

2020-2021 Embassy Adoption Program

West Education Campus, 4300 13th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011 <https://www.westschool.org/>

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West E.C. 5th grader teachers:

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DRAFT plan of Virtual School Lessons

(Oct 29) 10:30 to 11:30

1. Overview of Australia: history, culture, geography, plants, animals and Australia today

1 hour lesson consists of PowerPoint slides, unique animal images and sounds, videos, polls

Answer questions from students (chosen by teachers before the session or from students chat?).

(Nov 18) 9:30 to 10:30

2. Baking Live: Iconic Australian ANZAC biscuits during DCPS International Education Week

30 to 45 minutes (?) baking “show and tell” with Jo Smail, Senior Trade & Investment

Commissioner, Australian Embassy. What are ANZAC biscuits (aka bickies, aka cookies)? How do you make them? What is the tradition behind them?

Meet Military Attache, LCOL Berni White (and the ANZAC soldier bear) who will explain ANZAC Day, Mateship, and recount friendship between Australia & US during wars and peace times

Q&A with students (picked from chat?)

(Jan 15) 10:30 to 11:15

3. Unique Australian Animals: Live

45 minute zoom with the director of “Roos2U” rescue animal sanctuary (in Rockville) to meet and learn more about macropods and other unique Aussie animals with time for Q&A from students.

(alternative - meet the animals in person at West EC)

(Feb 20) 10:30 to 11:30

Indigenous Australian Culture

Presentation by Damien Miller, Minister Counsellor of Embassy’s Office of Communications and Public Diplomacy, to introduce students to Indigenous culture w/didgeridoo music, boomerangs and symbols from Dreamtime stories.

1. What does indigenous mean? Who is indigenous to Australia, similarities in America?
2. How did so many indigenous groups around Australia communicate? Explain origins and traditional uses of the boomerang with examples.
3. Discuss Dreamtime figures and stories. Using symbol charts sent home (or downloaded), show students how to decipher some of the messages, stories in traditional Aboriginal art.
4. Using paper, markers & symbols, have students tell their own stories (or design their own boomerangs?)

(March 17) 10:30 to 11:30

Lesson from down under: Problems and solutions to pollution on land, in the ocean and in the air

45 min: Teams presentation w/ video of struggling sea life (turtle YouTube) , solutions from 5th grade class in Australia (short video) and ABC teaching tools - Q&A chat w/ students

(April 9) 10:30 to 11:30

Visit with the National Aquarium's "Australia: Wild Extremes" staff and reptiles (in Baltimore)

45 min virtual meeting w/students hosted by National Aquarium "Australia: Wild Extremes" staff to meet the reptiles, talk about the effects of climate change on the ecosystems and answer to questions. (Alternative - field trip tickets and bus transport to/from Baltimore will be provided).

(May 26)

Mock United Nations Debates

Topic: debating climate change and environmental issues that affect Australia and the world

(June 16) 10:30 to 11:30

End of the year presentation by 5th graders (virtual or at Nat Geo building - TBA)