

# THE BUNYIP'S CONSTELLATIONS

*The Bunyip and the Stars* is part Sky Country creation story and part exciting adventure tale written by Adam Duncan, Biripi man, and illustrated by Paul Lalo. It is associated with the National Museum of Australia's immersive play space for children, the Tim and Gina Fairfax Discovery Centre.

The book is for children aged birth–6 years but students up to age 12 (Year 6) can use the book to springboard to studies across most areas of the curriculum.

In this activity, children will create their own constellation.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

My Time, Our Place

### **OUTCOME 2 Children and young people are connected with and contribute to their world**

- Children and young people respond to diversity with respect

### **OUTCOME 4 Children and young people are confident and involved learners**

- Children and young people develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
- Children and young people resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

### **OUTCOME 5 Children and young people are effective communicators**

- Children and young people engage with and gain meaning from a range of visual images and texts

## KEY LEARNING STRATEGIES

Visual resources, modelling, shared construction of ideas, hands-on activity, self-efficacy, real-world application.

## DIFFERENTIATION + INCLUSION

Catering for difference: existing knowledge, learning abilities, learning styles, interests, learning needs and requirements, cultural acknowledgement, self-esteem, gender, intro/extroversion.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Book: *The Bunyip and the Stars*, Adam Duncan and Paul Lalo
- LEDs (3 per child)
- Play Doh (approx. 1 tub per child)
- Battery snaps (1 per child)
- 9V battery (1 per child)
- Moulding tools, if desired
- Images of constellations

## RISKS

- Ingestion of batteries: make sure food and drinks are kept far away from the batteries, and that everyone knows not to put them in their mouths
- Electrical shocks or burns: keep batteries away from water

# THE BUNYIP'S CONSTELLATIONS CONT;

## INSTRUCTIONS + PROVOCATIONS

### 1. Read *Bunyip and the Stars*

- a. This is an example of a 'creation story'. What is being created?

### 2. Introduce the word 'constellation'

- a. Look at images of stars and constellations – either still images or explore the sky using a resource such as [stellarium-web.org](http://stellarium-web.org).

### 3. Make a constellation circuit

- a. Roll clay into long, thin snakes.
- b. Bend, twist, and join the snakes to create a circuit in the shape of an animal.
- c. Add a break in the circuit then connect the battery and battery snap so it bridges the break.
- d. Add another break then add an LED so it bridges the break. NOTE: Electricity only flows one way through an LED.
- e. Allow children to make constellation circuits.

#### SOME TIPS

Electricity is lazy and will take the shortest route to leave the battery and get back to it. Be sure to have clean breaks in the circuit to direct it through the LEDs.

Because electricity can only go one way through an LED, you should only add one LED at a time to ensure you have them all facing the right way.

If it does not light up, try turning it around to see if that works!

