

# ADOPT-A-PATCH

## Ideas for your Adopt-A-Patch and Outdoor Classroom Day

Starting your Adopt-A-Patch is as easy as getting as many classes as you can to do one outdoor activity. This year, Outdoor Classroom Day is being held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November but your school can choose any day. This resource aims to provide you with some ideas that you may like to do in your Adopt-A-Patch For more information and other great resources and ideas, see <https://outdoorclassroomday.com/resources/>.

Activity	Description/Ideas	Differentiation
Visit your outdoor classroom	Go outside and explore your school grounds. Focus on one aspect of nature. Adopting a patch starts with choosing an area that you can monitor and improve in some way.	Allow some free exploration time for students to show you what they are interested in eg trees, plants, insects, birds.
English Writing (Narrative)	Students write a narrative from the point of view of an animal such as a cockatoo or quenda, or even a plant! Use tree template or cockatoo template (provided in following pages).	Provide a scaffolded sheet with story prompts such as key words and starting sentences.
English Writing (Journal)	Journal what they observe / how they feel / what you can do in your Adopt-A-Patch	Students unable to write can draw pictures either as a story board.
Design & Technology or STE(A)M Design and/or build an insect hotel	Students use upcycled materials to create a native insect hotel eg cans, straws, cardboard, bamboo  Note: consider placement of hotels (impacts of weather and student traffic).	Group work or individual work.  Extension: Students research native bees and their preferences eg. Blue-banded bee colours and size of holes.
HASS Geography & Civics and Citizenship Community  Digital Technologies	How is the Adopt-A-Patch area significant to your students? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Observe Natural, managed and constructed environments.</li><li>o Places and our connection to them.</li><li>o The Noongar six seasons and what season we are currently in based on observations of the bush.</li></ul>	Extension: Students create a Powerpoint sharing their observations/findings. to classmates or a buddy class. If available, students work in pairs to use class iPads to create a Piccollage or Chatterpix addressing one of the above points.
Science HASS Mathematics Writing Rubbish Collection	Conduct a rubbish pickup in the Adopt-A-Patch. Talk to the City of Kalamunda if you need 'grabbers' or rubbish bags.  Discuss the impact of rubbish on the bush and how it makes students feel.	Extension: Students could conduct a waste audit, sort and count the items into categories. Work out what items can/can't be recycled. They can create a Graph illustrating the quantities of each category of rubbish.



Activity	Description/Ideas	Differentiation
Science Mathematics- Measurement	Transpiration activity: students tie a bag to a tree/plant branch and measure water collected over a period of time.	Extension: students can compare transpiration between different plant types noting size, shape, thickness and other characteristics of the leaves.
Mathematics Measurement	Practice estimating then measuring different heights of plants and circumference of tree trunks.	Extension: work out a way to estimate the height of a tree.
Science HASS Research/ Inquiry Skills	Can you find evidence of animals eg feathers, scats, tracks. Research what animals are endemic to the area and what students have observed.	
Art	Create a drawing or watercolour artwork illustrating their favourite part of the Adopt-A-Patch bush.	Consider the Noongar season and colour used to represent that time of the year.
Art	Clay activity – create a tile. Use nature objects to create texture eg. honkey nut, Sheoak nut, branch, leaf etc.	Label the tile with species name

### Brain Break and mindfulness ideas:

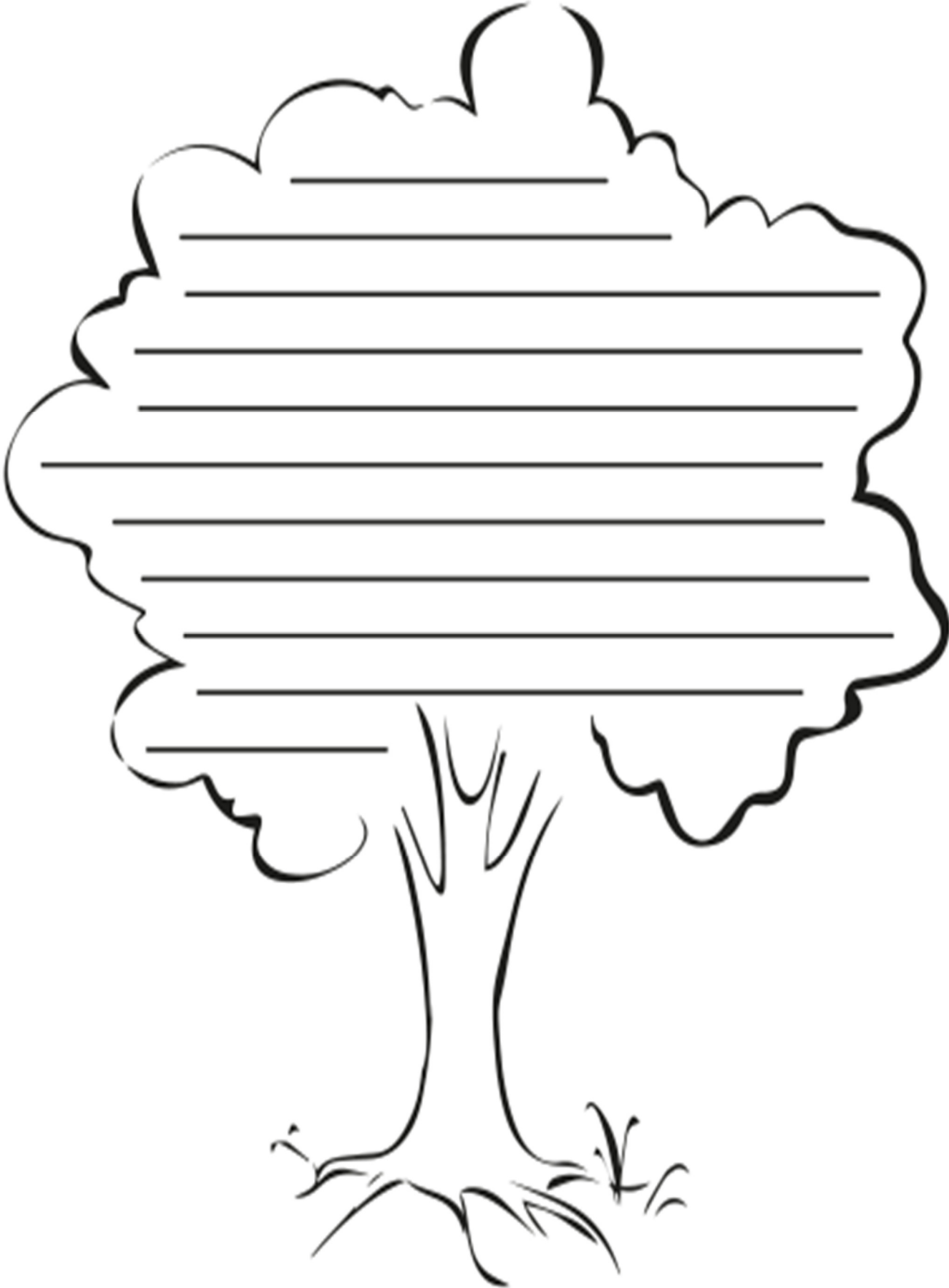
- Visit the Adopt-A-Patch bush and then compare it to another school space such as the playground and the different environments.
- Walk through your Adopt-A-Patch or bush area observing and listening to the sounds.
- Rubbish collection – help the environment. Reduce the impact that waste can have on the Adopt-A-Patch.
- Watering – if there hasn't been much rain, students could fill their water bottle and water recently planted plants in their Adopt-A-Patch bush.
- Weeding – hand weeding the area where the new plants are is imperative to helping their survival. Focus on ONE weed to ensure only weeds are removed.
- Visit any revegetation and repair/replace stakes with sticks and/or place rocks around the plants to indicate they are new.
- Students could create a poster or Piccollage about looking after the bush, and the importance of their Adopt-A-Patch. It could include encouraging others to not litter, be careful of vegetation or native animals or the current Noongar season.

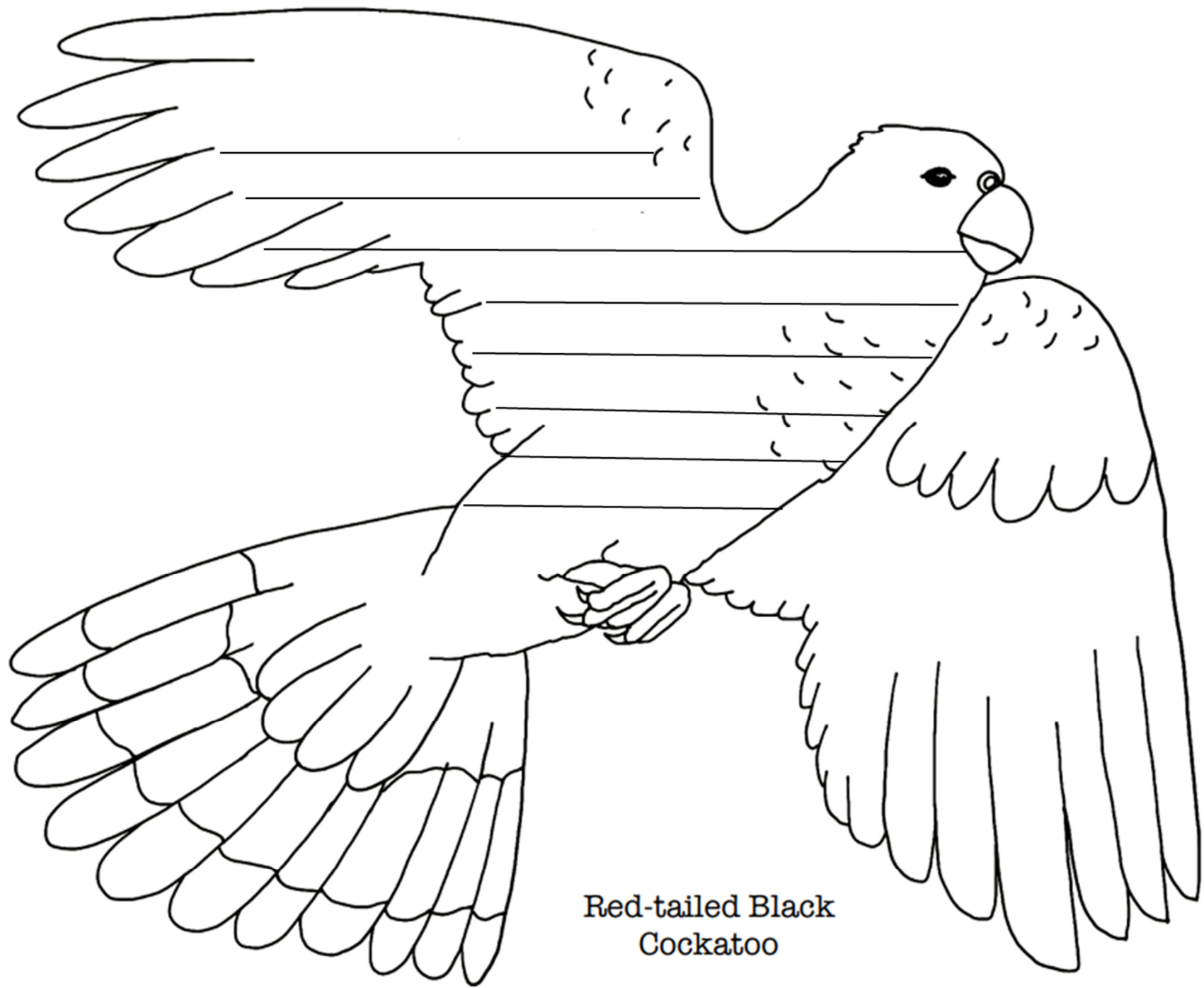
See below pages for a tree or cockatoo template that may assist with writing inspiration.

For any more information about Adopt-A-Patch, please contact Michelle Taylor, Environmental Education and Engagement Officer at [michelle.taylor@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:michelle.taylor@kalamunda.wa.gov.au).



APPENDIX: Tree template





Red-tailed Black  
Cockatoo