

### 4.3 Managing ecosystems

#### Curriculum links

ACSSU112 Interactions between organisms, including the effects of human activities can be represented by food chains and food webs.

##### KEY IDEAS

- The number and types of living things present in ecosystems can be influenced by the actions of humans. The changes caused in ecosystems can be the result of exploitation of the environment to meet the needs of human populations, or may be the result of planned actions to restore or manage natural ecosystems.
- Understanding the nature of ecosystems, along with consideration of ethical and economic considerations, helps us to plan for the sustainable use of resources and the maintenance of natural ecosystems.

ACSHE223 Science knowledge can develop through collaboration across the disciplines of science and the contributions of people from a range of cultures.

ACSHE121 People use science understanding and skills in their occupations and these have influenced the development of practices in areas of human activity.

#### Lesson outcomes

At the end of this activity students will be able to:

- describe how traditional Indigenous management practices help us manage ecosystems today.

#### Equipment list

##### The CLASS will require:

- *Student Guide*
- internet access.

##### Each STUDENT will require

- **Notebook.**

#### Things to consider

This activity is intended to support the development of literacy skills as students explore links between traditional Aboriginal practices and today's management of Australian ecosystems.

This activity could be paired with a story-telling session by a local Indigenous person about traditional Aboriginal practices, such as burning, food gathering, caring for the environment and the ways these practices are related to our current desire to sustainably manage ecosystems.

You could show video clips of Aboriginal people discussing how they maintained their environment and food sources. Some useful URLs include:

<http://www.twinlakes.net.au/page11/page11.html>

[http://www.ehow.com/info\\_8284905\\_aboriginal-land-management-techniques.html](http://www.ehow.com/info_8284905_aboriginal-land-management-techniques.html)

### Lesson plan

- Step 1:** Consider your students' reading and interpretation skills and if necessary work with different groups to read materials or find meaning.
- Step 2:** After reading about wetland burning, ask the students to view the video of today's burning practices.
- Step 3:** Conduct a class discussion of the conclusions of several or all groups.