National WATER WEEK
19-25 OCTOBER 2020

Online Learning Festival
Reimagining our Water Future

National Water Week Activity Matrix ……

explore the 2020 theme with these multi-age activities, cross-curricular activities for all learning styles

***** please adhere to current COVID-19 advice for your location *****

Objective: To appreciate waterways as the life-blood of our land and be inspired by important lessons from the past and new innovative ideas to help them survive and thrive into the future

Ways to be Smart	Knowing	Understanding	Applying	Analysing	Creating	Evaluating
Word Smart I learn best by reading, writing & speaking	Watch the videos 'Waterways for Life', 'Nine Days on Tang Tang Swamp' and 'Making Every Drop Count' List the reasons why healthy waterways are important for people, land, plants, animals, landscapes & communities.	Type your waterway into the search bar of the Culture Victoria website and explore videos, photos and articles to learn of Aboriginal perspectives in the life and times of your waterway. Prepare a short oral presentation to share findings.	Watch this video from Dubbo and this one from Canberra. Populate a table or spreadsheet to list pollutant types, where they come from, what impact they have on waterways and the positive strategies that can reduce them.	Read or watch 'Water is Water', 'Rhythm of the Rain', 'When Water Lost Her Way' about how water flows in a landscape. Share your thoughts through writing a poem, a review or discussion.	Watch a video about desalinisation and write a persuasive text to argue your viewpoint; Does desalinisation hold the key to future water security ? Complete the Dazzling Desalination science experiment.	Watch these videos about microplastics in our streams and oceans. Now learn about soft plastic recycling and come up with a plan to raise awareness. Design a flyer or write an article for your school/community newsletter.
Number Smart I learn best by working with numbers/science	 Take a walk and tally the types of litter you see at your school/ street/park/waterway/beach. Make a picture graph or bar graph to show the most common items.	 Use the maps on the River Detectives website to identify your CMA region, your catchment, your traditional owner group and your nearest waterways.	 Complete some Brain Benders to calculate the size of the impact stormwater and runoff can have on our waterways.	Learn about Victoria's little-known soft plastic recycling program. Save soft plastics over several weeks and measure the volume of litter you have saved from landfill. Calculate the volume if every family in your street/school/town participated.	 Watch How Wolves Change Rivers and draw a flow chart to demonstrate the knock on effects of one change. Imagine a change in your catchment and illustrate the consequences that could occur.	Conduct a habitat survey at your local waterway and rate it's health. What changes would you recommend to improve your waterway's ability to buffer the impact of surrounding land uses and filter potential pollutants?
Picture Smart I learn best by drawing and visualising	Watch Fresh and Salty to learn about salinity, how it happens, why it's such a big deal and how we can help. If you're aged 12+ watch the video Soil Salinity In Australia. Use the videos as inspiration to complete the activity (right)	Create two shoebox dioramas showing contrasting scenes - an environment ravaged by salt and a well-managed healthy environment. Include captions to identify the management techniques that have contributed.	Complete the Potential Problems activity then watch a video from the North Central, Wimmera, Corangamite, North East or Melbourne Water regions to learn of the wonderful programs that improve waterway health.	Watch the 'Water For Country' video or 'Campaspe River Tour' video and draw a mind map to illustrate the reasons why Traditional Owners should be involved in waterway management decisions with land managers.	 Explore the interactive Run The River free App to experience the complexity of managing scarce water so that everyone has their share.	Hear inspiring stories of how stormwater is being harvested and repurposed in Fitzroy Gardens and Kingston. Illustrate a map/plan or make a model to show how and where this could be done in your community.
Body Smart I learn best by being active and hands on	Go on a waterway treasure hunt using these clues or make up your own. Take photos, sketch findings, make a note of how people have/do/could use your waterway, take a sound recording, note the width, clarity, speed and habitat.	Watch a video about litter and platypus. Add drawings of aquatic creatures (don't forget water bugs) and other types of pollution to this poster. Insert speech bubbles to show the thoughts and feelings of creatures and plants.	 Watch the Three Rivers Flow video to see how important the Murray, Campaspe and Goulburn Rivers are to Yorta Yorta children. Create and perform your own rap about what your local waterway means to you.	Get active and make a difference at home, school or in the community. Check with an adult first; pick up rubbish, sweep up sand/soil, rake up leaves, plant native grasses or survey fauna and use an App to identify and record your findings.	 Design and build a model to showcase a vision for the future of your waterway using Lego. Display its potential as a hub for biodiversity, education, culture, recreation and community.	Inspire kids your age to get active in nature. Plan an obstacle course in a local outdoor setting using natural objects; climb a tree, balance on a log, stomp in the mud. Create a video of your course with the benefits of exercise in nature.
People Smart I learn best by working with others	Do the Urban Stormwater Survey with people you know and discuss the answers with them. They may be very surprised by the things you can teach them. Ask them to tell you the most important thing they learnt.	Interview people of various ages / backgrounds; what do they know about your local waterway, how do they feel about it, how do they use it, what are its assets/threats, what are their memories, what are their hopes for its future?	Humans have changed natural watering patterns significantly since 1788. We are now using traditional knowledge and science to get the balance right. Watch this video about how e-water changes communities for the better.	 Watch an inspiring video about WA farmers reclaiming their salty farm land using local native plants. Write interview questions that you would like to ask them.	Plan and film a video to raise awareness of your waterway. Showcase its best features, acknowledge its faults, explain why it is important to you and share your vision for its future. Be inspired by this video by Epsom PS	Water sensitive urban design sees stormwater as an asset, not a problem. Watch this video, reframe your thinking about stormwater and use the innovative ideas to redesign a house, street or housing estate in your area.
Self Smart I learn best by myself	List, sketch or journal the ways your life is influenced by waterways. How do they impact the food you eat, the clothes you wear, where you live, your leisure time, your community ? What would life be like without them ?	Watch one or both of these videos to understand what a catchment is and why they are important. Catchments explained The Murray Darling Basin What can you do to maintain and improve catchment health ?	Write down what you know about 'environmental water' on one side of a page. Watch this animation and this short video then add what you learn. On the other side of the page list the pros and cons of e-water from different viewpoints.	Reflect on the other activities you have enjoyed during the National Water Week Online Learning Festival. What is the best idea you have heard of or thought of to 'reimagine our water future'?	 Play the Catchment Detox online game and manipulate features to create a healthy catchment with a sustainable and thriving economy.	Consider these innovative ideas; trash traps, sea bins, drain socks, soundscapes, litter trackers, rain gardens and stormwater stencils. Do a 'PMI' listing the positives, negatives and interesting points about each approach.

River Detectives is an exciting education initiative of Catchment Management Authorities inspiring teachers and students to understand, appreciate and care for their local waterway through engaging, cross-curricular, citizen-science activities. This matrix is a compilation of challenges from a suite of activity matrices under development by the River Detectives program available for registered participants. For more information about River Detectives and how to get involved, visit www.riverdetectives.net.au.

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