THE LAND DOWN UNDER

5 DAYS OF THEMED SCHOOL-AGE SUMMER CAMP LESSONS

BEST DAY EVER!™

Find more at:
BESTDAYEVER.FUN

THE LAND DOWN UNDER

G'day matey! Let's travel to Australia to craft boomerangs, explore Aboriginal art with dot painting, and go on a wildlife safari with stuffed kangaroos, koalas, and wombats. The Land Down Under is a robust school-age unit steeped in activities that enable students to challenge themselves, experiment, and transform information into meaningful content and skills. While the lesson plan incorporates many different Pennsylvania Learning Standards, it focuses on the key learning areas of "Social Studies" and "Creative Thinking and Expression." Specifically, students will learn to engage in learning activities that meet the PA Standard Areas of Geography, Production and Performance, and Historical and Cultural Context of Works of Art.

SCHEDULE

DAY 1

ARRIVAL ACTIVITY	180 MINUTES
READY, SET, LEARN	45 MINUTES
HANDS-ON ACTIVITY – AUSTRALIAN FLAG	30 MINUTES
BREAK/SNACK TIME	15 MINUTES
LET'S GET MOVING – KANGAROO RACES	45 MINUTES
HANDS-ON ACTIVITY – BOOMERANG	30 MINUTES
BREAK/LUNCHTIME	45 MINUTES
HANDS-ON ACTIVITY – RAIN STICK CRAFT	45 MINUTES
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING – EMOTIONS TUMBLE TOWER	45 MINUTES
HANDS-ON ACTIVITY – SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE	45 MINUTES
WRAP UP/GOODBYES	15 MINUTES
LATE PICK-UP	10 MINUTES

DAY 2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITY	180 MINUTES
READY, SET, LEARN	45 MINUTES
HANDS-ON ACTIVITY – KOALA MASK	30 MINUTES
BREAK/SNACK TIME	15 MINUTES
LET'S GET MOVING – AUSSIE TUG OF WAR	45 MINUTES
HANDS-ON ACTIVITY – EGG CARTON SUGAR GLIDER	30 MINUTES
BREAK/LUNCHTIME	45 MINUTES
HANDS-ON ACTIVITY – COCKATOO PENCIL TINS	45 MINUTES
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING – AFFIRMATION SNAKES	45 MINUTES
HANDS-ON ACTIVITY – PAPER PLATE BABY KANGAROO	45 MINUTES
WRAP UP/GOODBYES	15 MINUTES
LATE PICK-UP	10 MINUTES

MATERIALS LIST

- Multimedia player
- Photos of Australia
- Map of Australia
- Cardstock (white & brown)
- Tissue paper (including blue, red and white)
- Liquid glue
- Pillowcases (or similar)
- Chenille stems
- Markers (including red, yellow & black)
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Large gemstones
- Pony beads
- Cardboard tubes
- Paint (including various bright colors, yellow, green, orange, red, black, white, blue & brown)
- Paintbrushes (including thin ones)
- Rubber bands
- Rice, pom poms, other filler materials
- Yarn (various colors)
- Stacking blocks
- Sticky notes
- Paper plates (white)
- Cellophane (blue)
- Star stickers
- Stapler
- Rope
- Australian flag
- Egg cartons (must have flat lids – see QR code under Shopping List)
- Hot glue gun (teacher use only)
- Construction paper (white, brown, black & blue)
- Glue sticks
- Empty tin cans, labels removed
- Double-sided tape
- Felt (white & yellow)
- Tacky glue
- Googly eyes
- Cardboard scraps
- Feathers
- Toy snakes (see QR code under Shopping List)
- Small buckets or containers
- Hole punch
- Chopsticks
- Photos of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Australian Outback
- Tape
- Rulers
- Large bananas
- Red licorice strands or pretzel sticks
- Straws
- Sugar sprinkles (green, red or pink)
- Toothpicks
- Jam
- Plastic spoons
- Graham crackers
- Play dough or air dry clay
- Die
- Dot stickers (various colors)
- Twigs or leaves
- Sponge brushes
- Pair of flip flops
- Safety cones, ropes or hula hoops
- Clothespins
- Small pom poms
- Patterned craft paper
- Pencils
- Powder paint (white)
- Chalk
- Various natural materials such as leaves, flowers, stones, pinecones, shells, etc.
- Cotton swabs
- Paint palettes or bowls
- Notecards
- Online photos of Boab trees
- Optional: Ribbon
- Optional: Poster paint
- Optional: Wooden skewers
- Optional: Obstacle course items

© 2026 Best Day Ever! All rights reserved.

ACTIVITY/CONCENTRATION

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: PLATYPUS DOT PAINTING

- **STEP 1:** Provide students with a copy of the Platypus Template activity page (provided in Additional Resources).
- **STEP 2:** Students will need different colors of paint, either in a paint palette or in individual bowls.
- **STEP 3:** Dot painting is a famous Aboriginal art style. Students will use cotton swabs instead of paint brushes to fill in the platypus design.

DURATION/SCHEDULE

30 minutes – 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

MATERIALS

- Activity page: Platypus Template (provided in the Additional Resources)
- Paint (various colors)
- Cotton swabs
- Paint palettes or bowls

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- Create a work of art inspired by styles of other artists
- Coordinate eye and hand movements

STANDARDS

- 9.1.V 2.B
- 10.5 2.A

LEARNER MODIFICATIONS

© 2026 Best Day Ever! All rights reserved.

AUSTRALIAN OCEAN ANIMALS MATCHING

OFTEN CALLED A GENTLE SEA COW, THIS ANIMAL EATS OCEAN GRASSES AND MAKES THE OCEAN A BETTER PLACE FOR OTHER SEA ANIMALS TO LIVE.

THESE COLORFUL, PATTERNED FISH ARE GREAT AT CAMOUFLAGING THEMSELVES SO THEY CAN HIDE IN OCEAN ROCKS, AWAY FROM PREDATORS.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY, THIS BLUE BIRD COMES OUT AT NIGHT TO DIVE FOR FISH TO EAT.

IN SYNDEY, AUSTRALIA, YOU WILL FIND THESE PUPPY DOGS OF THE SEA WHO LOVE TO DIVE AND PLAY

THIS BIRD, WITH ITS LONG, POINTY BEAK, ALSO LIVES IN AUSTRALIAN CITIES AND IS KNOWN FOR EATING FROM TRASH CANS.

WITH A SKULL SHAPE SIMILAR TO AN ORCA WHALE, THIS DOLPHIN IS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR A WHALE.

AUSTRALIA IS HOME TO MANY SPECIES OF THIS ANIMAL, NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH AN OCTOPUS. IT HAS EIGHT ARMS AND TWO LONG TENTACLES.

THIS OCEAN FISH HAS SHARP TEETH, EATS MEAT, AND USUALLY HAS THE WORD "GREAT" IN FRONT OF ITS NAME.

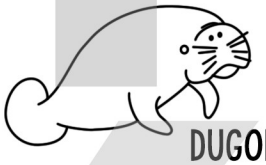
A RODENT RESEMBLING A RAT, THIS ANIMAL HAS WEBBED BACK FEET SO IT CAN SWIM AND EAT MARINE LIFE. IT ALSO HAS A WATERPROOF COAT OF FUR!

THIS WATERBIRD HAS A LONG NECK THE SHAPE OF AN S.

LITTLE PENGUIN

WHITE IBIS

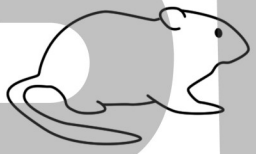
WHITE SHARK



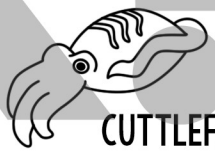
DUGONG

FALSE KILLER WHALE

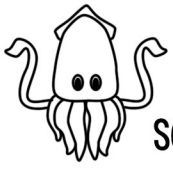
BLACK SWAN



RAKALI



CUTTLEFISH



SQUID

SEAL

BEST BOY EVER!™