



Our Visit To The Royal Botanic Gardens

Minibeasts



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.



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 nearby too.



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



We will maintain physical distancing at the Gardens.



We are going to discover minibeasts in the Botanic Gardens.

We will use our eyes for looking, our hands for touching, our ears for listening and our bodies for exploring in the Gardens.



The Learning Facilitator will take us to the Children's Garden.

The Children's Garden is enclosed with a fence.



Minibeasts are tiny animals (invertebrates) such as insects, spiders and worms.

Some minibeasts are well camouflaged. We need to look carefully on flowers, under leaves, on the bark of trees.



Plants provide food and shelter for minibeasts.

We can see bees collecting nectar and spreading pollen from flower to flower which makes new seeds.

There is a pond in the Children's Garden.

We can sit on the edge of the pond, or lie on our tummies and look for minibeasts that live in water.

We will use our bodies to balance carefully on the edge of the pond.

We might see tadpoles or dragonfly nymphs or water beetles.



We will look for worms in the worm farms.

We can feel the worms wriggle on our hand.

Worms recycle our food scraps and make worm castings (worm poo).

The castings provide food or nutrients for plants to grow.



We will visit the Kitchen Garden where many minibeasts live.

We can look for minibeasts under leaves, in the soil or in the compost.

We can rub the leaves of the plants to smell the scents.

Some leaves are soft, some leaves are rough.

Some leaves are spikey so we will touch them gently.



Insects are minibeasts with six legs, a head, thorax and abdomen.

Insects are different colours, shapes and sizes.



We can look for a ladybird on a leaf.

We can look for a dragonfly on a flower.



We will find an **Insect Hotel** in the Kitchen Garden.

The holes and crevices provide a home for insects.

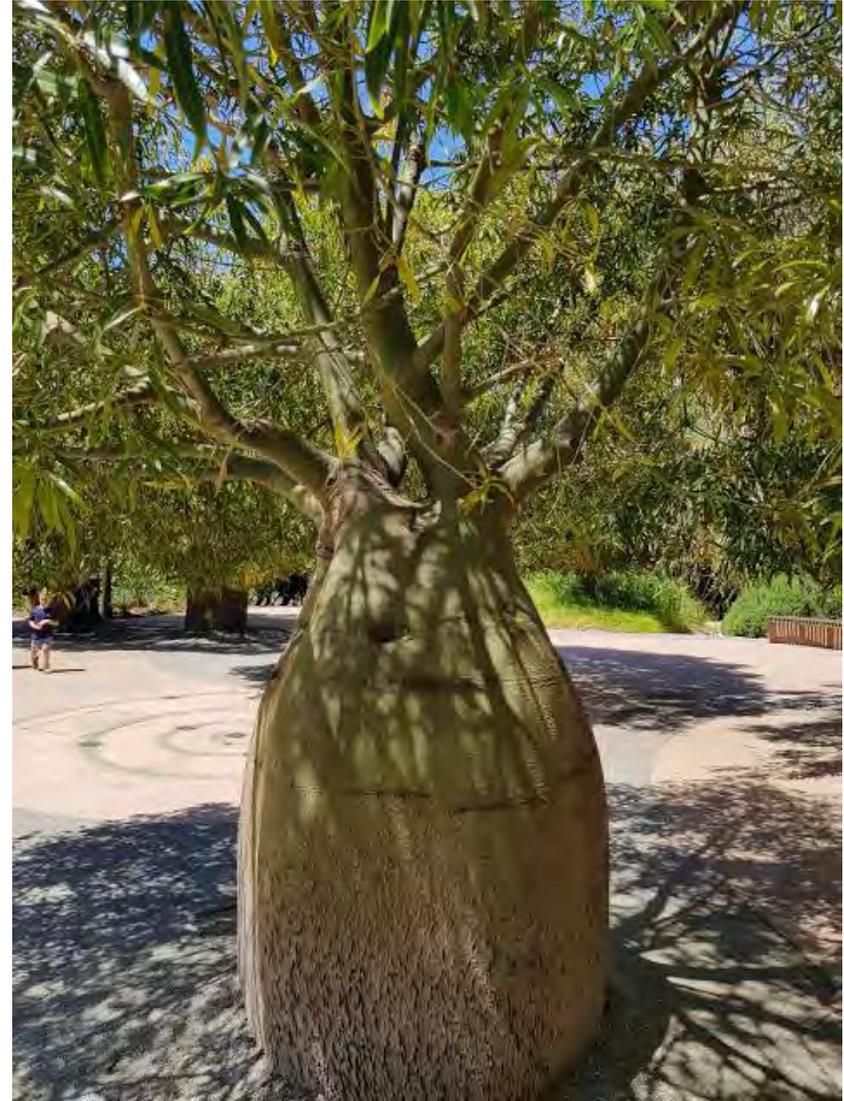
There are places for spiders to lay their eggs and weave their webs.



We can crawl through the ancient river red gum. We might see spiders webs, slaters, or ants.



We can hug the bottle trees. Maybe we will find eggs under the leaves?



We will explore the beautiful Botanic Gardens.

We must remember to;

- walk, not run
- stay on the paths or grass
- Look for minibeasts, but not touch. Some insects and spiders bite or sting, to protect themselves from predators.



We can find quiet places to rest.

The Botanic Gardens are home for many birds.

Minibeasts, such as insects and worms, provide food for the birds.

We will walk quietly so we don't frighten the birds.



We will walk to the Herb Garden.

Herbs are plants used for food, medicine or perfume.

Some herbs are insect repellent plants.

The herb garden is shaped like a wheel.

We can explore the garden.



In the herb garden we can look for signs with symbols.

An insect symbol tells us the herb is an insect repellent plant.



We can rub the leaves and flowers of the plants to release the scent.

Lavender is an insect repellent herb.



The Learning Facilitator will help us make pot pourri, a small bag of dried, scented herbs.

We can put our pot pourri in our drawer or cupboard.

The lavender will repel clothes moths.



We will walk back to our quiet space for lunch.



There are toilets along the way if we need them.



It's fun to discover minibeasts and find their homes at the Royal Botanic Gardens.