DEMOCRACY IN A BOX



Caring for Country

Learning intentions

Afloat, written by Gunai woman Kirli Saunders and illustrated by Freya Blackwood, is a story told in a time of climate crisis. Through this activity, students will build links to their own communities by considering ways they can help support the local environment and local people.



Students will discover the importance of coming together to create a hopeful future. This activity highlights opportunities to better care for Country, as well as the benefits of the small meaningful actions we can all take to better support the environment.

Materials

- Afloat picture book
- Post-it notes.

MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY



Democracy in a box was developed by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House with the support of Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC

_ Activity outline

Read *Afloat* by Kirli Saunders.

2 Invite students to share their key takeaways from the story.

Explore the following questions to help guide students' discussion of the climate crisis, community, kindness and caring for the local environment.

- Think What is the key message of the book?
- Feel How does the story make us feel?
- Care Why should we care?

Introduce students to the idea of volunteering, helping others and caring for the environment.

Working in pairs, invite students to draw or write on post-it notes some of the ways they could support local Country or help others in their local community.

As a class activity, organise the post-it notes into two separate groups: caring for Country and helping others. Invite students to identify which might also be a volunteering activity they could do.

Extension activity

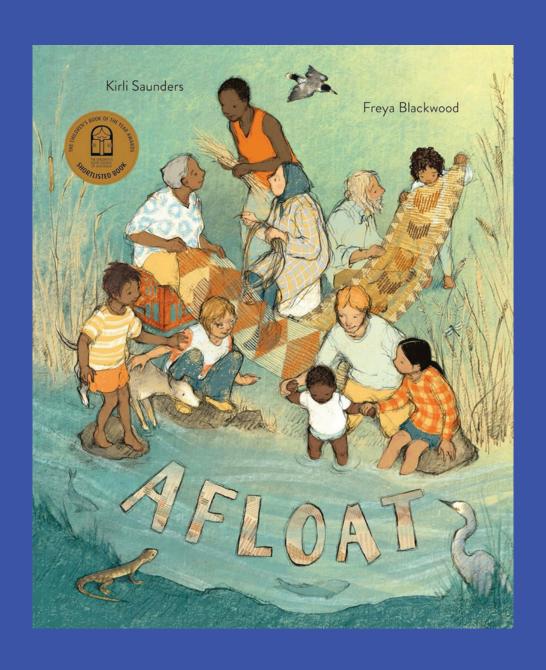
Gather together a collection of recycled materials. Working individually or in small groups, students should select one item to repurpose and upcycle into something new.

Encourage students to think about using these materials in ways that could address a local community environmental issue. For example, using bottle caps to create personalised game board pieces for the classroom or a metal tin to make a native bee hotel.

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