



YEAR:

5-6



ADVENTURE · STORIES · CULTURE



# Official Student Journal

Year 5-6

NAME:

Dear teachers and students,

Hello and welcome to the Official Student Journal. We're most likely riding along somewhere by the time you get your hands on this. Hopefully we have a tail-wind and a downhill run into a gorgeous campsite!

Anyway, we had a lot of trouble coming up with a name for this workbook. It turns out to be not super 'official' and not really a 'journal'. But, it's definitely for students (you). That part of the title is accurate. And another major upside to it is that it's freely available to all teachers and students with or without a Swag Family classroom subscription.

It has been created to be used on its own or alongside the Explore Your Corner or Create Your Own Adventure units. It's a grab bag of individual, group and class activities that you might enjoy. It's not supported by detailed teaching notes or curriculum links. In a mischievous adventure sort of way, we're just handing it over and seeing what you make of it.

Over to you....

Yours adventurously,

The Swag Family

## Adventure

Using the letters of adventure write and/or draw one word that has something to do with adventure and why. E.g. A is for apple (a good food for adventure).

**A**

**D**

**V**

**E**

**N**

**T**

**U**

**R**

**E**

## Where is the Swag Family expedition now?

Mark on the map where your school is, the closest city or town to you and where the Swag Family is now. *Track their journey throughout the year.*



### Have you seen:

AIATSIS map - Indigenous Australia:  
<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/aiatsis-map-indigenous-australia>

## Animal diary

During the expedition the Swag Family will be uncovering, stumbling over, coming face to face with all sorts of amazing animals from across Australia. Create a diary of Australian animals that you spot in the regular **'Biology'** posts or through your own research.

Animal						
Habitat						
Interesting Facts						






## Plant Diary

During the expedition the Swag Family will be passing by, discovering, taste testing (some), and asking the locals about all sorts of plants from across Australia. Create a diary of Australian plants that you spot in the regular **'Biology'** posts or through your own research.

Plant						
Habitat						
Interesting Facts						

## Weather Watch

Write or draw your answers.

 <p>What does it <b>LOOK</b> like outside? (rain/sun/clouds)</p>	
 <p>What does the air <b>FEEL</b> like on your skin?</p>	
 <p>What do we <b>HEAR</b>?</p>	
 <p>What does it <b>SMELL</b> like outside?</p>	
 <p>What should we <b>WEAR</b> on a day like today?</p>	

The Swag Family will be regularly talking about the weather in their bi-weekly reports throughout the expedition. Record your own weather observations for up to 5 different days in the table below and compare it to the Swag Family weather.

<b>Day</b>			
<b>My Weather</b>			
<b>Swag Family Weather</b>			

<b>Day</b>			
<b>My Weather</b>			
<b>Swag Family Weather</b>			

**Check out:**

- The Bureau of Meteorology Indigenous Weather Knowledge section - <http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/>
- Torres Strait Islander seasons - <https://www.crackerjackeducation.com.au/resources/torres-strait-islands-weather-seasons-wheel/>
- Behind the News: Indigenous seasons report <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4761972.htm>

**ABC Podcast for kids: Imagine This**

This is a great resource with all sorts of short podcasts made for kids. Here is one we like -

*Why does rain only come from grey clouds?* <https://www.abc.net.au/kidslisten/imagine-this/why-does-rain-only-come-from-grey-clouds/10199488>



## Ride my way

As the Swag Family ride around this vast landscape they will discover stories from far and wide - stories of and from the interesting, remarkable and everyday people of Australia.

Search the Swag Family **'Stories'** Posts for someone you find interesting

**Who were they?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Where are they from?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Something interesting from their story?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**What surprised you?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**What question would you have asked?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Your Interview:

Conduct your own interview with someone (it might be your grandmother, the local shopkeeper, historian or groundsman) who can share stories from the past about the place where you live. You could ask them the Swag Family questions or design your own. You might want to video or audio record your interview - but remember to ask permission first! *Share the best bits of your interviews on the discussion board (for subscribed classes).*

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where are they from? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Your questions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar of special events

A year is a long time and there will be important dates to celebrate across Australia and in your local area. As the Swag Family travel around they'll be recognising the following important dates:

### **Clean up Australia Day - Sunday 3 March 2019**

<https://www.cleanup.org.au/>

### **Ride to School Day - Friday 22 March 2019**

<https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/rides-and-events/ride2school/>

### **National Reconciliation Week - 27 May - 3 June 2019**

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/>

### **NAIDOC Week - 7- 14 July 2019**

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/get-involved/2019-theme>

### **Plastic Free July**

<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

### **Outdoor Classroom day - Thursday 7 November 2019**

<https://outdoorclassroomday.com.au/>

*Let us know if your class is doing anything special to mark these dates and share it with us on the discussion board.*

**Discussion Post:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Swag Family Adventure Glossary

Build a glossary of words that you come across during the expedition.

Word	Meaning



## **STEM CHALLENGE #1**

### **Design Your Own Tent**

A year in a tent will pit the Swag Family against all the elements of the Australian outdoors: torrential rain, hurtling hail, blazing sunshine, freezing nights and fierce winds to name a few. Your challenge is to design a mini tent that you think can handle the Australian elements.

**Natural elements that my tent needs to withstand:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Materials I will use:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**My Tent Design:**

## **STEM CHALLENGE #1**

### **Design Your Own Tent (continued)**

A year in a tent will pit the Swag Family against all the elements of the Australian outdoors: torrential rain, hurtling hail, blazing sunshine, freezing nights and fierce winds to name a few. Your challenge is to design a mini tent that you think can handle the Australian elements.

**Testing process: (how will you test your tent?):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**How did your tent go against the natural elements?:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**What would you change about your tent?:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **STEM CHALLENGE #2**

### **Build your own Bio Water Filter**

Source: Water Filtration (adapted from Scott Foresman, Discover the Wonder)

**Outcome:** Students will understand the importance of clean water for healthy living and how the land managers work to ensure we have enough clean water to grow food and use in our homes and workplaces. This experiment brings awareness of the important role plants play in cleaning our water and why a healthy catchment is about the land the water runs through just as much as the waterway.

#### **Materials:**

- Clear plastic containers or cups (2 per group)
- About 4 litres of dirty water (you can just mix water with potting soil)
- About ten two litre bottles cut in half (you may choose to cut them beforehand) (one per group)
- Gravel and sand (the soil plants grow in)
- Charcoal (explain how plants are carbon based lifeforms)
- Cotton balls (acts as 'transpiration' through plants leaves, in this model)
- Rulers

Display the 4 litres of dirty water at the front of the class. Tell the students that they are to design a prototype of a water filter to solve the problem of the dirty water using only the materials displayed.

**Problem:** You have dirty water which needs to be cleaned.

**Solution:** Design and build a water filter out of the materials presented.

#### **Procedure:**

1. Allow your water sample to settle undisturbed while you are following the other directions.
2. Cut your bottle nearly in half so that the bottom part is slightly bigger than the top part. Keep the bottom of the bottle to use in step 7.
3. Put a layer of cotton about 3 cm thick into the neck of the bottle. The cotton should fill the narrow part of the neck and go just past the part where the bottle widens.
4. Put a layer of charcoal about 1 cm thick on top of the cotton.
5. Put a layer of gravel about 3 cm thick on top of the charcoal.
6. Put a layer of sand about 3 cm thick on top of the gravel.
7. Place the neck of the bottle over the bottom of the bottle you put aside in step 2.
8. Look at your container of water. Is there some dirt floating on the top or some sediment stuck on the bottom? Skim whatever you can off of the top with a spoon and discard. Leave the sediment alone.
9. Pour the rest of the water into a plastic cup. Leave any sediment behind in the first container.
10. Take the water in the plastic cup and slowly pour it through your filter. You may pour it through the filter as many times as you wish.



### **STEM CHALLENGE #3**

#### **Water Soaks (Outside Learning)**

Find out which areas in your school grounds are good at soaking up water. Explore your school grounds for the areas listed below. Use your drink bottle and observe what happens when water (raindrops) hits the ground in these areas.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Observation</b>
<b>Grassy slope</b>	
<b>Hard bare slope where people walk</b>	
<b>Mulch or moist leaf litter</b>	
<b>Garden bed</b>	
<b>Low growing plants, ground cover</b>	
<b>Concrete/asphalt/bricks</b>	
<b>Your own - describe</b>	

Source: Our Land, Landcare Activities for upper primary, Dept of Conservation, Forests and Lands, Victoria, 1989.

## **STEM CHALLENGE #4**

### **SOLAR COOKER (Outside Learning)**

**How can you cook your food without a microwave or an oven... The Swag family will use a Trangia and open fire - but is there another way?**

The matches have run out!! Luckily, hiding in the bottom of the pannier, behind the pocket knife and under a smelly sleeping bag is something special. Tucked in there are just FOUR marshmallows. Your challenge is to build a solar oven to help the Swag Family cook them. They'd love a treat of a crispy-skinned marshmallow each!

**Question:** What design elements make a good solar oven?

**Hypothesis (prediction):** Changing ..... will make the solar oven cook a marshmallow faster.

**Suggested equipment:** Foil tray, aluminium foil, cardboard box (pizza box), scissors, glad wrap, sticky tape.

**Suggested procedure:**

- Work in small groups and sketch a design for a solar oven. Consider how large to make it, what materials, if you have a door, how it will be positioned.
- Build the solar oven.
- As a class bring all the different solar ovens together and make predictions about which will cook a marshmallow fastest. How will you measure this?
- Place ovens in the sun and position for optimal performance.
- At exactly the same time place a marshmallow in each oven and start a timer.
- Remove marshmallows at exactly the same time.
- Measure how well cooked the marshmallows are. What measures will you use? Record the results in a table.

**The thing we have changed in our experiment is:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Results:** (Create a table to record your results).

**Discussion:** (What do the results mean for your hypothesis?) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Conclusion:** (Was this a fair test? How could it be improved? What did you learn?): \_\_\_\_\_

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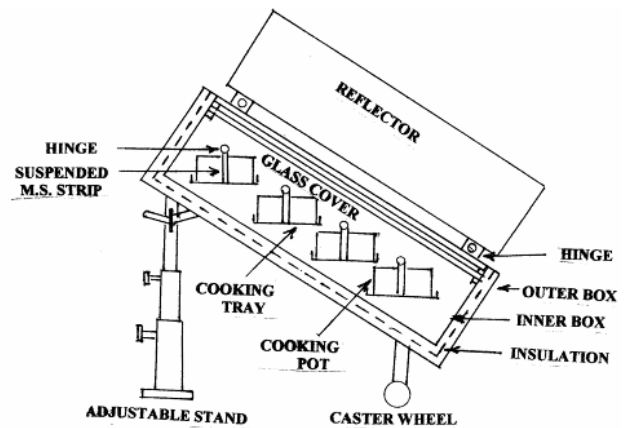
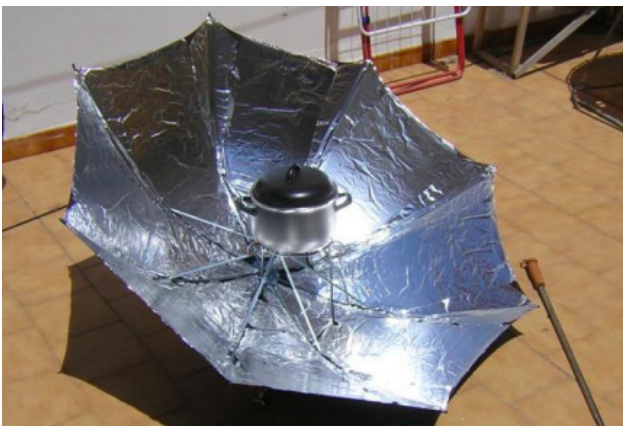
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### Solar oven design ideas

[www.solarcooking.org/plans/](http://www.solarcooking.org/plans/)



## **STEM CHALLENGE #5**

### **NATURE PLAY CHALLENGES (Outside Learning)**

The Swag Family will need to think outside the box and use the things they find to keep the kids busy and learning on the road. Here are a few ideas we could use from **Nature. Be In It.** Do you have any more ideas for outside learning and play? If so, share them on the discussion board AND how you went with these challenges.

1. Build mini or large bird nests. Nests have a shallow cup on the top, lined with fresh twigs and leaves.
2. Make paper planes and see whose can travel the furthest, modify shape and size.
3. Lay down under a tree or on the grass and look up - count clouds, make cloud creatures.
4. Bring a story book on eagles or birds to read out loud to the group(s).
5. Build cubbies with found sticks.
6. Close your eyes and listen to all the different sounds you can hear in 2-3 minutes of silence. Act out those sounds and play charades.
7. Create out of mud if there is any.
8. Go on a bug hunt with magnifying glasses brought from school. Observe closely what you find. How many legs? Colours?
9. Sketch, draw record the bugs / leaves / trees / birds you see.
10. Play nature games. Search "nature games for kids" and choose your favourite. We like bingo or treasure hunts (bring a paper bag each for the group with a list of non-living items to find stapled to the outside.) A Treasure hunt sheet is included below.

**By Naturebeinit.com**

**Nature.  
Be in It.**

## Ecological Detective

A living thing that is growing. \_\_\_\_\_

Something that has changed. \_\_\_\_\_

Something that is non-living. \_\_\_\_\_

Something that is impossible to count. \_\_\_\_\_

Something you can't photograph. \_\_\_\_\_

A natural thing that could be used as a tool. \_\_\_\_\_

Something that shouldn't be there. \_\_\_\_\_

Something that won't be there in 100 years. \_\_\_\_\_

Something that is white. \_\_\_\_\_ yellow \_\_\_\_\_

Something with a cross symbol on it. *Collect it.*

A leaf larger than your hand laying on the ground. *Collect it.*

A fungi. What colour is it? \_\_\_\_\_ Does it smell? \_\_\_\_\_

By [Naturebeinit.com](http://Naturebeinit.com)

**Nature.  
Be in It.**

Swag Family Student Workbooks and Teacher Guides

Published by Adventure Learning Australia and the Bookend Trust, 2019 ©.

Content created by Adventure Learning Australia and Kara Spence Consulting.

Front and rear cover design by Patrick Badger Creative.

Other layout and design by Andrew McRae.

This workbook is best used by following the Swag Family expedition in 2019.

[www.swagfamily.com.au](http://www.swagfamily.com.au)

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Special thanks to Kara Spence who has brought in ideas from her Nature. Be In It. program for our benefit. Also a big thanks to Rebecca Skeers at Webmistress and Patrick Badger Creative for generous support with design and website wonders. And high fives to teachers Sam Judd and Clare Stewart who donated their time to proofread and make suggestions.

This resource is made freely available to all Tasmanian Government schools thanks to the Tasmanian Department of Education. Find out more about the other organisations and individuals that have generously helped us make this adventure possible on the Swag Family website. We've worked hard to make this resource accurate and user friendly, but for the inevitable mistakes that remain we apologise in advance. To the teachers who introduce this adventure to their students, and to the students who take up the challenge, a very big thank you.



2019



[swagfamily.com.au](http://swagfamily.com.au)

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