

# NATURE SUPPLEMENT TO NATURE NOTES PROBE

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# The Importance Of TREES...

Trees form forests and the forest forms a large link in the ecology of nature and of man.

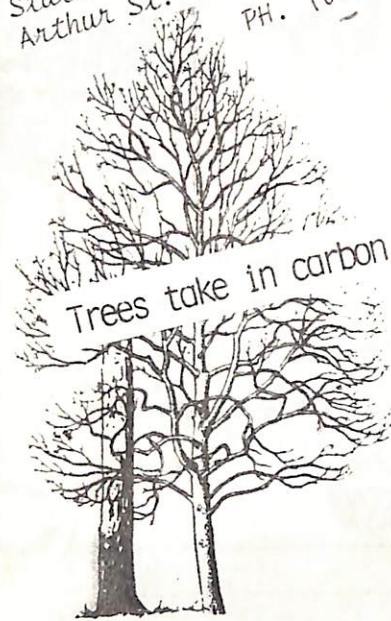
Trees recycle elements essential to growth, depositing them back on the soil surface when leaves and limbs fall. Bacteria, fungi and insects decompose this matter forming additional soil and new plants can then flourish.

Trees help young plants by protecting from heavy rains, sun and frost.

Tree roots and tree litter protect the soil from erosion. The flow of rainwater is slowed long enough to allow some of it to soak into the soil.

Many forms of wildlife get their food from this tree debris which falls and rots on the ground, or from the trees themselves. In forests, trees give shade and shelter to many forms of wildlife.

State Schools Nursery  
Arthur St. Oakleigh 3166  
PH. (03) 568 1958



We breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide.

To live we need trees.

Trees are beautiful and useful to us.

## Plant More TREES Today.

You could make your school ground more forested by joining the STATE SCHOOLS NURSERY. You will receive seeds and plants to the value of \$12. So start planting now.



# TREE INTERVIEW ??



•What is the tree's name?

•How big is your tree? •Height - twice your height?  
- ten times your height?

•Distance around trunk?  
•Width of canopy?



•How does your tree feel? Describe its bark.

•Make a life - size sketch or tracing of a leaf from your tree.

•What are your trees hobbies?

•What have been some of the interesting events in its life?

•What other creatures does it have living with it?



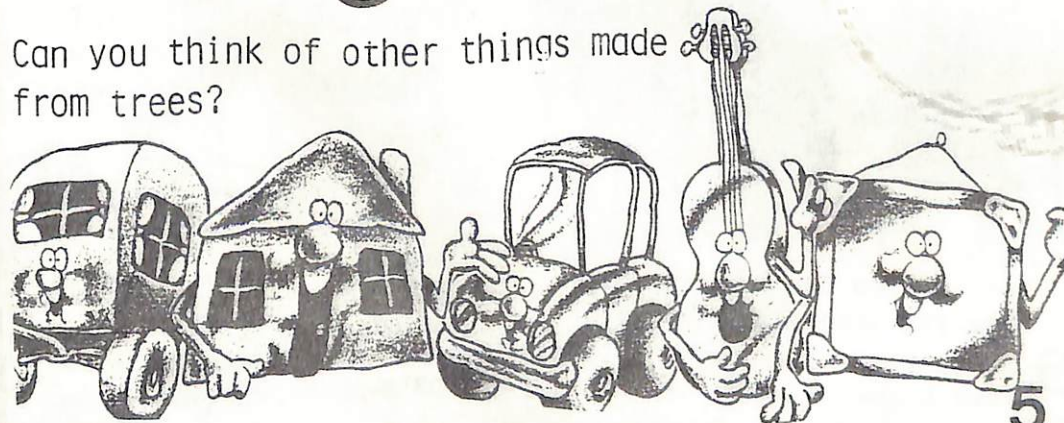
## Tick

the following things which are made from  
**Trees**

THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU WRITE

- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Ice-cream
- ☐ Shoes
- ☐ Milk Cartons
- ☐ Guitar
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Matches
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Bicycles
- ☐ Cars

Can you think of other things made from trees?





# ERNIE &

# BRUCE...

## WALK IN A EUCALYPT FOREST.

BY W. PROHASKY.

They start their day in the forest dressed up in new clothes — after a while Ernie says to Bruce.....

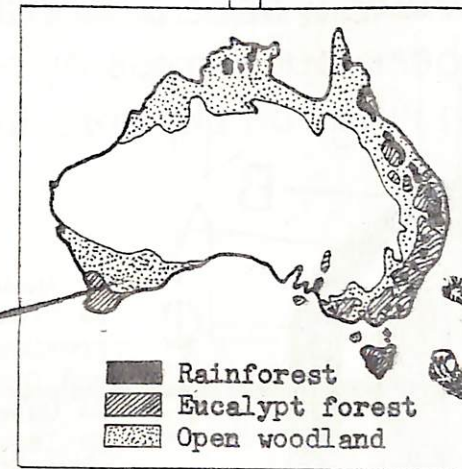
"Hey Bruce, aren't these Eucalypt trees tall. Did you know that there are over 600 species?"

"yes Ernie, they are the most common Australian tree."



...So off they go...

"Now Bruce, which states have the most Eucalypt forests?"



"Hmm.. that's a hard question!"

Which states do you think have the most eucalypt forests? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know the other name that Eucalypt trees are called?

6

G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of gum nuts that you find on the ground.

"Yes Bruce, see — a cap covers the flower when it's in bud."



Collect different kinds

"Bruce, 'koala' is an aboriginal name for 'no drink.'"

"They get moisture from the gum leaves they eat."

"Isn't this a beaut swing! Yes I know, they eat about 1 kg of leaves a day!"

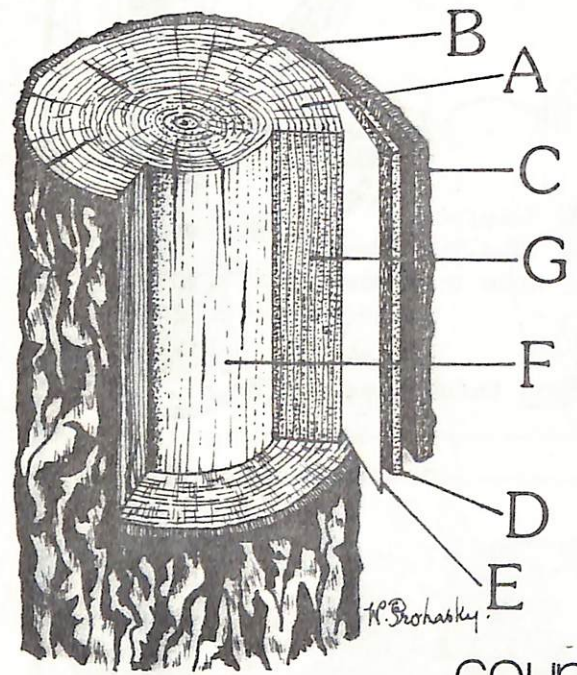


Manna Gum, Messmate and Peppermint Eucalypt trees are their main food trees in Victoria. How many kgs of leaves would koalas eat a week? 7



# TREE GROWTH

If you are walking in a forest, where there may be a sawn tree stump, or you are somewhere where there are large trees that have been cut across by a saw; notice the growth rings on the smooth cut off end.



TRUNK SECTION

- A: Annual rings of wood.
- B: Plates of tissue that provide transport of water and foodstuffs.
- C: Outer bark.
- D: Inner bark.
- E: The actively growing film of cells that produces the annual rings of wood.
- F: Dead heart wood.
- G: Living sap wood through which water passes up to the leaves.

count the lines from the centre to the inner bark ring and then you will know just how old the tree really is. Some years of good rainfall will make the lines wider apart.

why are some of the bands closer together? \_\_\_\_\_

look at different kinds of wood. study the knots in floors and furniture. Why are they there? \_\_\_\_\_

There are two main kinds of trees. SOFTWOODS and HARDWOODS CONIFERS are softwoods and have needle-like leaves.

EUCALYPT trees are hardwoods. They have broad leaves. They grow in almost any climate and environment, swamps, rainforests, eucalypt forests and deserts.

See how many different kinds of bark you can find, in your garden, in parks and forests. You will be amazed at the variety.

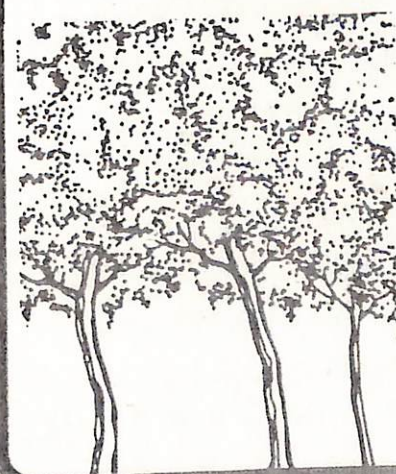
draw some of the more unusual barks you have found.

WILMA PROHASKY

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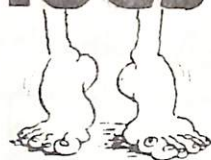




Have you seen where your feet step while walking in the bush? The animals can escape your large crushing shoes but what about the tiny plants?

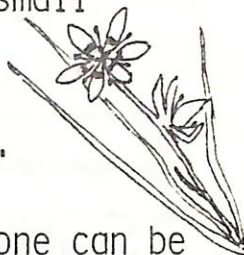
# looking where your toes go.

Bob Winters



If you were a wombat walking on four feet with your nose to the ground you would see all the small delicate plants.

Most plants grow flowers and the smallest plants have some of the prettiest flowers.



Orchids, orchids everywhere but not one can be found. The tiny forest orchids spend most of the year tucked under the earth. At the right time they pop up leaves or just a stalk and eventually grow flowers. Some are purple others are white, green, pink and almost every other colour. Some have spots, whilst others don't even look like flowers. All these flowers are designed to allow insects to transport pollen from one plant to another.

Next time you are in the bush look at where your toes go and find some of the wild plants.

At school find an area of ground where plants are growing. Count how many varieties you can find.

The forest floor is usually covered with material from plants and animals. This material is called forest litter.

Find a fairly open place in the bush where there is plenty of forest litter. List the different things which make up the forest litter.

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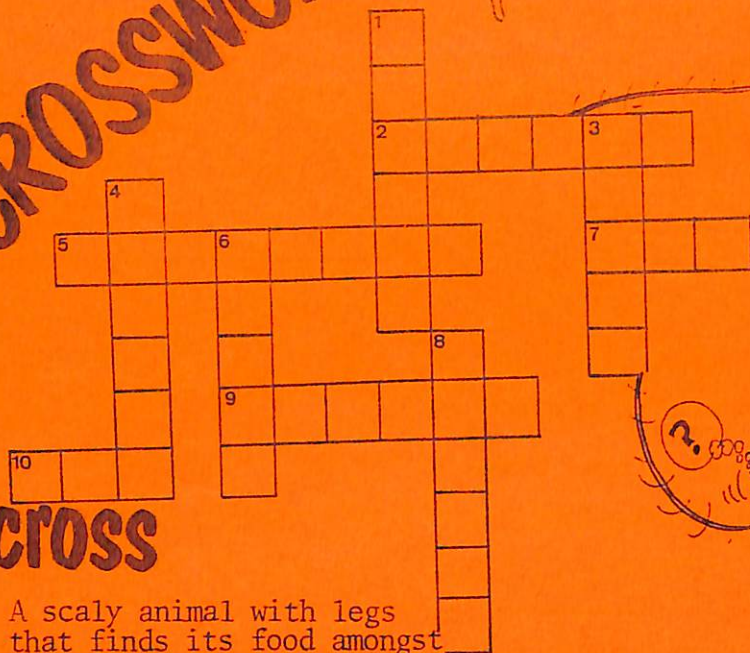
In order not to hurt the animals gently scrape away a small section of the litter layer.

- 1 About how deep is the litter layer?
- 2 Describe any differences in the litter closer to the soil.
- 3 Describe any insects or other creatures living among the litter.
- 4 What would happen if we removed all the forest litter, e.g. by washing it away?

AFTER THESE ACTIVITIES PLEASE REMEMBER TO RESTORE THE AREA AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION.



# CROSSWORD



## across

2. A scaly animal with legs that finds its food amongst the bark and dead leaves.
5. A white bird that likes to eat seeds and nuts.
7. A night bird that sleeps in a tree during the day.
9. Koalas like to eat gum -----.
10. A fox like animal with wings that sleeps in a tree during the day and flies at night.

## down

1. A place in a tree where an owl sleeps.
3. The part of the tree that is found in the ground.
4. This night time animal often sleeps in a burrow under the roots of a tree.
6. This animal likes to eat gum leaves.
8. Cockatoos like to eat -----.