



Junior Landcare

Family Fun – Winter



Welcome to your guide for some awesome Junior Landcare activities you can do right at home that are perfect for colder times of the year.

Whether you've got a green thumb or you're dipping your toes into the world of sustainability and nature, these activities are sure to bring a splash of fun to your school holidays.

We've rounded up five super cool activities that'll have your kiddos exploring the outdoors, getting their hands dirty and discovering the wonders of nature. From getting the most out of food scraps, learning all about our First Nations seasons, and making friends with some wiggly worms, there's something for everyone.

We've included a budget and complexity scale for each activity so you can easily see how much they might cost (some don't cost a cent!) and how much effort they'll require. You'll find links for each activity to step-by-step guides, videos and activity sheets on the [Junior Landcare Learning Centre](https://www.juniorlandcare.org.au), proudly supported by Woolworths.

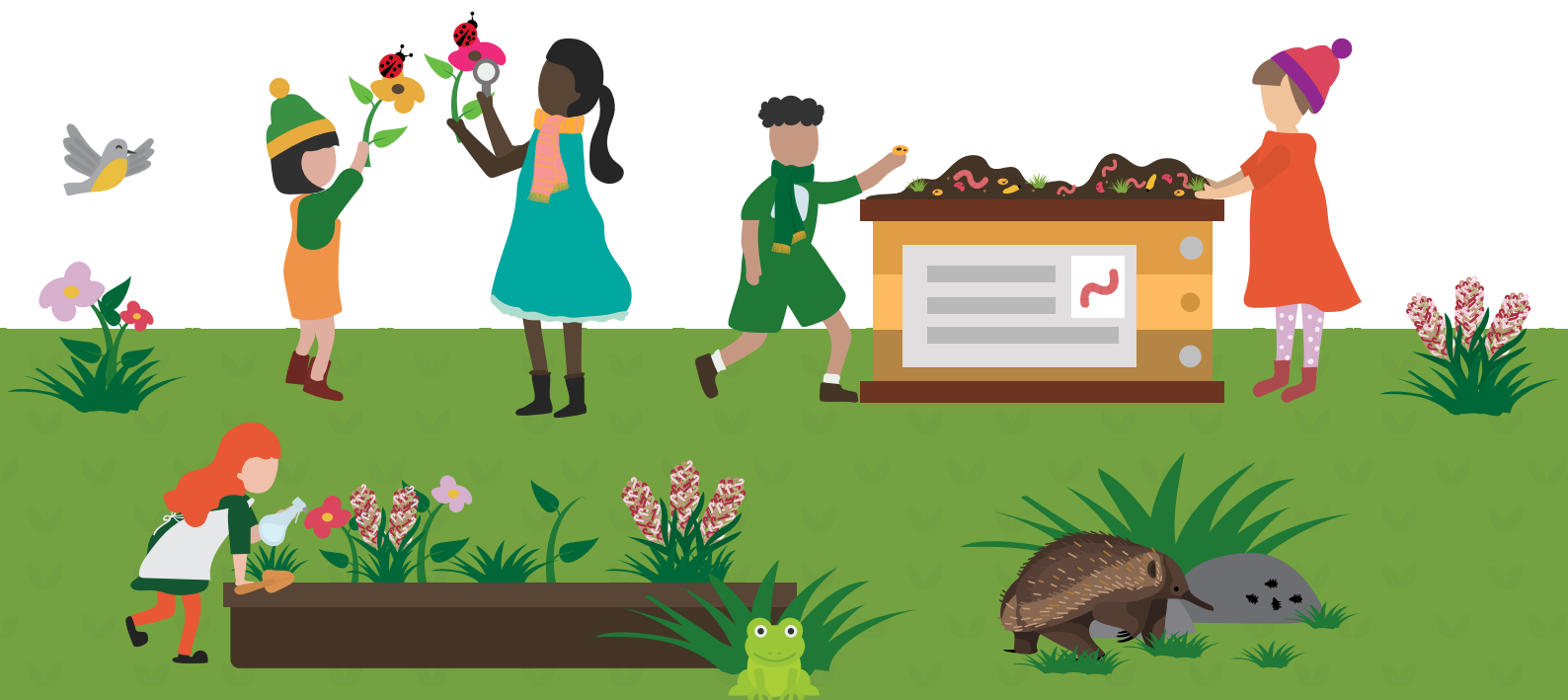
Let's dive into these awesome Junior Landcare activities and make some fantastic memories along the way. Happy exploring!

Activities

- 1 What's happening in your backyard?
- 2 Propagating from fruit and vegetable scraps
- 3 Exploring First Nations seasons
- 4 Making a wiggly worm farm
- 5 Sow a seed, grow a feed

Bonus:

Activity sheets for rainy days



1. What's happening in your backyard?



Embark on your very own nature safari and get outdoors with your young explorers to find and identify animals in the habitats that surrounds us. What can they find? What do they notice about the habitat? Where are the food or water sources?

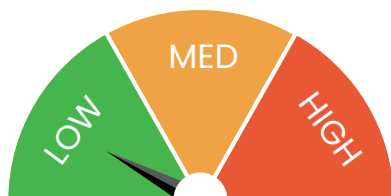
You can go to a local reserve, a nearby National Park or even your own back garden. Download the activity sheets, and bring along magnifying glasses, pencils, garden trowels, tongs or other props to help you find out more about what's happening in your habitat.

Look up high and dig around down low to see what you uncover. Consider day and nighttime adventures to see different types of animals.

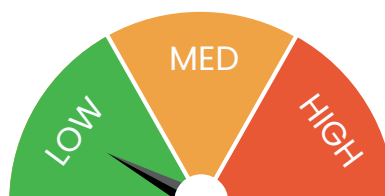
Click through to the [learning activity](#) to access the activity sheets, and find the step-by-step guide and checklist.

Additional activity: Add the plants and animals or insects you find to iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.org) and contribute to citizen science. Citizen science is when everyday people contribute to scientific research. In this case by collecting and contributing what you've seen you're adding to the data available for the area you're in.

Budget range



Complexity



Did you know?

You won't find many butterflies and bees in cooler places at this time of year, but you will find them where temperatures are consistently above 18 degrees or so. In colder places you can look through leaf litter to see what bugs are around.

2. Propagating from fruit and vegetable scraps.



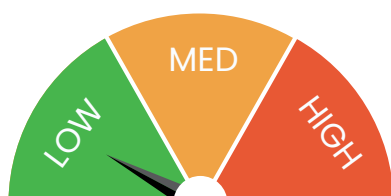
Growing food from scraps is a fun activity for kids, teaching them about reusing, plant biology and sustainable living – and getting to watch their food scraps grow into more food is pretty awesome!

Our [learning activity](#) includes a great video with Junior Landcare ambassador, Costa Georgiadis, propagating spring onions, but you can also use carrots, avocado pits, leeks, celery and [many other fruits and vegetables](#).

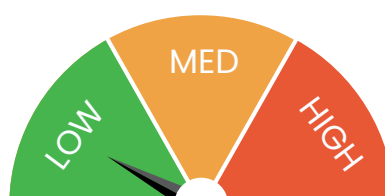
All you need is whatever fruit or vegetable you want to use, a cutting board, a kid-friendly knife, water and a container to regrow your plant in. You can also download an activity sheet so your child can make notes on what they're doing and what they observe when the food is growing.

Click through to the [learning activity](#) to watch Costa show how to propagate spring onions, download the activity sheet and find lots of links to other great resources about growing food from scraps.

Budget range



Complexity



Did you know?

The leaves on a plant are like solar panels that provide energy for the plant to grow, which is why you need to keep this plant experiment near light.

3. Exploring First Nations seasons.

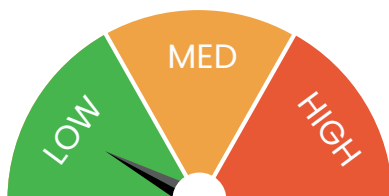


The idea of four seasons makes sense in the Northern hemisphere, but here in Australia the variety of climatic regions doesn't neatly fit into spring, summer, autumn and winter. We can look to First Nations people to learn about the seasons where we live, and how to tune into the seasons by looking at what's happening our environment to the weather, the plants or the wildlife.

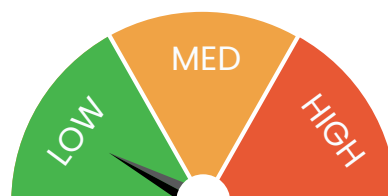
Exploring the weather patterns and seasons where you live is a great way of fostering respect for First Nations knowledge and enhancing children's awareness of the natural environmental cycles and how they can differ from place to place.

Check out our [learning activity](#) to watch a video with environmental educator and proud Wiradjuri man, Adam Shipp, download an activity sheet and find a step-by-step guide to finding out about your local seasons. This [map](#) from the Bureau of Meteorology will help you find the seasonal calendar closest to where you live.

Budget range



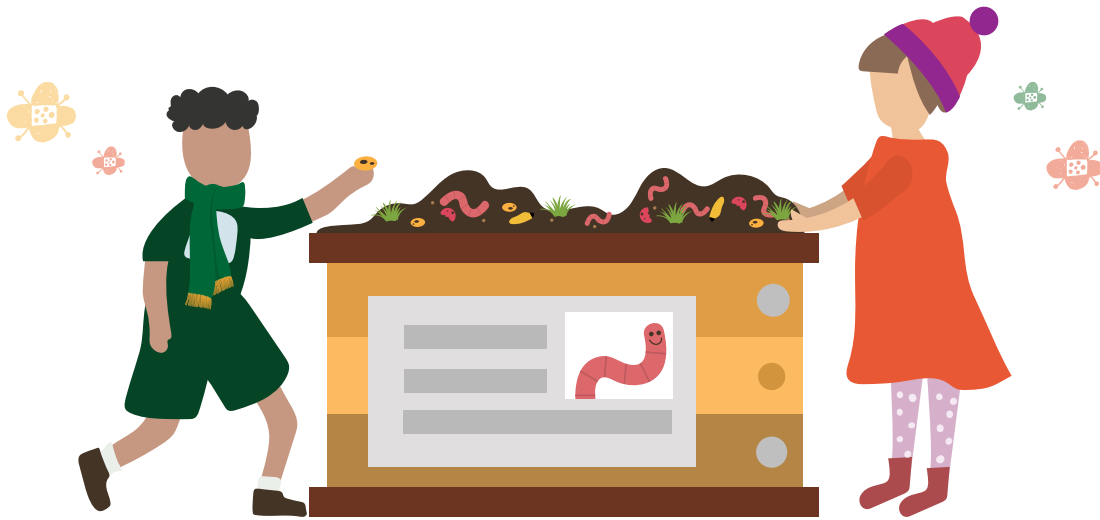
Complexity



Did you know?

Ants build the entrances to their nests depending on the weather. They use dark material during the cool weather to absorb the heat and use light material when it is hot to reflect the heat.

4. Making a wiggly worm farm.

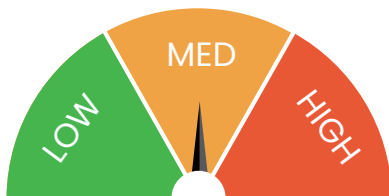


Worms play a super important role in recycling nutrients. In this activity you will make a worm farm to observe and investigate worms at work. You'll also collect lots of valuable worm wee which is like a liquid gold that provides nutrients to your garden beds.

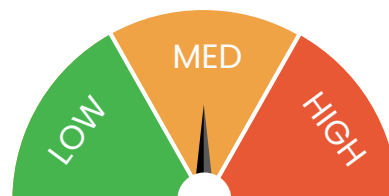
Our worm farm activity uses a polystyrene box, which you should be able to get from a local fruit and veg shop. You'll also need a short section of garden hose or pipe, garden soil and compost, gravel, and of course our wiggly friends! You can find a complete checklist of what you need in our learning activity. Remember to keep your worm farm moist once you've built it. This helps our worms absorb oxygen from the air as they breathe with their skin!

Check out the [learning activity](#) to watch a video with Costa, follow the step-by-step guide, and download an activity sheet to help you learn what food the worms love or loathe.

Budget range



Complexity



Did you know?

Worms have existed for over 600 million years and they don't have eyes, but can sense light!

5. Sow a seed, grow a feed.

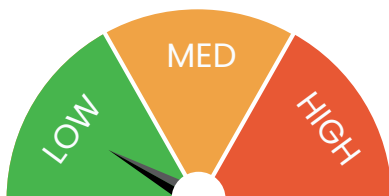


You might think that planting seeds where you live at this time of year doesn't make sense, but there are lots of veggies that love the colder weather, so there's no need to wait! Check out this [fab guide](#) from ABC's Gardening Australia to see what will grow in your climate zone at this time of year.

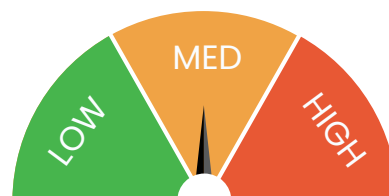
Our sow a seed, grow a feed activity makes it really easy for children to make their own little seed pots, plant and care for seeds. Depending on where you live you can keep your seeds inside to care for them until they're ready to be planted out. Your little gardeners can even download and keep a seed observation journal to help them keep track of their growing journey.

Check out our [learning activity](#) for a step-by-step guide, checklist of what you'll need, video tutorial and seed sowing observation journal.

Budget range



Complexity



Did you know?


Most seeds don't need sunlight to grow. Water, oxygen and warmth are necessary for seeds to germinate into seedlings.

Activity sheets for rainy days.

The Just for Kids section of our Junior Landcare Learning Centre is PACKED with fun and educational activities to keep young minds and hands busy and engaged.

With word searches, mazes, crosswords, colouring-in sheets, drawing tutorials, quizzes, design activities and more, you're sure to find something your Junior Landcarers will love. The activity sheets are free to download, and based around the four Junior Landcare themes of Biodiversity, Food Production, First Nations Perspectives and Waste Management.

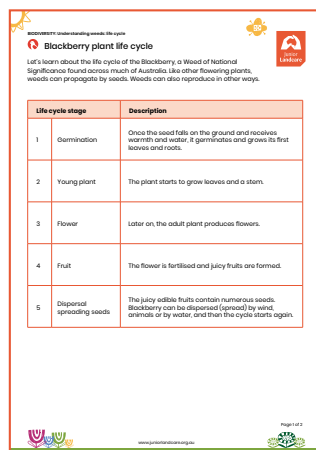
Check out our Just for Kids activities [here](#).



Mystery Bags: Using 3 Senses

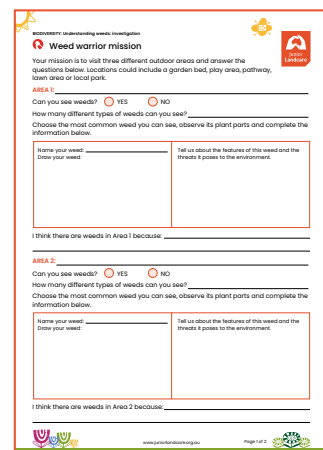
Smell Touch Hearing

Bag number	I think this is...	Senses used
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		



Blackberry plant life cycle

Life cycle stage	Description
1	Germination Once the seed falls on the ground and receives warmth and water, it germinates and grows its first leaves and roots.
2	Young plant The plant starts to grow leaves and a stem.
3	Flower Later on, the adult plant produces flowers.
4	Fruit The flower is fertilised and juicy fruits are formed.
5	Dispersal The juicy edible fruits contain numerous seeds. Blackberry can be dispersed (spread) by wind, animals or by water, and then the cycle starts again.



Weed warrior mission

Can you see weeds? YES NO

How many different types of weeds can you see? _____

Choose the most common weed you can see, observe its plant parts and complete the information below.

AREA 1

Name your weed: _____ Tell us about the features of this weed and the threats it poses to the environment.

I think there are weeds in Area 1 because: _____

AREA 2

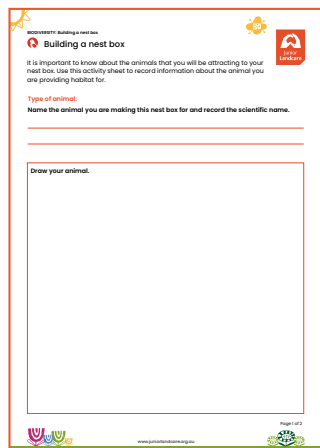
Can you see weeds? YES NO

How many different types of weeds can you see? _____

Choose the most common weed you can see, observe its plant parts and complete the information below.

Name your weed: _____ Tell us about the features of this weed and the threats it poses to the environment.

I think there are weeds in Area 2 because: _____

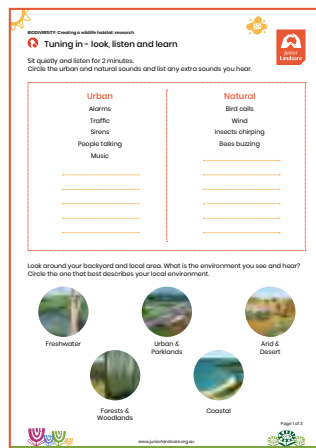


Building a nest box

Type of animal: _____

Name the animal you are making this nest box for and record the scientific name.

Draw your animal.

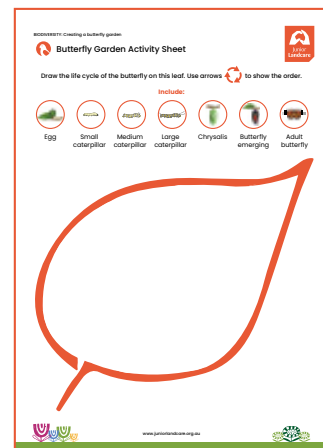


Tuning in - look, listen and learn

Urban	Natural
Alarms	Bird calls
Traffic	Wind
Sirens	Insects chirping
People talking	Bees buzzing
Music	

Look around your backyard and local area. What is the environment you see and hear? Circle the one that best describes your local environment.

Freshwater Urban & Parklands Arid & Desert
Forests & Woodlands Coastal



Butterfly Garden Activity Sheet

Draw the life cycle of the butterfly on this leaf. Use arrows to show the order.

Include:

- Egg
- Small caterpillar
- Medium caterpillar
- Large caterpillar
- Chrysalis
- Butterfly emerging
- Adult butterfly

We hope your little learners loved our Junior Landcare Family Fun Activities!

Check out the [Junior Landcare Learning Centre](#) proudly supported by Woolworths, for lots more FREE activities, and follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to keep up to date with any new content.

If you have any ideas for new activities, we'd love to hear them! You can email us at juniorlandcare@landcareaustralia.com.au.

Be sure to tag us [@juniorlandcare](#) on socials if you're sharing your little learners having fun!

Happy growing, exploring and learning!