

An Introduction for Teachers

Welcome to Enviro-Stories

If this is your first time participating in Enviro-Stories, then these guidelines will help you get started. If you are a regular Enviro-Stories participant, then these guidelines might act as a bit of a reminder to help you and your students produce the best story possible.

Enviro-Stories is all about engaging your students in learning all about the program theme and then applying their knowledge into a literacy program that is curriculum aligned.



Hundreds of books online

library.envirostories.com.au

By reading these books you can get a good idea about what we look for in an Enviro-Stories book. Read them as a class or download a copy and hand out printed copies to students.

There are a large range of themes that students have written books about in the past - including cultural heritage, farming, biodiversity, water and threatened species. Find a theme that suits you and see what type of stories have been published.

Getting Started Checklist

- 1 IDENTIFY** which Enviro-Stories program is being run in your area.
- 2 REGISTER** your involvement in a program on the Enviro-Stories website:
www.envirostories.com.au/get-involved
- 3** Download the **ENTRY FORM** and **TEMPLATE** from your Enviro-Stories program page. It is very important that you stick to the template and the guidelines provided in this introduction package.
- 4** Download the **EDUCATION MATERIALS** from your Enviro-Stories program page. These resources have been provided to assist you in teaching the theme to your students.
- 5** Contact any of the **LOCAL SUPPORT** contacts that are listed in the education materials. These people have agreed to support the delivery of activities that are related to your theme.
- 6** Read the articles and watch the videos provided on the **"HINTS AND TIPS"** page to help plan and guide the story writing and illustration process.
www.envirostories.com.au/get-involved/hints/
- 7** When posting in your entries, make sure each individual story has a completed **ENTRY FORM** attached. This entry form is provided on your Enviro-Stories program page under "What you must have!"
- 8** On the Enviro-Stories program page, please fill in our **EVALUATION FORM**. Your students can do one too. This feedback is anonymous and helps us develop the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does it cost anything to participate?

The program is FREE for schools to participate in larger program as all costs are covered by our fantastic sponsors. However, if you want to produce a book of your own, please contact our office to discuss available options.

Does it cover off syllabus outcomes?

Yes, the program is aligned with the Australian Curriculum. You can tick off multiple outcomes but this is dependent on how you incorporate Enviro-Stories into your program. Check out the curriculum links at:

www.envirostories.com.au/about/curriculum/

How is Enviro-Stories delivered to schools?

There are two ways that Enviro-Stories is delivered to schools. One way is via a competition approach, where entries are judged and only a small number of books get printed. The other way is via a targeted approach where schools are invited to participate to have one (or more) book published.

Is the program open to individuals, groups or classes?

The program is open to all combinations of groups (small or whole classes) or individuals. Small groups of 3 to 5 students makes the process quicker in the classroom. However, individual students love getting their very own book published. The size and arrangement of how you run the program in your classroom is up to you.

Is the program open to all levels of student learning?

It is encouraged that all students, from those with learning difficulties to gifted students, are given the opportunity to participate. It is the process of learning and transferring that knowledge to others that is the most important concept of Enviro-Stories. For example, the book [Animals of the Gippsland](#)

[Lakes](#) was prepared by students from East Gippsland Specialist School who have a range of learning and physical disabilities.

How do my students submit their entries?

A template and entry form is made available to registered teachers/schools. This template should be used as the basis for each page of the entry/s. Illustrations can be in the form of drawings, photos or collage.

Do I have to use the template provided?

It is encouraged to use the template wherever practical – the layout on the template has been chosen as the best size proportion for publishing the final stories. If however you choose to move away from the template, then we ask that you make sure all illustrations are on A4 paper in a portrait layout and that text is kept separate to the image. Please do not paste text into the image.

Who do I contact if I need help?

For all enquiries related to the current programs please contact Peter Coleman (Enviro-Stories Coordinator) on 0411 729 444 or email admin@envirostories.com.au. Peter can refer you to other local contacts as required.



Students from Forbes Public School, NSW.