

# OUR VISIT TO THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

## Connecting to Country



We are going to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

We can also call it the Botanic Gardens.



The Botanic Gardens is a beautiful, large garden near the city of Melbourne.

It has many plants from all around the world, including indigenous plants.



We will look for the Meeting Place when we arrive at the Botanic Gardens.

A Learning Facilitator will greet us.



There is a quiet, shady place to have a snack and a drink.

The toilets are close by too.



My teacher and the Learning Facilitator will help me to stay safe at the Botanic Gardens.





We will meet an Aboriginal Learning Facilitator who will welcome us to the Botanic Gardens, the traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung Aboriginal people.

We will gather together for an Acknowledgement of Country.

**“Womin djeka”**





The Learning Facilitator will take us through the Botanic Gardens.

We will see and touch different plants. Aboriginal people have used plants for food, medicine, shelter and fibre for thousands of years.

We can hug the palm trees and the bottle trees.



Aboriginal people knew they could get water from the trunk of the bottle tree.







We can feel the banksia flowers and seedpods. Aboriginal people made a sweet drink from the flower nectar.

The lomandra seeds are very spiky so we will touch them gently.

Aboriginal people ground the seeds to make flour. The leaves were used to make twine.







We can crawl through the trunk of an ancient River Red Gum.



We will walk through the beautiful Botanic Gardens and imagine how life was for Aboriginal people long ago.



We must remember to;

- walk, not run
- stay with our adults
- walk on the paths and grass



We can find treasures on the ground. Treasures may be leaves, flowers, seed pods.

We can put them in a basket and take them back to school.



We will sit on a mat and look at some tools.



Aboriginal people used tools for gathering food, cooking and hunting.



We can feel a possum skin.

Possum skins were sewn together to make cloaks.

The fur feels very soft and warm.



We will find the Bunya Bunya tree.



The leaves are very prickly!

The trunk looks like a giant dinosaur foot.



The nuts were eaten by Aboriginal people.





Aboriginal people made paint from ochre. We will make paint too. We will crush and grind the ochre, then mix with water.



The paint feels cold and smooth.





We will see many visitors at the Botanic Gardens.



We can find quiet places to rest.







Many birds live at the Botanic Gardens.

We will walk quietly so we don't frighten them.





We will walk back to our quiet space for lunch.



There are toilets along the way if we need them.



Visiting the Botanic Gardens is fun!



### **Additional Notes:**

This Social Script is for Levels F-2.

Levels 3 and above will have a similar experience, however classes will rotate between activities, meeting 3 different Learning Facilitators.

String-making will be the activity instead of ochre painting.

