



wise words

This picture book unit has been developed in the Wise Words section of the NTDLS website. It provides teachers, parents and home tutors with access to shared ideas, teaching and learning tips and some best practice materials to use with your children.

Learning Area : Integrated and Essential Learnings: Inner Learner and Constructive Learner. (In 1, In 2, Col 1, Con 3).
Integrated Band Level: Key Growth Point 3 to Band 1.
Developer: Sue Thomson.



Edward the Emu

By Sheena Knowles

Book Overview

Tired of being just an Emu, Edward decides to try being like other animals at the zoo. He wants to be noticed and in his quest for attention, Edward imitates many other animals. He soon discovers that being himself is the best animal of all.

Learning outcomes from NT Curriculum Framework

Activities

Spatial Sense

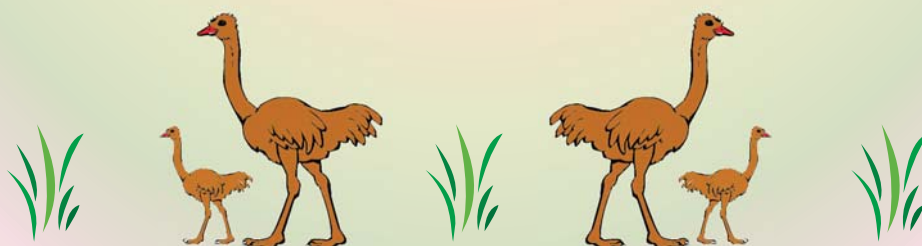
- ◆ Draw a map of the animals' enclosures as Edward visits them all.
- ◆ What shapes can you find in the book? Circles for eyes, diamond teeth. Draw the shapes. How many objects in your classroom are also these shapes?
- ◆ Symmetry: Look at the patterns on the snake's skin

(SSKGP3.1)

Measurement and Data

- ◆ How big do you think Edward is? Get some large brown or any type of paper and get the kids to draw him. Then have one made by you of an actual emu's size.
- ◆ Make some snakes with play dough and have worksheet under to measure with.
- ◆ With measuring length, what would be longest out of all the animals?
- ◆ Do a picture graph. What is the most popular animal in the class?

(MDS KGP3.5/Band 1.5)



Number Sense

How many animals were involved in this quest of Edward's?

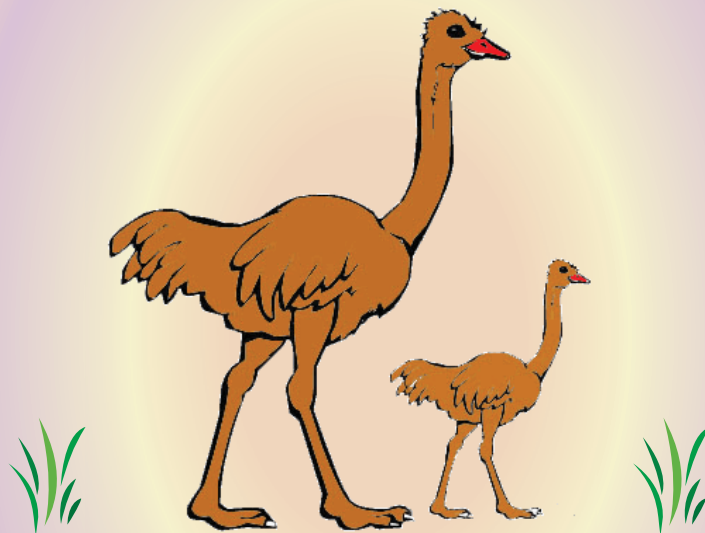
Talk about: 'next morning', 'today', 'that night'. Also talk about the times used in the book e.g. 'morning at nine'

(NSKGP3.1 Band1.1)

(NSKGP3.2 Band 1.2)

Make some great addition, subtraction and 'groups of' sheets that can be up for the kids to complete while doing the unit.

Make a bird feeder with a tube like a Glad Wrap tube. Put two holes in the top, thread. Roll in peanut butter, then bird seed. You can measure out ingredients for maths and do a procedural text.



Additional Ideas

Other Activities:

- ◆ You can use this incorporated in an excellent unit for up to 4-5 weeks. I called mine 'Feathery Friends' and had a good look at Australian native and local Alice Springs birds.
I used labelled diagrams (e.g. beaks, claws, feathers, wings).
- ◆ Also, Edward is a unique creature to look at. Facts like emus can't fly, they have very strong legs, make funny grunting noises and can run very fast.
- ◆ A male emu is called a boomer and a female a flyer.
- ◆ Make a great fitness activity with this fact e.g. Flyers and Boomers run/hop at certain times. Teacher calls out 'Flyers skip', 'Boomers stay still like statues' Change to suit your class.
- ◆ A great sentence and comprehension helper is: '*The Emu's name is ... (Edward)*'. You could put the first/middle/last letter in or have the answers on the board. Others could be: '*The first animal that Edward meets is a...*'

- ◆ Writing: Introduce talking marks through the story. Explain that they are needed when someone talks etc.
- ◆ Place sticky notes over the text **before you** read the book to the class. Let them look at illustrations only. Get them to tell you what is happening. Make a class book. **Then read the text** from the book to the class and compare both.
- ◆ A great way to teach looking for **picture clues, prediction and story writing skills**.
- ◆ Make use of the **rhyiming text** and use the words in spelling activities. zoo/ do tell/well etc.
- ◆ **Essential Learnings:** 'Beauty is the eye of the beholder.' 'Be happy with what you have.' 'The grass is not always greener on the other side.'
- ◆ **Patterns:** Look at those beautiful snakes!

An Opposites Chart:

Use words like noisy/quiet, female/male, long/small.

A **basic report** on the emu: lives, eats, moves.

Lots of **art activities:** painting, collage, etc.

Use the **sequel** to this fantastic book, *Edwina the Emu*. The kids just love both books.

Rod Clement's emu **illustrations** are fantastic. Get students to experiment with drawing and sketching. For example, they could look at the repeating patterns of stripes etc.

For emu facts go to:

<http://www.emu-birds.com>

<http://www.australianfauna.com/emu.php>

<http://www.emufacts.com>

ABC Education Schools Website: Our Animals – In the Air, On the Ground, In the Water. 2000: <http://www.abc.net.au/schoolstv/animals/EMUS.htm> ABC website for kids –information for students about emus and other Australian animals.

Australian Museum Website. <http://www.amonline.net.au/birds/factsheets/emu.htm>
Australian Museum fact sheet on the emu

Australian High Commission, New Zealand. <http://www.newzealand.embassy.gov.au/wltn/OZK%5fEmu.html> Information about emus.

Blue Gum Picture website. 2007 <http://bluegumpictures.com.au/australia/birds2006special/birds2006special3.php> Emu picture.

Other Emu Books:

Edwina the Emu by Rod Clement

Eddy the Emu by Sue Curtis

How the Emu lost his Wings by L.Adams

The Emu Egg by Sharon Thorpe

Emu by Pauline Reilly

The Flying Emu and other Australian Stories by Sally Morgan

Enoch the Emu by Gordon Winch

The littlest Emu by Trevor Browneye

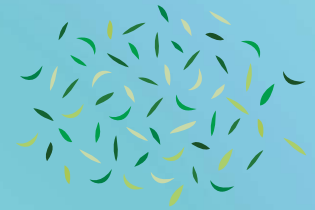
Emu Stew by John Bellaire

Jellies the Emu by Susannah Brindle

Why the Emu can't fly by May L. O'Brien

Koala teaches Emu a Lesson by Seta Defused

An emu called Tangles by Josephine Barrington



Reference

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