It’s a Tough World Out There – Stage 3
This excursion complements the Primary Connections units – Desert Survivors and Rising Salt

Program Overview

Students have the opportunity to explore one of NSW’s most endangered ecological communities of plants and the endangered populations of animals that live up at the North Head Sanctuary. They witness a hanging swamp and virtually untouched bushland where they have the opportunity to observe first-hand how different living things have adapted to the unique environment. Students conduct tasks using scientific equipment to determine soil quality and work together to record results and analyse the data. Through games and activities, they use curiosity and knowledge learned during the excursion to become more informed about different physical conditions of the environment and how plants and animals survive these conditions.

Activities/Learning Experiences

• Soil testing activity – students use scientific equipment to determine the pH of the soil and work in groups to record the results and analyse the data using a column graph
• Discuss importance of soil quality and how it relates to plants and animals
• Learn about endangered populations of animals at North Head – Long-nosed bandicoots and Little penguins
• Learn about physical and behavioural adaptations Long-nosed bandicoots use to survive in their environment
• Working together, students plan, design and build their own bandicoot shelter/nest
• Learn about an endangered ecological community of plants (Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) and how the physical conditions of the environment has affected their growth
• See first-hand the structural features of plants and how they have evolved in response to the unique climatic conditions at North Head
• Participate in a hands-on activity discovering and identifying some ‘tough’ plants.
• Learn why it’s important to protect endangered plants and animals and what we can do to promote their protection