

Country and Belonging

By Arena Theatre Company

REGIONAL
ARTS
VICTORIA



NOTE: Available to schools located in Dja Dja Wurrung Country only.

Country and Belonging immerses primary school students in First Nations culture and perspectives.

This program is designed to deepen children's connection to the land they live on by exploring the meaning and importance of the Acknowledgement of Country.

Children frequently hear Acknowledgements of Country at school, sports events, and public gatherings. This program explores their understanding of these acknowledgements, asking whether they feel a personal connection to the words they hear and say, and if they have any investment in them.

The program is designed for students in Grades 3 and 4, however lower and upper primary can also be accommodated. It begins with a First Nations artist leading a discussion about the students' local environment. Students will then work with First Nations art form of leaf painting (led by a First Nations artist) and sculpture. These activities help students to become familiar with the ideas, history, and stories that underpin the Acknowledgement of Country. By the end of the program, students will have written their own personal Acknowledgement of Country, created a range of artworks inspired by the theme, and developed a deeper awareness and respect for the Traditional Custodians of the land. The writing activity is framed by the First Nations Artist and involves each student's personal reflection of their relationship to Country. It may be led by a non-First Nations person.

The program concludes with an exhibition showcasing the students' work, allowing the entire school community to participate and celebrate their achievements.

This program was developed as a residency in 2023 by Arena Theatre company and Yorta Yorta artist Annie Brigdale.

Visual Arts | First Nations culture | Connection to Place

Ideal for years:	Years 3-4 (lower and upper primary can also be accommodated)
Available dates:	Available to schools located in Dja Dja Wurrung Country; Term Two, 5-9 May 2025
Curriculum links:	The Arts – visual arts, media arts, English, Humanities - geography
Capabilities:	Intercultural
Max no. of students:	25 per group. Maximum of 4 groups over a day
Workshop duration:	Program can scale from minimum 1 x 50 minute session to a full day of 4 x 50 minute workshops + time to view group exhibition at the end of the day
Program fee:	\$1,200 + GST for full day
Technical and room requirements:	Space required 6m x 6m or standard classroom size or hall with enough room for 3 indoor craft activities to take place simultaneously, and ideally access to an oval/playground for optional outdoor components.

Please note: Councils, Venues and Community Presenters are welcome to book through the Creative Learning Program. Contact the team at education@rav.net.au to confirm the program fee.