



TEACHERS RESOURCE

LESSON PLAN

Summary

This lesson supports the teaching and learning in language arts, balanced literacy, phonemic awareness, phonics, humanities and social science, geography and across the primary school curriculum. Topics may include: Indigenous Animals and Habitats, Aboriginal Heritage, National Parks, World Heritage Site, Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park, endangered species, threats to birds and wildlife; and responsible practices in nature.

Australian Curriculum

Coming soon!

Lesson Plan: Uluru-Tjuta National Park

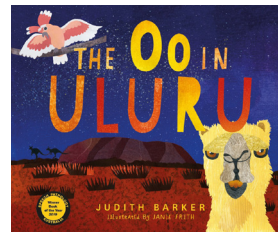
Suggested learning sequence

Introduction

40 minutes

- Use an overhead projector for the visual to read *The Oo in Uluru* aloud. Ask the students to kindly not interrupt, until after the reading for a discussion about the story.
- Elicit questions and brainstorm themes about Uluru, such as monolith, birds and wildlife, habitat, natural wonders, Indigenous people, language, art and culture.
- Show a Video: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/>
- Discuss fun facts for kids (below).

Resource 1 – Kids Activity Book



The Oo in Uluru

by Judith Barker

This is the story of the oo. It's an amusing sound for all of you. The Oo in Uluru is a fun Australian-themed phoneme story that teaches young readers about the vowel sound oo and where they can find it in different words.

Fun facts for kids

- Uluru is the Aboriginal name for this rock. It is also called Ayers Rock, after Sir Henry Ayers. Explorer William Gosse gave it this name when he discovered it in 1873
- Uluru is one of earth's great natural wonders.
- The plants, birds and wildlife in the story are indigenous to the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.
- Indigenous people believe a giant snake lives underneath the rock.
- The rock was created over 600 million years ago. The Aboriginal people have lived there for 10,000 years.
- The rock was originally at the bottom of a large ocean.
- Uluru is a monolith, which means one really big stone or mountain.
- The rock was handed back to the Anangu people in 2019.
- Each feature of the rock has a meaning in 'Tjukurpa' or Dreamtime. The traditional Anangu Law explains how the world was created.

Lesson 1 – Vocabulary

40 minutes

- Pre-teach vocabulary in the book: the Anangu, querulous, foraging, spirits, thrum and any other challenging words.
- Introduce the book with an overhead picture of Uluru with some fun facts (see above).
- Review the wildlife indigenous to the Uluru-Kata-Tjuta National Park.
- After reading the story have a class discussion about the plants, habitats of birds, the wildlife and habitat in the desert.

Activity 1

Make a word search from the vocabulary in the book.

Lesson 2 – Phonemic awareness 40 minutes

- Distinguish between short and long vowel 'Oo' [oo] sound. Identify the pronunciation of both short and long 'Oo' [oo] sounds.
- Ask learners to think about the spelling patterns of the 'Oo' [oo] sound.
- Draw a mind map on the whiteboard or smartboard of the different spelling patterns.
- Review the vowel digraph oo and display the different spelling patterns ue, u, ou, oe, oo, o.
- Practice the different spelling patterns in the various words in the book e.g. blue, you, shoe, do, to, too, truth, Uluru after reading the story.

Activity 2 – Acrostic poem and cinquain

Instruct learners to write short and funny sentences with the different OO spelling patterns, or make an acrostic poem. For more advanced students write a cinquain



Lesson 3 – Connection to land and Country 40 minutes

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/discover/culture/stories/>

- Explore the natural wonders and Indigenous Australian's connection to their land.
- Hold a class discussion to find out what students already know about the connection between land and culture.
- Discuss the importance of the Mabo decision.

Activity 3 – Rock painting

- Provide equipment and instructions for painting a picture of Uluru on paper, a stone, or have the class make a mural for the wall.
- Ask learners to paint different parts (characters, animals, birds etc) which are represented in the story in a logical storyboard sequence.
- Presentation: When the story stones are painted, ask each learner in the groups to re-tell parts of the story with their story stones in a short presentation.

Lesson 4 – Significance of Uluru to the Anangu people 40 minutes

- Watch the Parks Australia video (<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/discover/culture/stories/>) that describes the significance of Uluru-Kata Tjuta to the Anangu people. It explains the Tjukurpa (pronounced chook-orr-pa) which is the foundation of Anangu culture.
- Students will find out more about the creation stories about Uluru-Kata-Tjuta and then create a picture book about the stories. To help with their research students can watch a short video where a traditional owner of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta region, tells of the creation story. <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/discover/culture/stories/>

Activity 4 – Create a picture book about the stories

Lesson 5 – Indigenous vocabulary and pronunciation 40 minutes

Resource 2 – Anangu Language

- Discuss the language of the Anangu people: Pitjantjatjara

Anangu (pronounced arn-ahng-oo) are the traditional owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. They ask visitors to Uluru to use this term. Very few Anangu speak English as a first language.

Pitjantjatjara words

The 'oo' sound is the same as in 'look'.

Family

Tjitji...(gee-gee) child. Ngun-tju...(ngoon-choo) mother. Mama...(mah-mah) father. Kami...(kah-mee) grandmother. Tjamu...(jah-moo) grandfather. Kangkuru...(kan-kooroo) big sister. Kuta...(koo-tah) big brother. Kuntili...(koo-tu-lee) auntie. Kamuru...(kum-moo-roo) uncle.

- Distinguish between the long vowel oo words in Pitjantjatjara and the English language.

Activity 5 – Make a poster or a PowerPoint presentation to distinguish the long vowel oo in English and Pitjantjatjara



Discussion questions

- Where is Uluru?
- What is a monolith?
- What is the size of Uluru?
- What animal is believed to live under the rock?
- What is the natural habitat of the desert?
- Name and describe one of the animals in the story?
- What is the language of the Anangu people?
- How many spelling patterns are found in the story:
The OO in Uluru?
- How many long oo spelling patterns can you find in the story?

Optional ideas

- Students draw their own “lost” thing on white paper using a black texta, and find environmental pictures from magazines/newspapers on the various topics.
- Write descriptive words and phonemes then cut out and glue onto collage.
- Students swap collages and discuss.

Assessment – Assessments listed under activities under each topic

For more resources:

Resource 3 – Uluru Teacher’s Guide

