

Braver a Wombat's Tale | Animals and Ecosystems | Storytelling

Professor Noggin Animals | Ecosystems | Other Morning Basket Resources

Crash course Kids ecosystems playlist

	Read Aloud	Informational Spine	Hands On/Project	Grammar/Writing	Screen Time, Games, Extras
1	Preview Book	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 1: What is an Ecosystem? pp. 142-143	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss: Do you know what a wombat is? If so, what do you know about them? ● Read: <i>Diary of a Wombat</i> by Jackie French (Don't have the book, that's OK, you can watch it here.) ● Watch: A "diary" or day of a real Wombat from Ipswich Nature Center in Queensland Australia here. ● Explore <i>Braver: A Wombat's Tale</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look at the cover - What do you see? ○ Look at the title - What does it mean to be brave? ○ Read some of the chapter titles. What do you think this book is about? ○ Read the summary of the book. What kind of story does this sound like? Does it look exciting? ○ What genre is the book? <i>Fantasy</i> (See below for more activities about genre) ○ Fantasy stories are usually set in make-believe places, but sometimes they take place in real places that are altered to meet the needs of the story. Let's see where this story takes place. (See below for more activities about setting.) ● Map it: (you can use google earth or google maps if you don't have a map) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Find the continent of Australia on a map of the world. ○ Find Queensland in Australia (where the wombat in the video is from) ○ Look for islands off the coast of Australia. How many can you find? 	For Older Children: Storytelling Masterclass by LeVar Burton (\$ annual subscription) - 13 classes - Just over 2 per week	Find Tasmania on the Map

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Find the island called Tasmania, sometimes called Tassie Island. ● Watch: This short video with some facts and views of Tasmania. <p>This video about ecosystems</p> <p>Track: Begin an Ecosystem Nature Journal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prompts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What type of ecosystem are you exploring? ○ What are the main plants and animals you see? ○ What animals would you expect to see? Why? 		
2	<i>Braver</i> Ch 1	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 10: Temperate Forests pp. 176-177	<p>Watch this video about the Eucalyptus regnans and The “Goldilocks” fire ecology</p> <p>Watch this video about forest ecosystem</p> <p>Watch this introduction to Wombats</p> <p>Adventure: If you have a forest ecosystem, take a walk and discuss what you discover there.</p> <p>Add Wombats to Tasmanian Animal Book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to draw a Wombat from Art for Kids Hub 	Storytelling	Secret Life of the Wombat on Amazon Prime
3	<i>Braver</i> Ch 2	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 17: Rivers & Streams pp. 199-200	<p>Watch this introduction to Platypuses</p> <p>Read New Holland mouse, <i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i> Website - New Holland Mouse wikipedia</p> <p>Watch River Ecosystem Part 1 and Part 2</p> <p>Adventure: If you live near a river ecosystem, check it out. See what you can catch with nets. Collect a water sample. What TINY creatures live in a river ecosystem?</p> <p>Add Platypus and Forest Mouse Tasmanian Animal Book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to draw a Platypus from Art Land ● 5 Minute Watercolor Mouse from Emily Olson Art 	The Ugly Hatchling	Wild Kratts: Platypus Cafe Animal Tracks

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Draw a Mouse from How2Draw Animals 		
4	<i>Braver</i> Ch 3	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 2: Niches pp. 147-148	<p>Tasmanian Devils and Swamp Water Rats</p> <p>Watch: Wild Kratts: Tazzy Chris</p> <p>Add Tasmanian Devils and Swamp Water Rats to Tasmanian Animal Book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Draw a Realistic Tasmanian Devil from Art for Kids Hub • How to Draw a Rat from Art Hub for Kids 	<p>Rhyming jingle About food</p> <p>Story of how Tassie Devils Came to be p. 21</p>	Secret Life of the Tasmanian Devil
5	<i>Braver</i> Ch 4	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 3: Food Chains pp. 150-151	<p>Watch: Playlist from Crash Course Kids about ecosystems</p> <p>Watch: This short video about Pelicans</p> <p>Detour Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveling cloak - Sew your own video, written • Discuss Genealogy and create a family tree: article with ideas to get started • Grandfather clocks and how they work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch: How Grandfather Clocks are Made ○ Watch: How Clocks Work ○ Build: a real grandfather clock ○ Build: a Minecraft Grandfather Clock <p>Track: Work on Ecosystem Nature Journal. If you've been working on it regularly, share journals and discuss.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What parts of a food chain do you see? ○ If you see animals, are they predators or prey? ○ Do you notice anything that's changed from the last time you visited? Anything new? ○ What kinds of plants do you see? Is there evidence of anything trying to eat them? 	The Quoll Princess and the Beast	Play Chomp Card game

			<p>Add Pelicans to Tasmanian Animal Book (Optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Draw a Pelican from How2Draw Animals • How to Draw A Pelican from Ripon's Art 		
6	<i>Braver</i> Ch 5	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 4: Scavengers & Decomposers pp. 153-154	<p>Big night sky</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up and observe the night sky using Star Walk App • Make: Night Sky Watercolor Resist • Watch: How Light Pollution Affects the Night Sky • Read: an article on light pollution • Watch/Do: YouTube video of moon phases activity <p>Nocturnal Animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch: Animals at Night (cute for 9 and under) • Move: Try some nocturnal animal Yoga poses • Make: Nocturnal Animals Lapbook <p>Videos about Fires and Ecosystems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misconceptions and Benefits of Forest Fires (02:33) • Fighting Fire with Fire (5:29) • Formal Introduction to Fire Ecology - Upper Elementary and Up (7:58) 	The Tale of the Long Waddle	
7	<i>Braver</i> Chs 6-7	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 5: Relationships Among Living Things pp. 1156-157	<p>Watch: Living Ball Of Spikes (11:56) or Echidna World's Weirdest (2:05)</p> <p>Watch: How Wolves Change Rivers (4:11)</p> <p>Read: About the Short-beaked Echidna of Tasmania</p> <p>Recipes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acorn and Oatmeal Biscuits with Peppermint Tea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Substitute oat flour (grind oatmeal in a blender or food processor) for all purpose flour. ○ Use almond flour or any nut flour if you can't find acorn flour - you could even just use oat flour here. ○ Feel free to experiment with different flours ○ To make them more like the book, add 2 tsp cinnamon and use honey instead of sugar. ○ For extra fun, you could collect and make your 		

			<p>own acorn flour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create your own Swamp Soup. Let the kids get involved and write down your recipe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sautee onions and root vegetables to soften <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Options: carrot, parsnip, turnip, beet, celery, potato, etc ○ Once softened, add vegetable, bone, or meat broth as the soup base ○ (Optional) add any additional frozen, fresh or canned veggies or beans (peas, corn, green beans, diced tomatoes) ○ Add salt and any other seasonings, you can try adding some licorice root, but it's a bit sweet - make a tea out of it first, then add the tea to the soup. ○ Add a hardy green - Kale, spinach, or swiss chard work well ○ Add a handful of cheese and mix until melted before serving. <p>Winter Wheat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch: Is Hard, Red Winter the Only Class of Wheat? (4:21) A brief description of different kinds of wheat. ● Watch: Flour Classifications and Treatments (7:12) - Recommended for high interest or older students ● Watch: Winter Wheat 101 (3:31) ● Make: a favorite bread or biscuit recipe using different kinds of wheat - which is better? <p>Worker's Unions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch: What Are Unions and How do They Work (3:51) ● Watch: Workers and Labor Unions (6:00) - How Labor Unions began in the USA <p>Add Echidnas to Tasmanian Animal Book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to Draw and Echidna from Art Land 		
8	<i>Braver</i> Ch 8	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 22: Chaparral pp.	<p>Watch video about wetlands</p> <p>CATCH UP - Take time today to catch up on activities, follow different detours, spend more time with another subject or take</p>		

		156-157	a break		
9	<i>Braver</i> Ch 9	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 7: Biomes Around the World pp. 163-164	<p>Watch: This video about Fairy Penguins (15:02) or this shorter one (1:54)</p> <p>Adopt: a Little Penguin (Fairly Penguin) and find out more about them at the Penguin Foundation.</p> <p>Read: this article about Fairy Penguins</p> <p>Snack: Apples and Pears</p> <p>Detour Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find out more about Water Ribbon Roots ● Learn about Penguins from around the world ● Read this article about penguin feathers <p>Track: Work on Ecosystem Nature Journal. If you've been working on it regularly, share journals and discuss.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prompts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is anything decomposing in the ecosystem? ○ How have things changed from last time? ○ Is there something new you haven't noticed before? <p>Add Fairy Penguins to Tasmanian Animal Book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to Draw a Blue Penguin from Art for Kids Hub 	Song writing - about Food	
10	<i>Braver</i> Chs 10-11	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 29: Endangered Species pp. 248-250	<p>Read: about Long Tailed Mice</p> <p>Watch: This video (4:19) about Endangered Species</p> <p>Explore: The Photo ark - Find pictures of endangered animals from around the world.</p> <p>Recipe: Make a berry drink for Stella's Berry Brew - create your</p>	Tale of the Windswept Mice	Find out what species from <i>Braver</i> are endangered - What about local endangered species?

			own or use this recipe . Detour: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find Out more about currents and Eddys ● Paint or make mouse houses 		
11	<i>Braver</i> Ch 12	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 24: Seasonal Behaviors pp. 229-231	Watch: Animals with winter coats (4:29) and Getting Ready for Hibernation (3:46) Recipe: Corn chowder and Salad Greens - you can use 4-6 cups frozen corn or 3-4 cans of corn in place of fresh cobs in this recipe.		
12	<i>Braver</i> Chs 13-14	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 8: Grasslands pp. 169-171	Watch: This video (6:15) about albino animals, this video (3:16) showcasing some albino animals Read: this article about albino animals including some of their struggles in the wild.		
13	<i>Braver</i> Chs 15-16	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 26: Adaptation pp. 236-237	Read: This article to find out what a firehawk really is. Predators Try eating sunflower seeds Hot Air Balloon Wallaby (optional) Mountains? Track: Work on Ecosystem Nature Journal. If you've been working on it regularly, share journals and discuss.		
14	<i>Braver</i> Ch 17	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 23: Caves	More hot air balloon Coal Mining		

		pp. 224-225	Sky, flight, birds		
15	<i>Braver</i> Chs 18-19	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 15: Estuaries pp. 193-195	Platypus lost - Estuaries		“Mythological Elephant” Create a mythological creature
16	<i>Braver</i> Chs 20-21	<i>Ecosystems</i> Lesson 28: Man’s Impact on the Environment pp. 245-246	Pollution Working Conditions Palace		
17	<i>Braver</i> Ch 22	<i>Properties of Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 30: Pollution pp. 254-256	Can Queens retire? - order of succession Platter raw root veg, grapes, butter lettuce, winter wheat rolls, red radish, blue and yellow fish Pros and cons of progress (Man’s Impact) Trickle Down Economy Track: Work on Ecosystem Nature Journal. If you’ve been working on it regularly, share journals and discuss.		
18	<i>Braver</i> Ch 23	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 25: Animal Defenses pp. 233-234	The resistance Animal Defenses		Optional: Animal Defenses Game with Animals from Braver p.234 POE
19	<i>Braver</i>	<i>Properties of</i>	Read: this article about the different types of Pygmy Possums in		

	Ch 24-26	<i>Ecosystems</i> Lesson 32: Global Warming pp. 261-263	Australia Watch: this clip (4:05) about pygmy possums Add Pygmy Possums to Tasmanian Animal Book <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This article includes a fantastic drawing reference 		
20	<i>Braver</i> Ch 27	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 27: Balance of Nature pp. 239-241	Self Care/ Spa Day		
21	<i>Braver</i> Ch 28	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 6: Oxygen and Water Cycles pp. 159-160	The Power of Stories What stories have inspired you? What would make the train ok? Why does queen Myra say “we” Track: Work on Ecosystem Nature Journal. If you’ve been working on it regularly, share journals and discuss.		
22	<i>Braver</i> Chs 29-30	<i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> Lesson 31: Acid Rain pp. 258-259			
23	<i>Braver</i> Ch 31, Epilogue				
24	<i>FEAST</i>				

DAY				
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<https://a-z-animals.com/>

<https://parks.tas.gov.au/discovery-and-learning/wildlife/land-mammals>

<https://naturestudyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Australian-Animal-Track-and-Scat-Montessori-Cards.pdf>

<https://www.discovertasmania.com.au/about/animals-and-plants>

<https://us.www.mrswordsmith.com/products/storyteller-s-card-game>

ZOO FIELD TRIP

Things to watch:

- Disney's Wall E
- Rescuers Down Under

Other possibilities for Non Fiction

- [Conservation Masterclass by Dr. Jane Goodall](#) (\$15/mo subscription) 29 classes - just over one per day
- Rachel Carson

Tasmanian Animal Book

Ecosystem Nature Journal

Begins with lesson 1

Supplies Needed:

- Notebook or Sketchbook
- Pencil
- Recommended: Colored Pencils, or Watercolor (watercolor pencils or crayons and a water brush work well)
- Nature resource books or access to the internet

Did you know that you live in an ecosystem? Whether you live in the country or a high rise apartment, you're part of an ecosystem. Sit outside on a deck or take a walk around your property to see what plants and animals you can find. What things do the animals eat? Where do they live? How are they connected to other plants or animals you saw? Create a drawing and description of your observations in your nature journal. *(If you have children who hate drawing, you can still enjoy this activity. You can simply discuss what you found, use photographs, print pictures from online, or even make a digital journal.)*

Reference books or access to the internet might be helpful to find out more information about the plants and animals you found or to answer any questions that came up with. The right nature guide will depend on where you live.

You may choose to schedule this as a weekly time in your unit. Check on this ecosystem regularly to see if you notice any changes, or visit a new ecosystem (maybe a park or beach) each week to see what you discover.

If you're new to nature journaling, here are some fantastic resources to get you started:

- [The Homeschool Compass has a wonderful article](#) that will help you get started.
- Joy Cherrick is a fountain of knowledge when it comes to nature journaling. [This is a fantastic video](#) primer with more links in the video description.
- For more information on resources for nature journaling, you can read [this article](#) or watch [this video](#) for an in-depth look at supplies you can consider for your nature journal.
- **Just for fun!** [Marley Peifer](#) has a ton of great inspiration and resources for nature journaling. This is [an interview](#) with a homeschooled teen who has really made nature journaling a big part of her life. There are tips about doing nature journals with young kids, families, and teens. It's about 30 minutes long, but would be a great one to listen to or watch while doing chores around the house. (Check out [Marley's YouTube Channel](#))

Storytelling Writing Project

Small Writes

Tales of Tassie Island

Famous Tale Re-Write

Songs about Food (or something you're passionate about)

Origin Stories (Ch 3, p.21)

Rhyming Jingles (Ch 3)

Create a Mythical Creature (Chs 18-19)

Lola thought an elephant was a mythical creature - discuss what a mythical creature is, then draw your own mythical creature. Write the name of it and then write or tell about your creature.