



WE ARE ALL COOKS RIVER PEOPLE

NAME

CLASS

Kindergarten Student Workbook



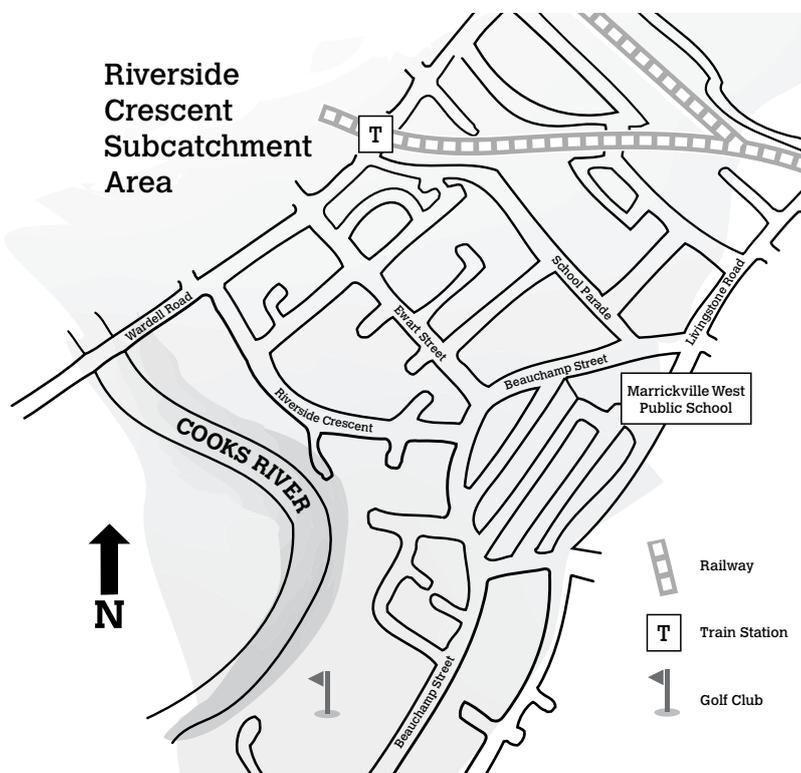
We are all COOKS RIVER PEOPLE

THE UNIT

Marrickville West Public School is a land user in the River Crescent Subcatchment area for the Cooks River (Diagram 1). The Riverside Crescent Subcatchment is in Marrickville South in the south-western part of the Marrickville local government area.

As a land user in the subcatchment, Marrickville West has a relationship with the Cooks River. This relationship is one that is worthy of educational focus. To this end a unit of work, **We are all Cooks River People**, has been developed to reflect, to explore, to develop skills, knowledge and understandings about living and working in the subcatchment area of the Cooks River.

We are all Cooks River People is a HISE, Science & Technology unit but is designed to be integrated into PDHPE, Creative Arts, Mathematics and English unit aligned to the NSW Board of Studies syllabus Outcomes. The unit has also been designed to be implemented over ten weeks (one school term) at Marrickville West Public School. The unit is flexible enough to be shortened if required.



The unit is a sequence of seven key indicators:

- Describe a personal relationship with the Cooks River
- Recount the history of the Cooks River
- Understand a water system
- Describe the biodiversity of the Cooks River
- Understand water quality
- Rehabilitate a damaged water system
- Plan for a sustainable future



We are all
**COOKS RIVER
PEOPLE**

Design of Unit

Information about the Cooks River, its history and environmental issues, is immense and detailed. The unit of work presents a slight portion of this information and is presented in a way to give students a sense of the relationship that they have with the river. It is designed to enable teachers, students and the community to enter into learning about the topic with a sequence of specific activities and resources.

The activities presented in this unit are fully supported in the classroom with teacher directed lessons, hands on activities and whole class and group discussions. Teachers are encouraged to enrich the activities with personal skill and expertise. Hands on science lessons, excursions to the Cooks River, mural painting, guest speakers, mathematical data collection, wikis, story writing are a few ways to embrace this unit in the classroom.

The unit will be published electronically to allow teachers to modify, adapt and innovate learning activities relevant to demographics of a particular class group.

The unit has been planned in collaboration between teachers from Marrickville West Public School, the Committee of Walking on Water (WOW) and consultants from Marrickville Council.

Background

In 2011 Marrickville West Public School was approached by the Committee of Walking on Water (WOW). WOW wanted the Marrickville West Public School community to develop an understanding of the Riverside Crescent Subcatchment water cycle and its relationship and impact on the Cooks River.

Also occurring at Marrickville West Public School was a collaboration with the school, Marrickville Council and the Community Gardeners to build a rain garden on school land. The rain garden, to be constructed later in 2012, will filter out pollution in stormwater runoff from the Henson Street area that normally ends up in the Cooks River. The water will be stored in a tank to use on the school's land and community garden.

The decision was made to integrate into the school curriculum the two initiatives from WOW and Marrickville Council. A collaborative meeting involving the school, WOW and the council involved a sharing of ideas about content and activities for the curriculum and included the naming of the unit, We are all a Cooks River People. This ten week unit will be implemented in Term 3.

A highlight of the unit of work will be a water festival at Marrickville West Public School towards the end of Term 3. This will be organised by WOW and involve the students sharing learning including art and projects. The festival will also be a time to launch the rainwater garden.

Special Thanks to...

Damien Moran Co-ordinator

Softly Dunstan Designer

Leann Thomas artist & photography on cover www.leanne1966.wordpress.com

Nicholas Nicola lithograph at top of each page www.nicholasnicolaetchings.synthasite.com

Marrickville Council

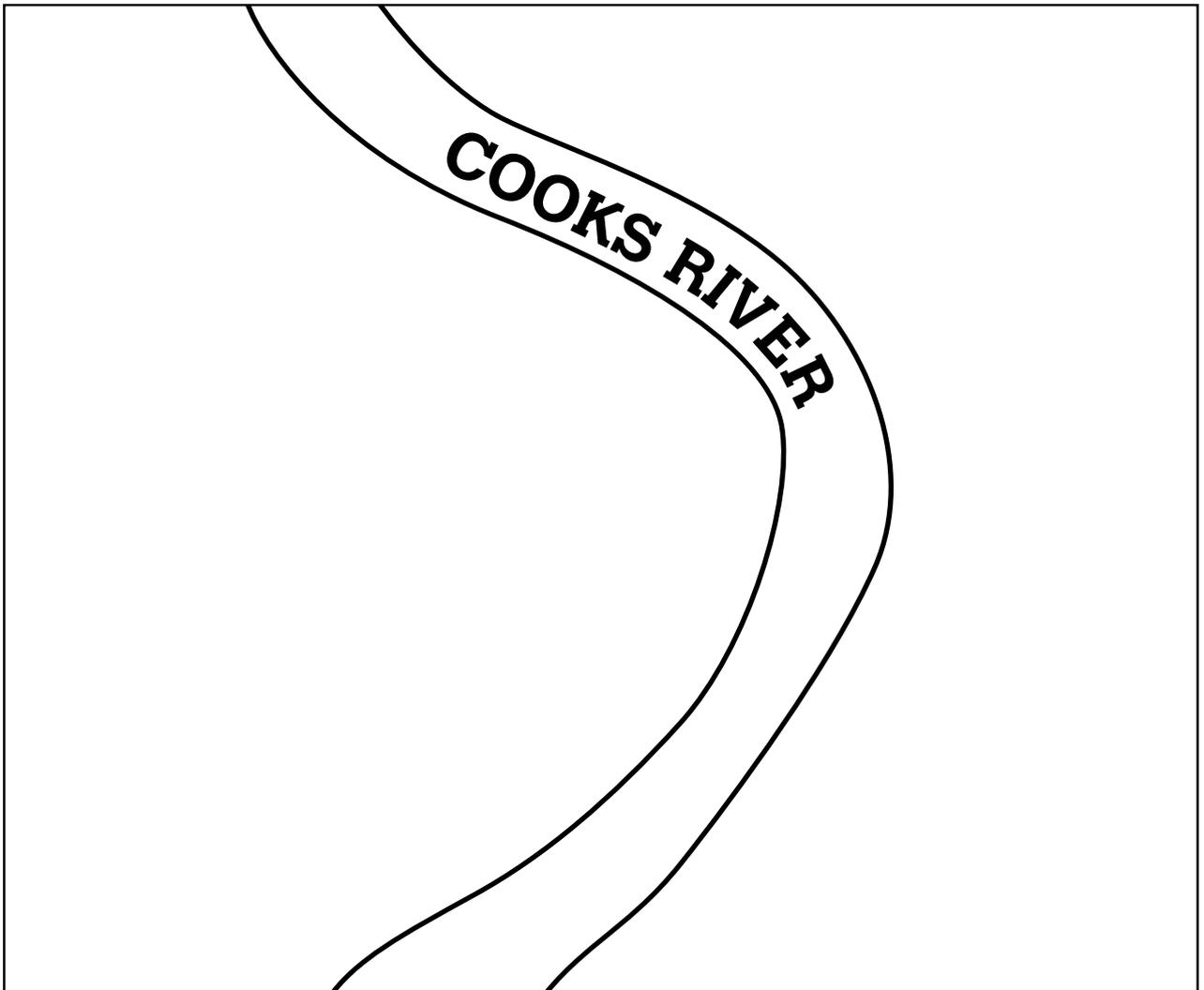
Project WOW – Walking on Water



1. ACTIVITY ONE

Describe a personal relationship with the Cooks River

There are many things to do on the Cooks River.



-  On the map draw:
- A cycle path to follow along the riverbank
 - A soccer field

-  Use the Cutting Page to:
- paste on the cyclist & the jogger
 - paste on the soccer players

Then:

- Choose somewhere for the coffee shop & picnic and paste on the pictures.

Enjoy the Cooks River!



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2. ACTIVITY TWO

Recount the history of the Cooks River

Cooks River is also called the River of Goolay'yari from the Pelican Dreamtime Story. In the story the Pelican stepped across the river and left his footprint – the small island near the rail bridge at Tempe which once formed the shape of a Pelican footprint.



A pelican footprint

 Draw and colour an island in the shape of a pelican footprint.



Australian families, the Cadigal & Wangal people, have lived close to the Cooks River for thousands of years. They depended on the river for work and leisure. It was their home.

 Copy the symbols.


footprints


camp site


person

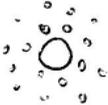

spirit ancestor


fish


boomerang


journey path


canoe


water hole



England invaded Australia in 1788. The English were here to stay and gave new names for much of what they saw. The River of Goolay'yari was renamed the Cooks River after Captain Cook.

The English had come to stay and started to expand.

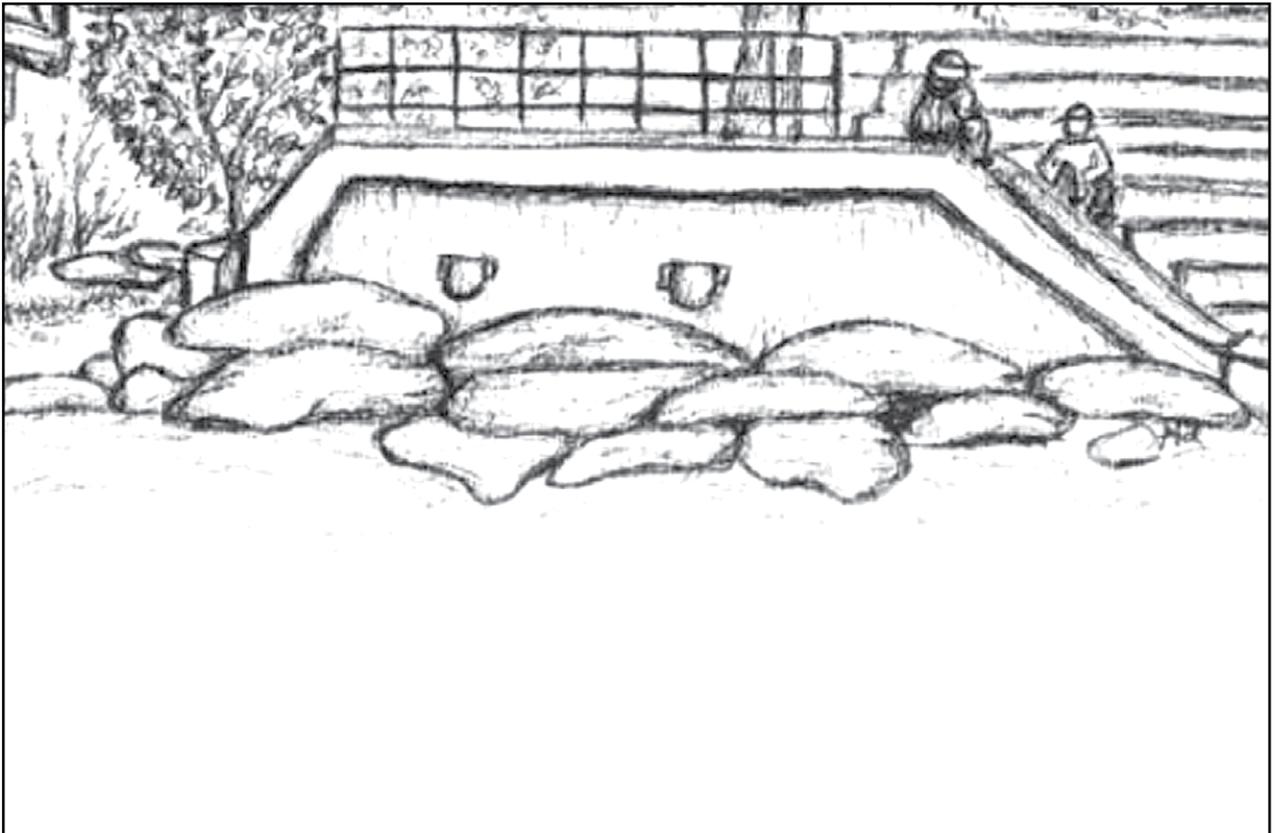
In 1810 the English would go to the Cooks River near Tempe to have picnics, to go boating and to get timber. You could even swim in the river.

 Draw people having picnics, on boats and swimming at the river.



As Sydney became a city the natural environment gave way to the expanding city.

Factories were built along the Cooks River. They badly polluted the river. Concreting of the river banks occurred in the 1940's.



 Draw and colour the polluted water from a factory pouring out pipes into the river.

Over recent years efforts have been made to care for the Cooks River. The condition of the river has considerably improved. Today about 500 000 people live in the Cooks River Catchment area.

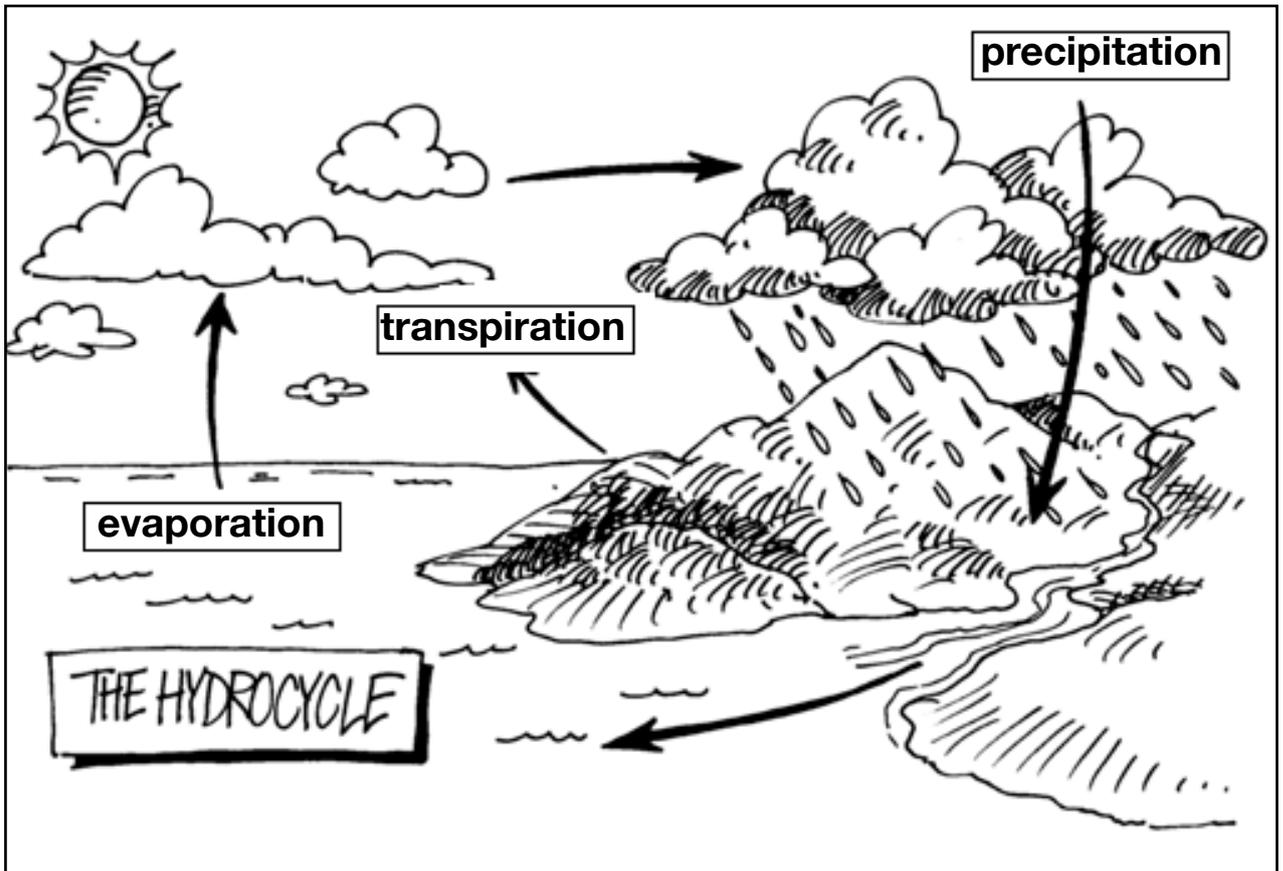
Enjoy the Cooks River!



3. ACTIVITY THREE

Understand a water system

The Water Cycle is the journey water takes from the land to the sky and back again.

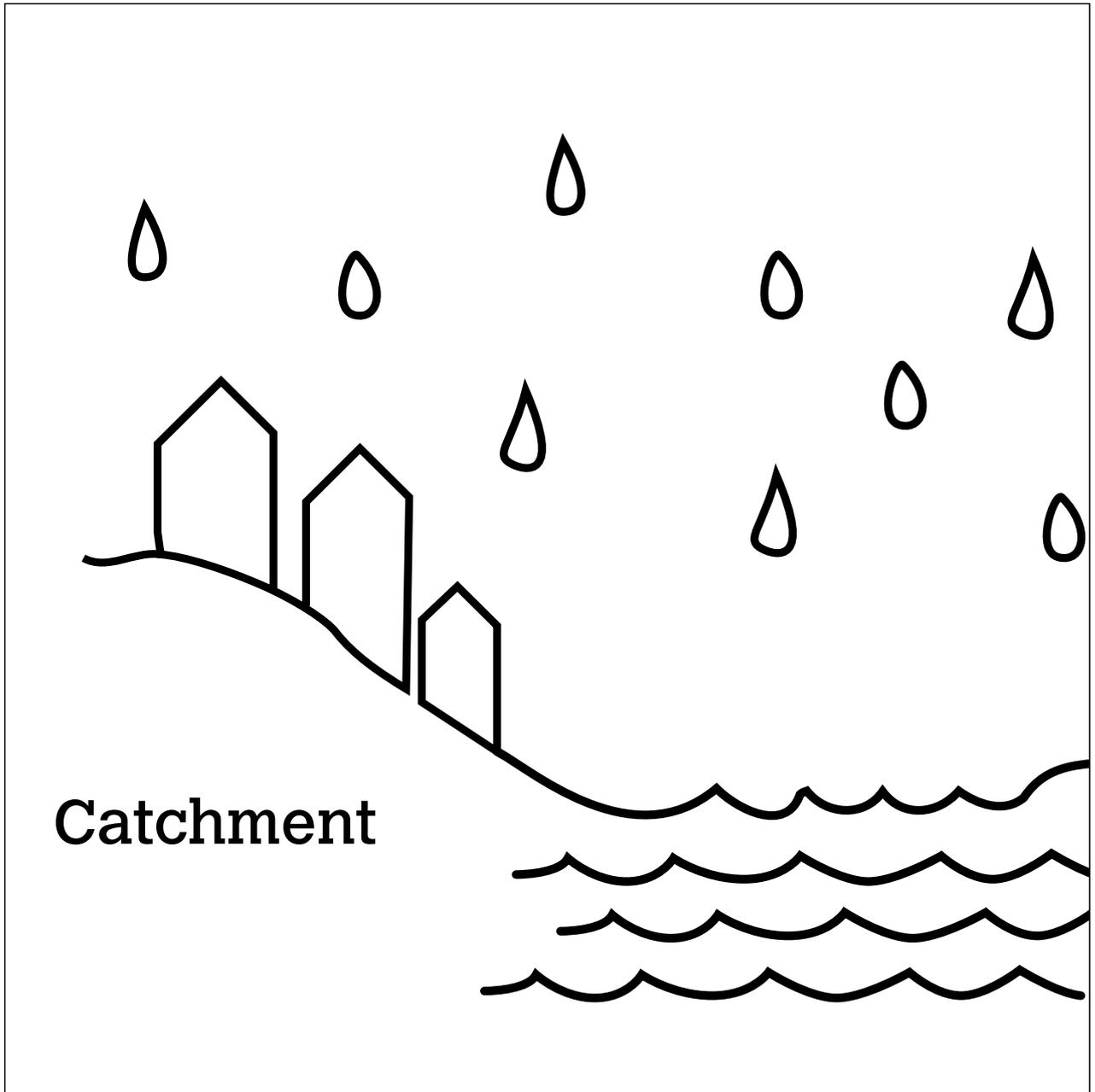


 Colour in the Water Cycle.



What is a catchment area?

A river is like a baseball player. It catches water from the land.



 Colour the river: dark blue

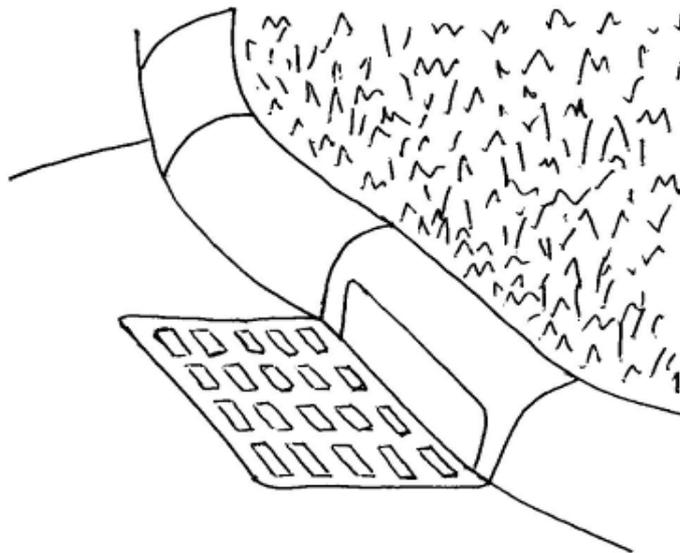
 Colour the catchment area for the river: light blue

 Draw an arrow to show how the water travels from the catchment area to the river.



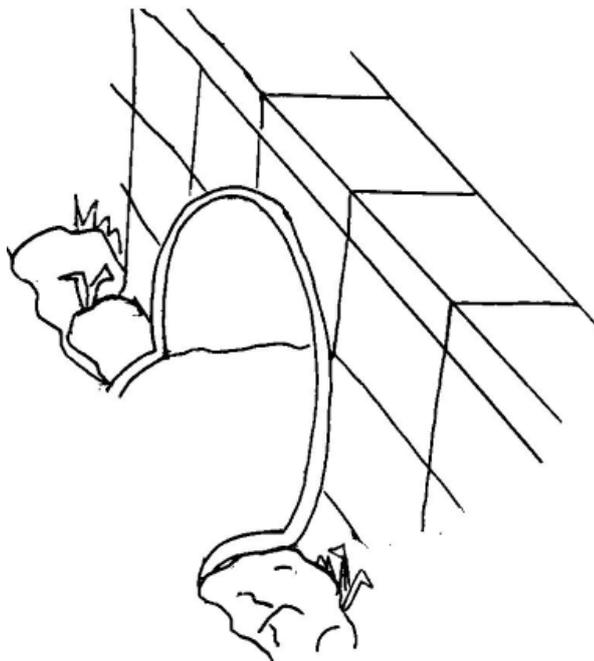
When rain falls over your house, how does it get to the river?
It flows into the gutter, down a drain, along a pipe and into the river.

From street:



 Draw water flowing along the gutter and into the drain (storm water pipe).

To river:



 Draw water flowing out of the drain (storm water pipe) and into the river.

Enjoy the Cooks River!



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4 ACTIVITY FOUR

Describe the biodiversity of the Cooks River

**Biodiversity is the variety of life in the world
or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.**



www.savenature.org



 Use the Internet to find images of biodiversity on the Cooks River.

Grey Headed Flying Fox

Eastern Bentwing Bat

Green & Golden Bell Frog

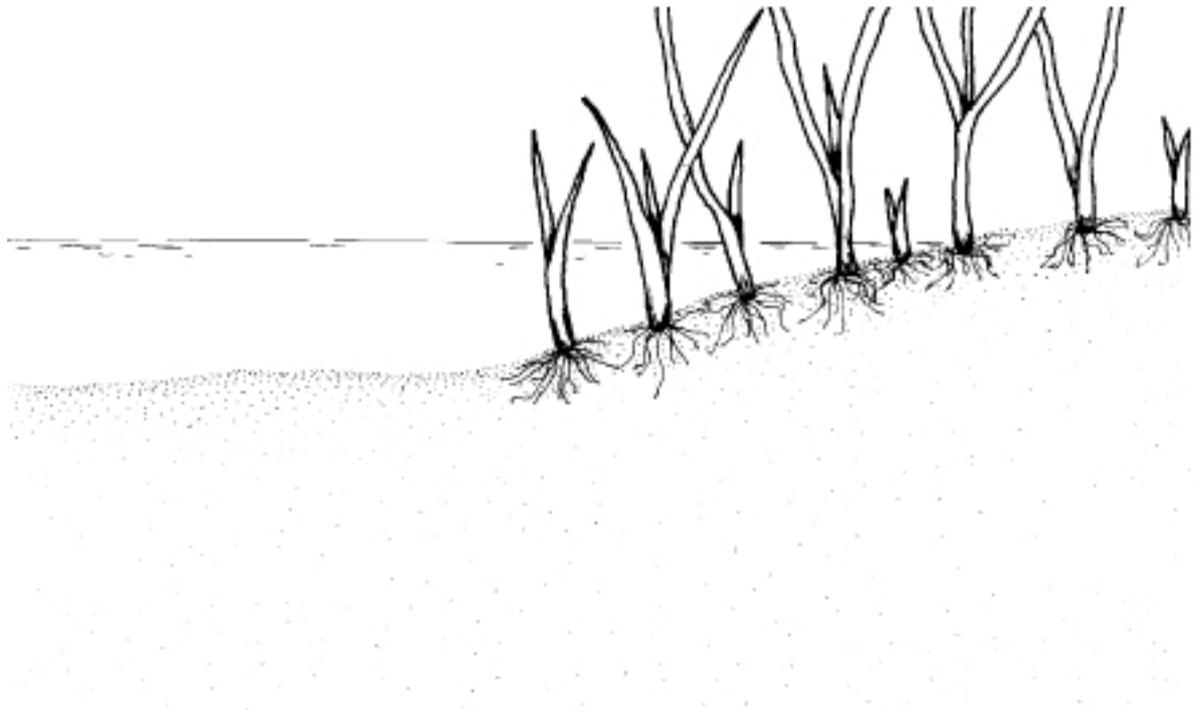


A salt marsh is the area of the river where the fresh water meets the salty water from the sea.



Once people thought saltmarshes were waste areas: smelly, dirty and of no use. They would destroy them believing them to be worthless!

During high tide the saltmarsh gets covered with salt water. The plants that live in a salt marsh need to be able to live in the salt.



On the next page, complete the activity using the Cutting Page:

Complete the picture of the salt marsh by:

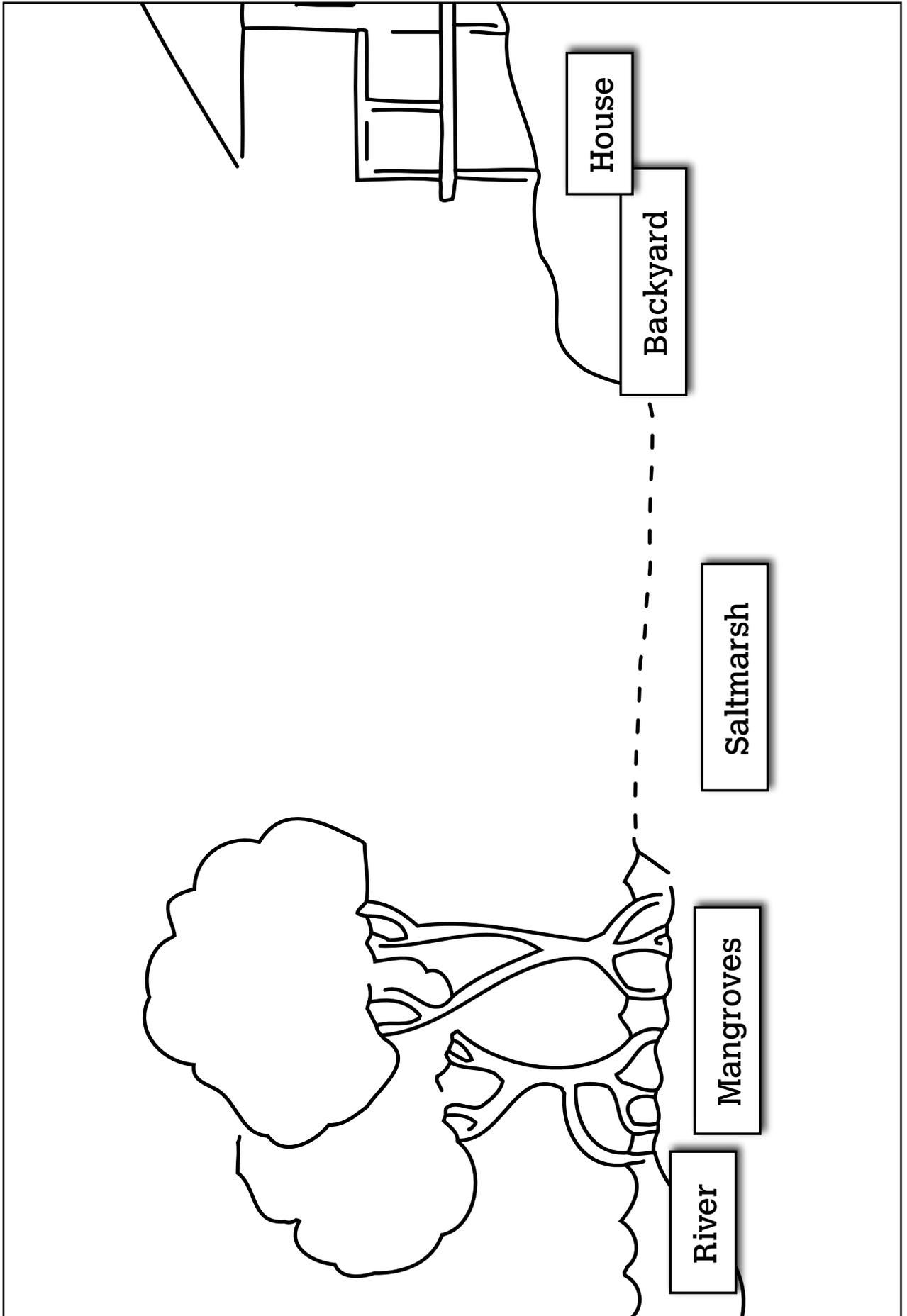
 Cutting out and pasting the flora and fauna (or copy them)

 Draw some native plants in the back yard of the house

 Draw the salty water of high tide covering the saltmarsh

 Colour neatly.

Enjoy the Cooks River!





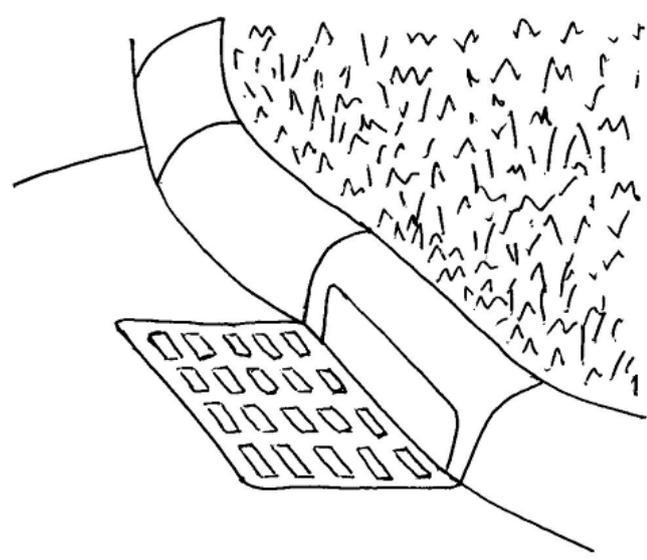
5. ACTIVITY FIVE

Understand water quality

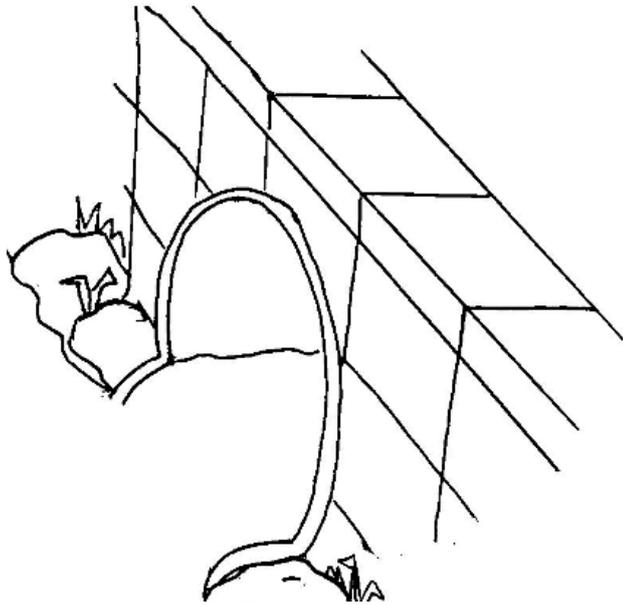
The Cooks River is regarded as one of the most polluted urban rivers in Australia.

✂ Using the Cutting Page, complete each picture to show how rubbish travels from the street to the river.

From street:

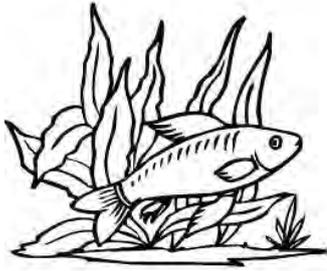


To river:



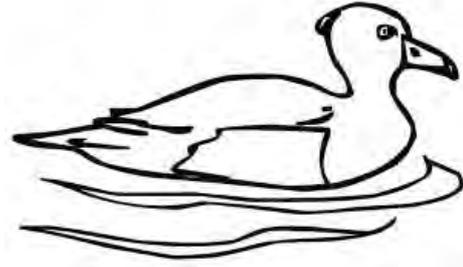


 Colour in the pictures.:



Water quality makes a river healthy.

**Water quality is important
for marine life, plants,
animals and birds.**



**For humans, water quality means
that we can use a river for things
like drinking and play.**



**A truck illegally dumped a load of rubbish into the Cooks River.
This rubbish included old car batteries and bottles of chemicals.**



Enjoy the Cooks River!



6. ACTIVITY SIX

Rehabilitating a damaged water system

In Australia it is now an environmental crime to dump pollutants such as oils, chemicals, sewage and garbage into a river.

This old car is leaking oil onto the driveway.

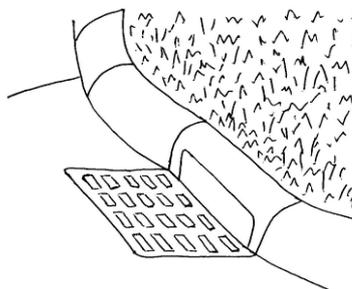
On the driveway:

 Draw rain falling which will wash the oil into the gutter. Colour the oil leak under the car: black.



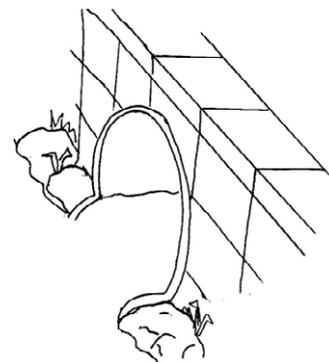
Into the street:

 Draw the oil from the car being washed down the gutter and into the drain.



Into the river:

 Draw the oil from the car now being washed out of the storm water pipe and into the river.



 Draw the river water with oil in it.



The Cooks River was originally a natural river. After 1946 concrete panels were built along the 'unruly' natural river banks. This resulted in the loss of the river's natural environment.

A project is underway to naturalise parts of the Cooks River's banks.

Riverbank naturalisation generally involves:

- removing the steep concrete bank.
- creating a more gently sloping river bank.
- creating a river bank using native plants, trees and rocks.

Benefits include a softer landscape feel and can greatly improve the riverbank habitat for native birds and other animals.



Draw the river bank to show how it will be better.

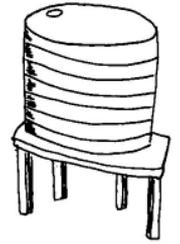
Enjoy the Cooks River!



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7. ACTIVITY SEVEN

1. Plan for a sustainable future



It is very healthy to the environment to store rain water or storm water.

A rain garden is being built in the playground at Marrickville West Public School. The rain garden will filter out pollution in rainwater that normally ends up in the Cooks River. The rain water will be stored in a tank to use on the school's land and in the community garden.

 Draw a rainwater garden to store the water.



 Colour and decorate the text.

We live, work and learn
in the catchment area for
the Cooks River.

We must be very careful
what we allow to travel from our
homes, our schools, our shops, our
roads and our playgrounds into
our river.

When rain falls in
our catchment,
we must respect it and
help to nurture and sustain
the natural environment.

**We are all
Cooks River people.**

Together we must care for this
beautiful waterway and its surroundings.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are some resources and recommended websites

 **Marrickville Council Biodiversity LINK**

http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/environment/in_your_community/biodiversity.html?s=0

 **Cooks River – Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust LINK**

http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/Evolutionary_Ecology_Research/Botany_of_Botany_Bay/places/cooks_river

 **Planning Riverside Crescent Subcatchment LINK**

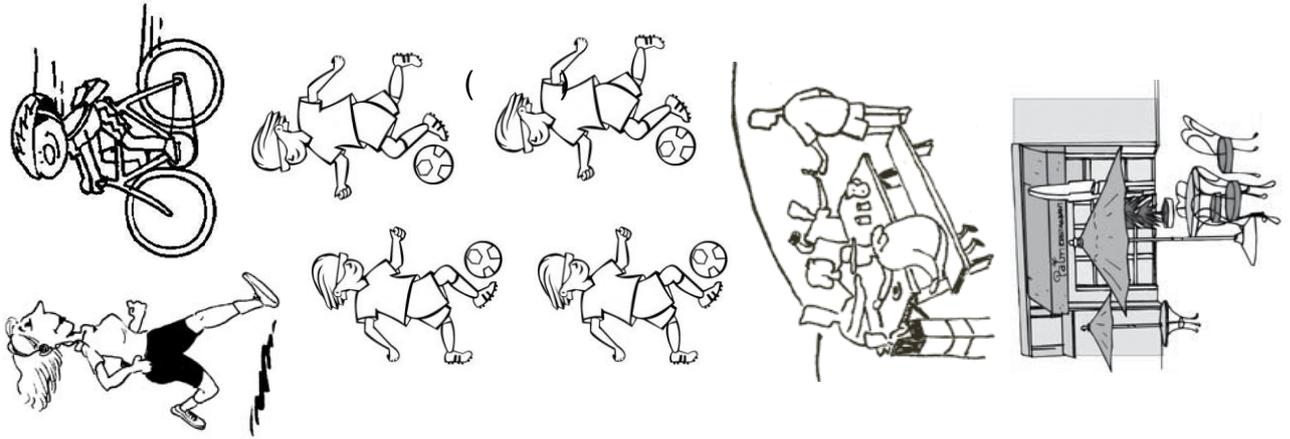
<http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/MARRICKVILLE/INTERNET/RESOURCES/DOCUMENTS/pdfs/DraftRiversideCresSubcatchmentManagementPlan.pdf>

 **Cooks River Valley Association LINK**

<http://www.crva.org.au/>

CUTTING PAGE

Activity 1



Activity 4



Plant the Glasswort (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) in the saltmarsh



Saltmarsh Water Snake



Insect Eating Bat



Wading Bird



Crustacean



Fish



Move the animals and insects into their new home in the saltmarsh.

Activity 5

