



### 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.

#### Activity overview

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.

#### Activity outline

- 1 Read *Afloat* by Kirli Saunders.
- 2 Invite students to share their key takeaways from the story.
- 3 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?
- 4 Introduce students to the idea of volunteering, helping others and caring for the environment.
- 5 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.
- 6 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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