

Backyard Buddies



We have all seen creatures such as snails, ladybugs and frogs around our homes, but what do they eat? What are their favourite flowers? Are they safe to touch?

Written and illustrated by the extraordinarily talented **Andy Geppert**, *Australian Backyard Buddies* encourages students to explore and appreciate the small creatures that can be found in their own backyards.

Curriculum Links: HASS, Literacy, Visual Arts, Sustainability, Science, Geography **Age Range:** Years K-6



Activity: Sustainable backyard buddies

How can we help our backyard buddies?

This activity invites students to consider the needs of insects, what they can do to help them thrive and how we can be more sustainable in creating solutions.

Explore

Read *Australian Backyard Buddies*! Take time to **look slowly** at each double page spread so students can explore the layering of information presented.

Dig Deeper

Building on the information in the text, encourage students to **share** their own **knowledge and experiences** connected to any of the backyard buddies. Using the template below, working in groups of three, students focus on one or multiple 'backyard buddies' to investigate further. This is a great opportunity to tailor the activity towards specific local insects.

Design

Using the backyard template, students incorporate their ideas to create a **backyard design** that will help their buddies thrive! Invite them to think about First Nations practices, sustainable solutions like using recycled materials and native plants.



Instead of focusing on all of the animals found in their backyard, students might like to research just one in more detail and share findings with other students.



What do our Backyard Buddies need to survive in our local area?



What do they eat? Where do they live?

How can we care for them?

Drawing of the backyard buddy

A large, empty rectangular box with a teal border, intended for drawing the backyard buddy.

List of plants they like

A large, empty rectangular box with a teal border, intended for listing plants that the backyard buddy likes.

Describe or draw their habitat

A large, empty rectangular box with a teal border, intended for describing or drawing the habitat of the backyard buddy.

How can we help this backyard buddy?

A large, empty rectangular box with a teal border, intended for describing ways to help the backyard buddy.

Using natural or recycled materials what can we create to support this backyard buddy?

A large, empty rectangular box with a teal border, intended for describing what can be created to support the backyard buddy.

A MoAD classroom-ready resource



Design a backyard which has all the things your backyard buddies need to thrive

Think about hiding spaces, their favourite plants
and sustainable solutions you can include.



A MoAD classroom-ready resource

Backyard buddy fact files

To accompany your backyard buddies sustainable design add some labels describing the features you have included.

LADYBUG



BEE



MOTH



SPIDER

BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

BUTTERFLY



FROG

ANT

A MoAD classroom-ready resource

Backyard buddy fact files

To accompany your backyard buddies sustainable design add some labels describing the features you have included.

SNAIL



TERMITE

GREEN-TREE FROG

PET ROCK



A MoAD classroom-ready resource



Save our backyard buddies!

Design a badge, t-shirt, poster or piece of jewellery to draw attention to the importance of one backyard buddy.

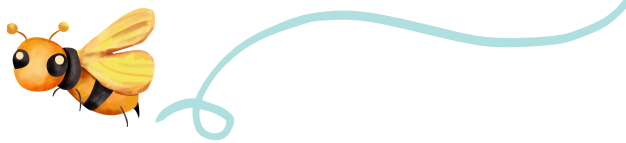


Name of backyard buddy: _____

Note down some facts

Create a picture to encourage others to care for your backyard buddy.

Write a slogan or a quote



Put your design altogether. Think about colours, size of the text, and what will encourage others to support your backyard buddy.