

An Aussie Christmas Gum Tree

Themes

Australian wildlife •

Celebrations •

Teamwork

Exploring the Story

Writing a rhyming text can be very challenging. As a group, try to workshop the next verse or two of the story. What happens next? Where do the animals go and what do they do? Suggest to the group that they might like to brainstorm some rhyming words first and encourage the children to search for a rhyming dictionary in the library resources or online to help with this process.



You may also want to explore the rhythm of the text with the group before getting down to writing to allow the children to try to match the pace of the story. Once the extra verse(s) has been written, read the entire story with your additions back to the group. What do they think of their team effort? Was it easier or more difficult than they thought it would be?

To extend this activity, encourage the kids to use their new skills and understanding of rhythm and rhyme to write their own rhyming story. Remind them to allow themselves plenty of time as it can be a very difficult task to achieve.

There are a lot of native Australian bird and animal characters in this book, all beautifully illustrated by Nathaniel Eckstrom. Ask each child if they recognise each of the animals or birds. Have they seen them in the wild or at a zoo/wildlife park? Do the children know any interesting facts or information about any of the animals or birds that they would like to share? As a group or in pairs, choose one of the animals or birds to learn more about and use the physical and online library collections to conduct some research. Can they find a video? Pictures? Information on habitat, diet and any other interesting or unique facts?

Activities

Aussie Christmas Garland

Make a beautiful native Christmas garland and bring some of the Aussie Christmas Gum Tree inside! Collect interesting and colourful leaves, gumnuts and flowers from outside. You will need to prepare each item to be added to the garland. You can use a small hole punch to make a hole in each leaf and flower. You can put a dot of glue on each gumnut and secure to a small loop

of string or if possible, tie a loop of string onto the stem of the nut. Small branches or bunches of leaves can have a loop of string tied to the base as well.

Once the items have all been prepared, use a darning needle to thread each leaf, flower or gumnut loop onto a long piece of string or wool. Leave a finger width of space between each item and once complete, find a space to proudly hang your beautiful Aussie Christmas garland.

Bowerbirds' Recycled Decorations

Save some items from your recycling to make your own bowerbird inspired Christmas tree decorations. Bread tags, old pegs, bottle tops, jar lids, buttons, old CDs, and bits of ribbon or string could all be made into beautiful upcycled Christmas baubles and garlands. Use sequins and any other items from your craft stash as well, then choose a tree outside and get decorating, just like the Aussie animals did!

Rhyming Word Match

Draw a line to match the rhyming words.

Aussie Christmas Colour and Collage

Use crayons or coloured pencils to colour in the *Aussie Christmas Gum Tree* scene. If you have some bits of coloured string, tinsel and sequins you can decorate your tree just like the animals did in the story.

Related Titles



An Amazing Australian Road Trip
Jackie Hosking
Lesley Vamos
9781760650766



Sometimes Cake
Edwina Wyatt
Tamsin Ainslie
9781760654863



Ten Little Figs
Rhian Williams
Nathaniel Eckstrom
9781760654542



Name: _____

Round

Decorations

Overheard

Selection

Creations

Laughter

After

Crew

Collection

Ground

Flew

Tree

See

Bowerbird

