

Safety advice

Year 7, unit 2: Classification of organisms

Lesson 1

Students should take care moving around the classroom when changing groups. Ensure all chairs are pushed in and that there are no tripping hazards.

Lesson 2

Ensure that pencil cases are not opened during the 'Pencil case classification' activity as sharp objects such as compasses may cause injury.

Lesson 3

Rubbing alcohol is highly flammable and should be stored in a cool place away from flames. All containers should be kept covered to prevent an aerosol forming. Ensure the students are aware of the risk of poisoning if taken internally.

Lesson 4

Pipe-cleaners can have sharp ends. Ensure students behave responsibly.

Ensure students do not collect ants or other insects if they are allergic to them.

Collecting insects can be potentially dangerous if students are uninformed of the risks. Encourage the students to collect invertebrates that they know are not poisonous (ie ants, slaters or worms) and not to touch the organisms. Demonstrate how the organism may be collected with a 'no-touch' technique by scooping the container and the lid around the organism.

Encourage the students to respect the invertebrate while classifying, and ensure that it is returned to its original environment when finished.

Lesson 5

Choose the local environmental site with care ensuring that it is safe for students.

Be aware of any allergies in the class, especially allergies to local plants or insects.

Assign students a buddy to ensure they do not get lost or hurt.

When studying bush tucker, ensure that students are aware of the risk of eating anything when they are not sure of the identity of the plant.

Using live animals with students

Each Australian state and territory has its own requirements for risk management and approval to use live animals in classrooms. The following links to government and independent education websites may be useful.

ACT

'The care and use of animals in ACT schools', ACT Department of Education and Training website (PDF, 2.4 MB)

http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/191815/DET_Care_Use_Of_Animals_2010.pdf (2010)

NSW

'Animals in schools', NSW Department of Education and Training website

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/animalsinschools/> (2013)

NT

'Animals in schools', NT Department of Education and Childrens' Services website

<http://www.det.nt.gov.au/about-us/policies/documents/schools/animals-in-schools>
(2009)

Qld.

'Handling live animals in a school setting', Qld. Department of Education and Training website (PDF, 313 KB)

<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/eppr/health/hlspr012/resources/liveanimals.pdf>
(2010)

SA

Animal ethics', Animal Ethics Committee website, SA Department for Education and Child Development website

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/animalethics/pages/cg0001037/16295/?reFlag=1> (2012)

Vic.

'Care and use of animals in Victorian schools', Vic. Department of Education and Childhood Development website

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/curriculum/pages/animals.aspx?Redirect=1> (2012)

WA

'Guidelines for the care and use of animals in Western Australian schools and agricultural and TAFEWA colleges', Australian Independent Schools (WA) website

(PDF, 686 KB) <http://www.ais.wa.edu.au/images/member/animal-ethics-guidelines.pdf>
(2005)