

Embedding Aboriginal perspectives into your National Tree Day event

for primary teachers

With National Tree Day coming up, there's no better time than now to make your event a 'deadly' one (in a good way, we promise).

Teaching Aboriginal perspectives should form a crucial part of your National Tree Day event, as caring for Country and sustainable land practices has been a part of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander cultures in Australia from the start of time here.

Fortunately, Planet Ark has teamed up with us at Deadly Ed to ensure all teachers and educators have the confidence, knowledge and resources to include Aboriginal perspectives across their National Tree Day initiatives.

Follow these free activities as outlined below, we have sorted into what to do before, during and after your National Tree Day event to ensure you and all your students have a 'deadly' learning experience!

DEADLY (definition)

In our mob, deadly doesn't mean dangerous. It means everything good, awesome, and wicked.

For more on National Tree Day, follow Planet Ark on Instagram & Facebook:

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IN THE LEAD UP TO NATIONAL TREE DAY

1. Introduce yarning circles to your classroom
2. Download and have your students complete our 'Yarning about Country in the Classroom' activities
3. Download our Native garden starter kit activity to teach your students about how First Nations cultures categorise native plants into these uses. Get them outside to find what native plants you may already have in your school and what categorise they might fit into
4. Have your students help plan what native plants they would like to plant for your National Tree Day event. To go a step further, you could map out sections for your space into categories
5. Think about inviting your local Aboriginal community in for your National Tree Day event. See this guide for respectfully communicating with Elders.

ON NATIONAL TREE DAY

1. Start your event with either you or a keen student to do an Acknowledgement of Country. If you haven't done so, develop your own here
2. To make your National Tree Day even more 'deadly', get your students to try some native foods in the form of a tasty native cordial during the lunch break.

ON NATIONAL TREE DAY (continued)

3. If you finish planting all of your plants early, get your students to do our [paper pots activity](#). That way they can grow their own native plant at home!

AFTER NATIONAL TREE DAY

1. Download and have your students complete our [Plant ID lesson](#)
2. Be sure to checkout our [school cultural immersions](#) as another way we can support you by coming out to your school and getting every student learning more about our Aboriginal cultures!
3. Grab a Bluetooth speaker and head back out to your new garden space (on a nice day). Get students back into a yarning circle and participate in a mindfulness activity of closing their eyes and listening along to a [Dreamy Sleep story](#). Ask students to connect the story they listened to back to their new space
4. To continue your students learning of connecting with country, including the history & significance of a Welcome to Country and acknowledging country, watch this [video](#) from Back to Nature