



ART



GEOGRAPHY



SCIENCE



HISTORY



CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITIES



GENERAL CAPABILITIES



Bimblebox: art – science – nature is a touring exhibition partnered by Museum and Gallery Services Queensland and Redland Art Gallery in association with Bimblebox Nature Refuge.

BIMBLEBOX: art – science – nature

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Name

Class

DID YOU KNOW!



Bimblebox Nature Refuge is located directly near the *Tropic of Capricorn* which is an imaginary line of latitude going around the Earth at approximately 23.5° south of the equator. It is the southernmost point on Earth where the sun's rays are directly overhead at noon. The line marks the southern boundary of the tropics.

ABOUT BIMBLEBOX NATURE REFUGE

Bimblebox Nature Refuge is an area in the middle of Queensland that some concerned people thought should be protected due to its special environment and the large number of plants and wildlife (flora and fauna) that live there.

ABOUT BIMBLEBOX ART PROJECT AND EXHIBITION

For the last two years groups of artists have camped at Bimblebox and created artworks responding to the environment because they are worried that a planned coal mining operation will destroy it. They hope to document Bimblebox, and maybe save it by making people aware of this special place. This exhibition shows the artwork of 17 artists and will tour across Australia to show visitors their responses to exploring the Bimblebox Nature Refuge.

ABOUT BEING AN ARTIST AND A SCIENTIST

Some artists, in the same way as scientists, research a topic they are interested in, make observations, conduct experiments (with materials, formats, various ways to present their ideas), collect data, make conclusions and present their findings in recognised places and settings. The arts and sciences are creative fields that seek to explore and understand the world we inhabit.



ABOUT INVESTIGATING THIS EXHIBITION AND THE ART WORKS

What do you do in a gallery? Well, mostly you look (really look, so that you see), you think (really think about each artwork: what does it mean, how does it make you feel?), you reflect (think even more) and sometimes you do (interact with the artwork—you might listen to sounds, touch buttons, or even go home and make something inspired by the exhibition).

EXPLORING BIMBLEBOX: art – science – nature

This booklet has been made to help you explore this exhibition. Sometimes you will be asked to look at and investigate the works with the eyes of an artist, scientist, and sometimes as geographer or historian.

As you investigate and look at each artwork you will begin to make meaning about the story of Bimblebox. The artists want us to think about and understand this story from their point of view. There are other points of view, some which are very different from the artists. Try to think what these could be as you walk around the exhibition.

As you enter each section make sure you read the didactic panel at the beginning: it is helpful for explaining why the artworks are put together for display.

As you come to each work take your time to look and notice things about it. Read the artist statement and artwork label (this has the name of the artwork, when it was made, who made it and what it is made from). These will help you understand what the artist wanted to say.

FIND JILL SAMPSON, VANISHING FOOD BOWLS 2013



Jill Sampson's work is an art installation; it combines various elements, some handmade and some found, in the artwork to tell a story.

- What do you think the artist is trying to say? (Hint: Think about the title of this work and answers to the following questions).
- What is meant by the term *food bowl*? What does the map represent? Why are the bowls empty?

I think the artist is saying

.....

because

.....

- Working like a geographer, draw a map in the bowl of your favourite place. Add the food sources that are produced and grown naturally within it. Use symbols to indicate landscape features and food types, e.g. for pineapple: 

Interesting fact:

The traditional Yagalingu people of the north east region carried and kept bush tucker and bush medicine in a bowl called a Coolamon.

- Find an artwork that includes a Coolamon and write the title here:

.....

- How has this exhibition made you feel about places like the Bimblebox Nature Refuge?

.....

- Back at school design a bumper sticker to represent your feelings about protecting nature refuges.



GO TO JUDE ROBERTS, DIVINE MESSAGE 2013



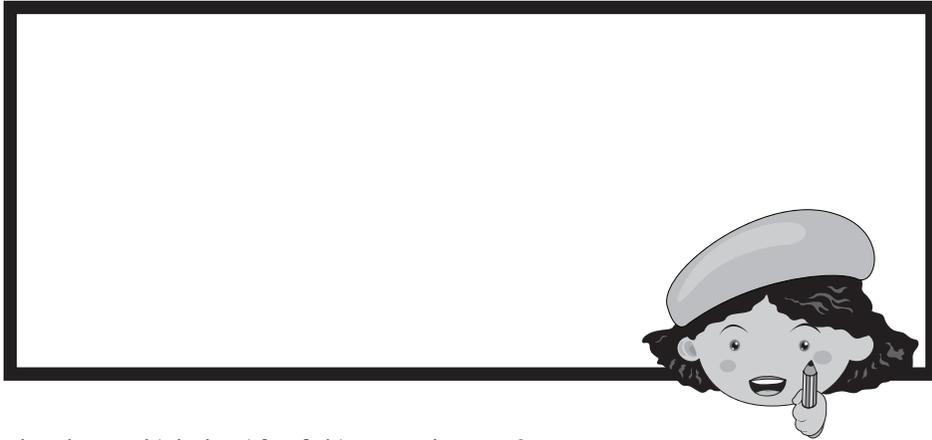
Jude Roberts is a printmaker. Her work provokes thought about history, place and location. She created this artwork using a process called *frottage* (a French word meaning to rub) to document the surface texture of hollow trees in Bimblebox. Jude used graphite to rub on a tarpaulin made of tyvek (a synthetic material that has all the characteristics of paper, but is very strong).

Roberts said that “documenting trees in this way creates a type of natural historical resource and provides proof of the trees existence”. She completed the artwork by colouring areas with ‘hi-vis’ ink. It is important to the message she wishes to convey.

— In the box below try to copy some of the textures from the artwork using your pencil.

Interesting fact:

The ‘lead’ of your pencil is actually graphite!



What do you think the title of this artwork means?

.....

Why do you think the artist added ‘hi-vis’ ink to the artwork?

.....

Do your own Frottage:

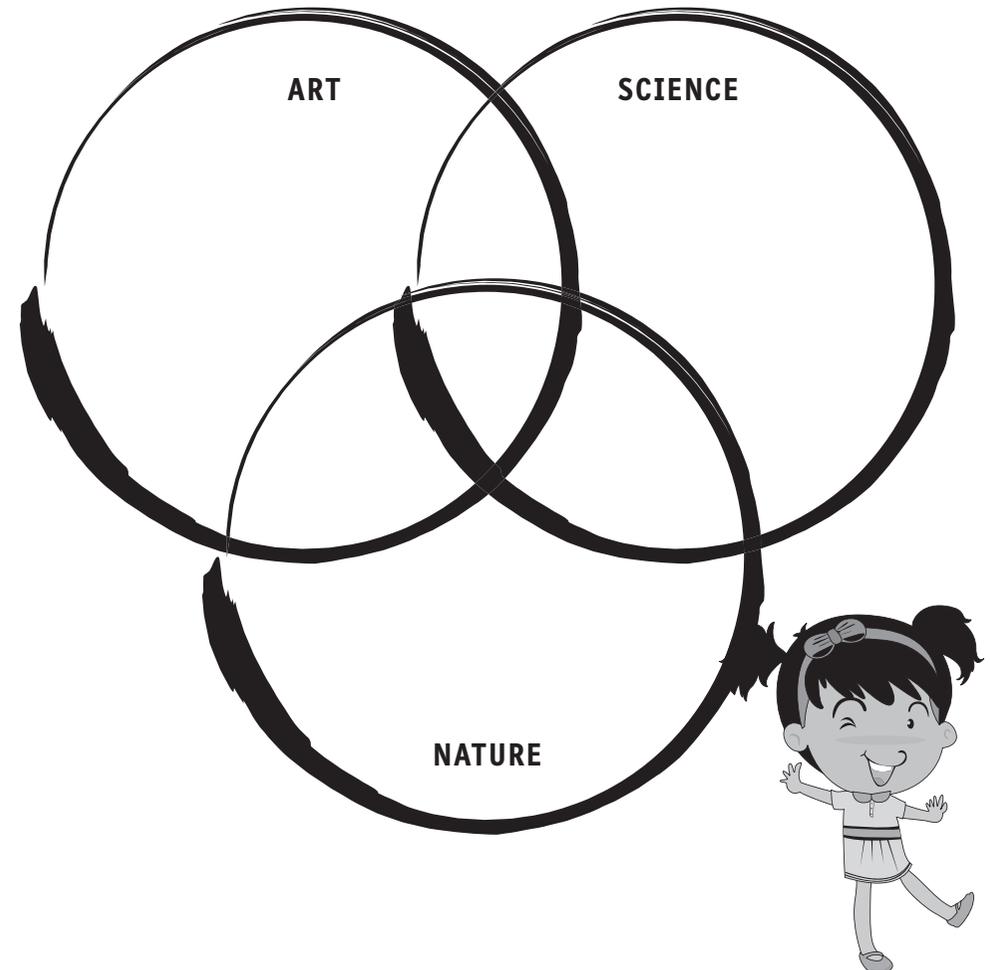
- Back at school make some texture rubbings of different trees using paper and wax crayons – see if any of the trees have a texture like the one you have copied from the artwork. Then try and copy the textures next to your rubbings in pencil.

AS YOU TRAVEL THROUGH THE EXHIBITION...

- Each time you view an artwork try to decide which category it fits into best: art, science, nature.
- Discuss with a classmate which category it belongs to and put a tick in the matching circle below.
- If you can't decide between categories, put it in the overlapping parts.

The rest of this booklet will help you investigate some works in more detail. Before you go into the exhibition, flip through the booklet so you know what you are looking for.

There are some questions to answer in the gallery and some marked with ● these are for you to think about, discuss back at school and perhaps do some extra research about to help you answer.



**FIND ALISON CLOUSTON AND BOYD,
CARBON DATING 2013**



Scientists use carbon dating for telling the age of an old object, whose origin and age cannot be determined easily.

Why do you think the artists gave their work this title?

— Sketch *Carbon Dating 2013*



— Close your eyes and listen to the audio/sounds/music that are part of their art installation.

— List sound words that best describe what you heard: *E.g. whistle*

— From reading the *artist statement* explain what they do that is like a scientist.

Artist statements

● Why do you think artist statements are important? What do they include?
(Make some notes in the gallery).

**LOOK AT LIZ MAHOOD,
THE INVISIBLE THAT IS 2012**



Liz Mahood is very concerned about using natural materials from Bimblebox combined with other materials in her work to 'carry the imprint of the energy of the place'. She invites you to view her work and be in the moment with Nature.

— How does quietly observing her work make you feel about the Bimblebox Nature Refuge?

— Other artists in this exhibition have also used natural materials found in the environment at Bimblebox – list three next to the name of the artwork below.

1.

2.

3.

● Thinking like a scientist *predict* what materials you think would make a good natural paint.
(Ask yourself: *Would I crush it up? How? Would I add water? What else could I use to bind the material to make it work like paint?*)

