

LESSON PLAN: CRAZY CRITTERS

Come on a treasure hunt to find the crazy critters hidden in one of the station artworks and create your own artwork full of crazy critters.

This activity is based on a study of Blue Moon Rain by Naomi Hobson, reflecting on the colours used and the images of nature in the work. The focus will be on the tiny animals 'hidden' in the artwork.

The session begins with an introduction to the artworks and the artists, followed by the storytelling and a discussion about colour and composition. There will be a storytelling component that ties to elements of the artwork. The session culminates in a creative task using insect templates and crayons to create crazy critters to be layered into a collage. At the conclusion, students will 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
 - Critter templates
 - Copy/copies of Blue Moon Rain by Naomi Hobson
- In this lesson plan, a guided reading of The River by Sally Morgan is included. Similar questions could be used to discuss another picture book with relevance to the theme of rivers and nature.
- Blank paper (A4 size)
- Art materials such as crayons, pencils, water colours etc
- Collage materials (optional)

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 one 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The artwork we are going to look at is Blue Moon Rain by Naomi Hobson and it will be on the platform screen doors at Woolloongabba station.
Slide 4	<p>Find out more about Naomi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The artist, Naomi Hobson, lives in Coen, which is in far north Queensland • Coen is a long way from Brisbane. It is towards the top of Queensland. During summer it is very hot and rains quite a lot. • Naomi likes to observe nature on Country around her. • She is influenced by nature and how it changes with the seasons. • What is your favourite season – what is something you notice about nature during that season?

<p>Slide 5</p>	<p>Look more closely at the artwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think this is a painting of? Is it a portrait? Is it a painting of an animal? Is it a landscape? • This painting shows the tiny animals and plants that Naomi has observed on the banks of the Coen River • Let's go on a creature hunt: what creatures can you see? • What sounds would you hear coming from this place? • What kind of music would match this artwork? Would it be energetic or quiet, happy or sad, loud or soft? • What colours can you see? • How would you describe the colours? • How do the colours make you feel? • Can you see some elements that are repeated in this artwork? (colours, shapes, animals) • One thing you might notice is that some of the critters in the artwork have an outline around them but some don't.
<p>Slide 5</p>	<p>Storytelling: The River, by Sally Morgan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today we are reading this story called The River. 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. • Just like Naomi Hobson, the artist, does through her art, this author, Sally Morgan, is expressing her appreciation for rivers. • Ask: do you like rivers? What do you like to do near a river? <p>Read the story, pointing out any features you think are interesting. Note the reference to small animals like the green ants in the leaves – like Naomi has shown in her artwork.</p> <p>Read slowly and emphasise words like 'croak, croak, croaking'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask: Who can remember some of the animals that were around the river (ants, frog, goanna, fish, turtle, emu, kangaroo, goose, snake, crocodile) • Who liked that story?

<p>Slide 5</p>	<p>Creating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who has been to a river or a creek like the one in The River, or the one that Naomi painted? Have you ever looked for tiny critters there? • Here are some pictures of some of the tiny critters that live around creeks and rivers around Brisbane. Some of them have bright colours and patterns. • We are going to create our own artworks, so let's close our eyes so we can concentrate on using our imaginations. • Imagine standing on the bank of a river or creek. Look carefully at the ground around you. Imagine all the tiny critters living there. You will have to look very closely to see some of them. Some of them have bright colours and patterns. • What colours is the ground below your critters? • Open your eyes. Tell me what colour was the ground. We are going to build up our artwork of critters by first creating the background layer using water colours. • Now you are going to draw your crazy critters. We are going to collect all your critters and make a collage of them. • Collage comes from a French word meaning to glue together, and collage means to combine different materials to create an artwork. • Think about the feeling you want. What colours will help you create that feeling? Will you put some patterns on your creature? If you have time, you can do more than one critter and maybe we will have some repetition in our artwork. • There are some critter templates for you. Choose a critter template and design it with colour and patterns. Collage all the critters onto individual or class artworks.
<p>Slide 5</p>	<p>Reflecting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let's have a look at this beautiful artwork/s we created. • Look at all these critters living together on our imaginary creeks or riverbanks. • 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)