4</p>	<p>Find out more about Brian Robinson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The artist, Brian Robinson's people come from the Torres Strait. The Torres Strait is the narrow body of water that separates the top of Cape York, in the north of Queensland from New Guinea. • In this area, it rains a lot and is very hot during the monsoon season or rainy season which is over summer. After the monsoon, plants and animals are abundant. • Is there a rainy season or monsoon where we live?
<p>Slide 5</p>	<p>Let's look more closely at the artwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this artwork, Brian has captured the abundance of nature after the monsoon through the bright flowers. • Who knows what we mean by abundant? • What sort of colours do you see? • What is in the background? • Can you see hidden animals and other figures in the background? • To make this artwork, Brian creates the background using a special printmaking technique that is used in the Torres Strait, and he creates the flowers. Then he puts the 2 components together. • This is called collage: collage comes from a French word meaning to glue together, and collage means to combine different materials to create an artwork. <p>Brian uses both traditional and digital collage – what might we mean by that? (He creates the flowers using traditional collage using paper to make the flowers, and then he digitally enhances them and digitally places them on the background.)</p>
<p>Slide 6</p>	<p>Find out more about Nautilus and Paula Savage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula lives on Moa Island, which is one of the islands in the Torres Strait. • What do you think it would be like to live on an island?
<p>Slide 7</p>	<p>Let's look more closely at the artwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This artwork is going to be on a wall in the entrance to the Albert Street station. • What can you see in this artwork? What do you think it is about? • One of the main elements is the nautilus shells: these are very important to the Mualgal people in the Torres Strait. The nautilus shells appear on the beaches in the Torres Strait at the same time every year and they are used by local people. • What else can you see: the waves and tides are also important to the Mualgal people and these are shown around the nautilus shells.

<p>Slide 8</p>	<p>Storytelling: Thank You Rain, by Sally Morgan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today we are reading this story called Thank you Rain. It is written by Sally Morgan who is a well-known author. Sally belongs to the Palyku people from the Pilbara in Western Australia. • This book is illustrated by Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr from the Ganalbingu clan. He now lives in the remote East Arnhem Land. He has illustrated several books for Sally Morgan. • Both the author and the illustrator live in northern Australia where the rainy season, sometimes called the monsoon, is an important part of the cycle of the natural world. When the rain comes, it is welcomed by the plants and animals. Just like the artists and art we have been talking about, this author, Sally Morgan, is expressing her appreciation for the rain. • Ask: do you like the rain? What do you like to do when it rains? • Read the story, pointing out any features you think are interesting. Note the reference to wildflowers blooming – like Brian Robinson has shown in his artwork. • Read slowly and emphasise words like ‘splish splosh’ • Note the animals in the illustrations (water birds, frogs, emu, kangaroos) • Who liked that story?
<p>Slide 7</p>	<p>Creating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As well as the print in the background, Brian Robinson also uses collage on this artwork. He creates the flowers by layering up different materials. • What sorts of colours has Brian used? Can you remember what he was trying to convey about the flowers? (That they are abundant). • We are going to create some collage, but you might like to create something other than flowers – something that you associate with a particular season. It might be a fruit like the Davidson plum that is native to Australia and some of them flower in winter, or you might want to show snakes that slow down and sleep during winter. • Think about the colours you would use to create different feelings. • Demonstrate how to create collage flowers from various materials.
<p>Slide 7</p>	<p>Reflecting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you tell me some of the important things that you included in your artwork. • Which pattern do you like the best? • What sorts of colour did you use and what feelings were you trying to show through those colours? • How does it make you feel when you look at this artwork?

Additional resources

- [FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CROSS RIVER RAIL](#)
- [FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE STATION ART](#)
- [WATCH VIDEOS ABOUT CROSS RIVER RAIL](#)
- [GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CROSS RIVER RAIL EDUCATION PROGRAM](#)

Australian Curriculum alignment

VISUAL ARTS	
Foundation	Years 1 and 2
Exploring and responding	
Explore how and why the arts are important for people and communities (AC9AVAFE01)	Explore where, why and how people across cultures, communities and/or other contexts experience visual arts (AC9AVA2E01) Explore examples of visual arts created by First Nations Australians (AC9AVA2E02)
Developing practices and skills	
Use play, imagination, arts knowledge, processes and/or skills to discover possibilities and develop ideas (AC9AVAFD01)	Experiment and play with visual conventions, visual arts processes and materials (AC9AVA2D01)
Creating and making	
Create arts works that communicate ideas (AC9AV AFC01)	Use visual conventions, visual arts processes and materials to create artworks (AC9AVA2C01)
Presenting and performing	
Share their arts works with audiences (AC9AVAFP01)	Share artworks and/or visual arts practice in informal settings (AC9AVA2P01)