Education at the Gardens

Escape, learn and be inspired at the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens.
Interactive outdoor learning opportunities for primary school children

Topics include:
- Wow! This is ‘Sense’ational
- Aussie Plant Environments
- A Place to Explore
- Incredible Insects
- Imagine a Historical Journey
- Sustain our Planet
- Surviving on Nature
- Exploring Plant Communities
- Freshwater Ecosystems
- Water Catchment in an Urbanised Environment
- Can Biodiversity Combat Climate Change?

Topics range from exploring the Sensory Gardens to understanding the importance of biodiversity.

- Lessons developed by an environmental educator to link with the Australian Curriculum.
- Themes for lessons include conservation, biodiversity, interdependence, sustainability and indigenous perspectives.
- Lessons designed to enhance students’ learning and understanding in the classroom.

Planning your excursion
Bookings are essential and available Tuesday to Friday.

How to make a booking
1. Visit cityofgoldcoast.com.au/botanicgardens, follow the link to Education Program and fill in the online booking form or call the Education Officer on 07 5576 5568.
   - Your request will be attended to by the Education Officer within 10 working days.
   - Note: your request is not a confirmed booking, and the officer will be in touch to confirm the date and time.
2. On completion of your booking, you will be sent a confirmation email and a Teachers’ Information Kit.

Lesson times
Lessons with the Education Officer are available at 10am and 12 noon. Most lessons are two hours.

Cost
There is no cost for the Garden’s Education Program. Bus hire/transportation is the responsibility of the school.

Class size
Early childhood: 25 students
Primary: 30 students
Teacher information

Risk management
Risk assessment information is included in the Teachers’ Information Kit.

Duty of care
Duty of care requires that each class is supervised by a teacher from your school who remains with their class at all times. Parents and other supervising adults are most welcome and necessary for some modules.

Student discipline
The Botanic Gardens staff are not responsible for dealing with the discipline of students, this remains the responsibility of the school’s teachers.

On the day
Arrive at the designated meeting point at least 30 minutes before the lesson begins to allow students to have something to eat and go to the toilet. The Education Officer will meet you and your students.

If it rains
The excursion will need to be postponed. If rain is predicted, please phone the Education Officer on 07 5576 5568 by 8am on the day to discuss an alternative time.

Lunch
To extend the enjoyment and interest of your excursion and appreciate the natural environment, it is recommended that you plan a picnic lunch. Enjoy the wildlife of the gardens but please do not feed the wildlife.

Teacher’s checklist
A checklist is included in the Teachers’ Information Kit. Please refer to the kit before you come on your excursion.
Wow! This is ‘Sense’ational

Year level: Prep
Australian Curriculum: Science – Science as a Human Endeavour

Use your senses to explore nature. Students make use of the established Sensory Garden, the Quilt of Diversity and animal sculptures to focus on the five senses of sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste.

Aussie Plant Environments

Year levels: Prep, 1, 2, 3
Australian Curriculum: Science – Biological Sciences

Explore the Mangroves to Mountains transect of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens to appreciate the diversity of plants. Discover the different plant communities and the role they have in providing food and habitat for animal life. Students will begin to understand the importance of interdependence between plants and animals and how their needs are met.

A Place to Explore

Year Levels: 1, 2, 3
Australian Curriculum: Geography

The Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens are a special place to explore. What makes the Botanic Gardens different from a park? What distinct features can you discover as you explore the gardens? How have the gardens changed over time? Here are the gardens cared for? Who visits these gardens and why? Investigate the Regional Botanic Gardens and find out why they are so special.

Incredible Insects

Year levels: 2, 4
Australian Curriculum: Science – Biological Sciences

Enter the world of insects through the eyes of an Entomologist! This unit engages students in hands-on learning experiences as they observe the different species, habitats, life cycles and roles of the largest group of animals in the world – insects.

Imagine a Historical Journey

Year levels: 2, 4, 5
Australian Curriculum: History – The Past in the Present;
First Contacts;
The Australian Colonies

Using their imagination, students go back in time from when the traditional Aboriginal people lived in this region to when the early explorers discovered the area and opened it up to white settlers. They travel along the time-line, finding out what life was like and what events impacted on the lives of the aboriginal people and pioneers.

Sustain our Planet

Year levels: 2, 4, 6
Australian Curriculum: Science – Biological Sciences;
Earth and Space Sciences;
Science as a Human Endeavour;
Geography – Sustainability

Students are presented with brief history to appreciate how Australian aborigines were able to sustain their existence for thousands of years without depleting the natural environment. Students observe sustainable practices in the Botanic Gardens and find ways of making choices in their homes and school to create a more sustainable future.

Surviving on Nature

Year level: 4
Australian Curriculum: Science – Science as a Human Endeavour

History – First Contacts;
Ancient Worlds

Geography – Sustainability;
Indigenous Perspectives

This is an introduction to the use of plants by Australian aborigines. Students are able to understand why some plants were used for food, others for medicine and others for clothing and shelter. The Botanic Gardens provide a wide selection of indigenous plants and a specifically designed bush foods garden.

Exploring Plant Communities

Year levels: 4, 5
Australian Curriculum: Science – Biological Sciences

Geography – Sustainability

Explore the Mangroves to Mountains transect of the Botanic Gardens to appreciate the diversity of plants in this South East Queensland Region. Discover the living botanical collection through observing the different plant communities and the role it has in providing food and habitat for animal life. The interdependence of plants and animals is explored, along with the adaptations of plants and animals necessary to ensure their survival.

Freshwater Ecosystems

Year level: 6
Australian Curriculum: Science – Biological Sciences

Lakes, lagoons, creeks and rivers are all home to many different forms of plants and animals. How do these living things survive in the special environment of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens? Students explore the diverse freshwater ecosystems within the wetlands to find out what makes them sustainable.

Water Catchment in an Urbanised Environment

Year level: 6
Australian Curriculum: Science – Biological Sciences

Have you ever wondered what happens to the water that runs downs your water pipes and drain after heavy rain? Where does it flow? Where does it end up? Does it become part of a waterway that supports animal and plant life? Students will answer these questions as well as developing and understanding the importance of responsible water catchment practices in this field trip. Lesson duration is either 2.5 hours (half day) or 4.5 hours (full day).

Can Biodiversity Combat Climate Change?

Year level: 6
Australian Curriculum: Science – Biological Sciences

Discovering the Mangroves to Mountains transect of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens gives students the experience of observing the biodiversity of plants in this South East Queensland Region. Many different plant zones are explored to see what types of animals are sustained and why regional plant species need to be conserved.
Contact us

P  Natura Pacific 07 5576 5568
E  educationatthegardens@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
W  cityofgoldcoast.com.au/botanicgardens
A  230 Ashmore Road, Benowa

CITY OF GOLDCOAST.