

Pigs in the Dam



Author: Abigail Hills
School: Moura State School

Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for Primary Schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.

www.envirostories.com.au



This program provides an education experience for kids through learning about the environment. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2011, the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, in partnership with the Central West Catchment Management Authority, provided local kids with the opportunity to join in on this exciting and innovative competition.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry. The Cotton CRC aims to provide innovative knowledge to stimulate economic, social and environmental outcomes at farm, regional and national levels.

www.cottoncrc.org.au

Central West Catchment Management Authority

The Central West Catchment is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales, flanked by the Barwon and Darling Catchments to the north and west, Lachlan to the south and the Sydney/Shoalhaven Basin to the east.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

Pigs in the Dam

Author: Abigail Hills
Teacher: Linda McLeod
School: Moura State School

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC 2011 “An Aussie Bush Tale” Enviro-Stories Competition consists of the following books:

- Larry the Kingfisher
- Pilliga Scrubs Dark November
- The Dilemma
- Information on Australian Animals
- The Monster in the Garden
- Noises in the Night
- Pigs in the Dam
- Where am I?
- The Little Village

ISBN: 978-0-9870465-2-9

Enviro-Stories is a PeekKdesigns program.

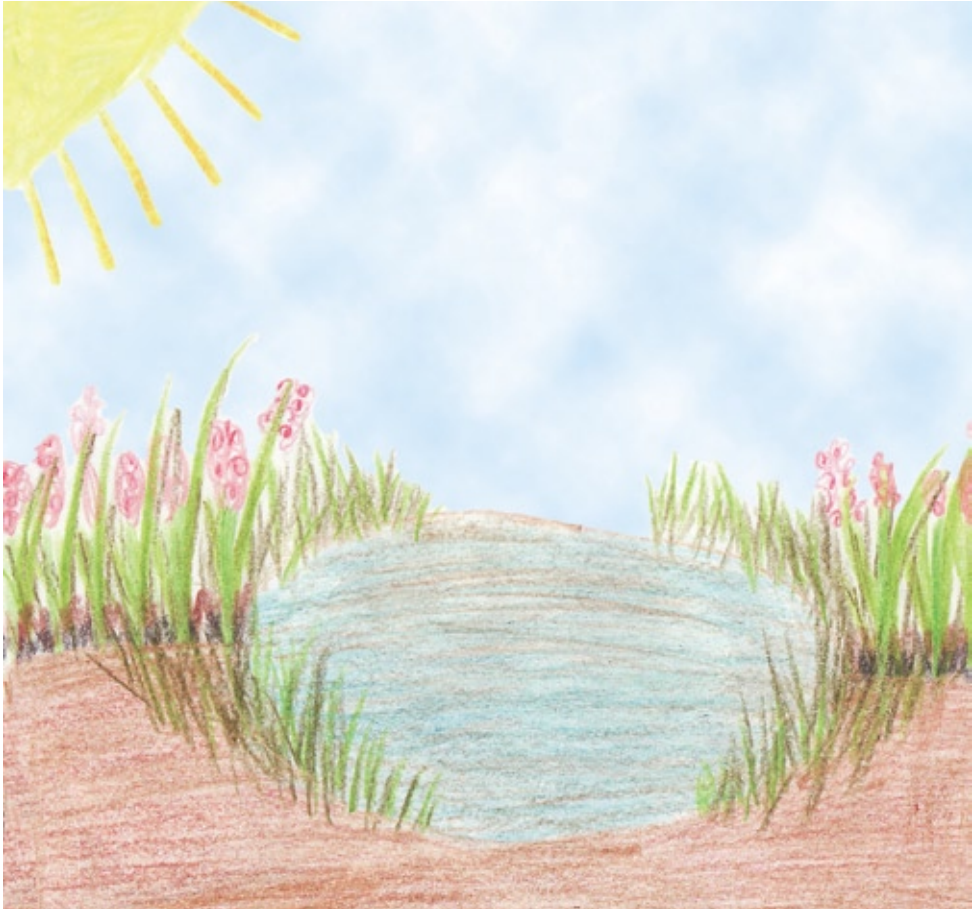
Graphic design by PeekKdesigns, www.peekkdesigns.com.au

Printed by Greenridge Press, www.greenridgepress.com.au

Copyright © 2011 Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, www.cottoncrc.org.au



One afternoon a farmer enjoyed a nice cool drink as he sat on his back porch. He loved sitting on the porch and looking across the paddocks to his beautiful dam.



The farmer spent a lot of time taking care of his dam and was very proud of how it was looking.

He had carefully planted indigenous grasses all around the edges. This created homes for native creatures and made sure that the soil did not wash into the dam when it rained.

From his porch he could see the beautiful red fluffy seeds on the top of the red Natal grass.

The spear and Mitchell grass had also spread nicely filling in the gaps, so there was almost no bare soil.

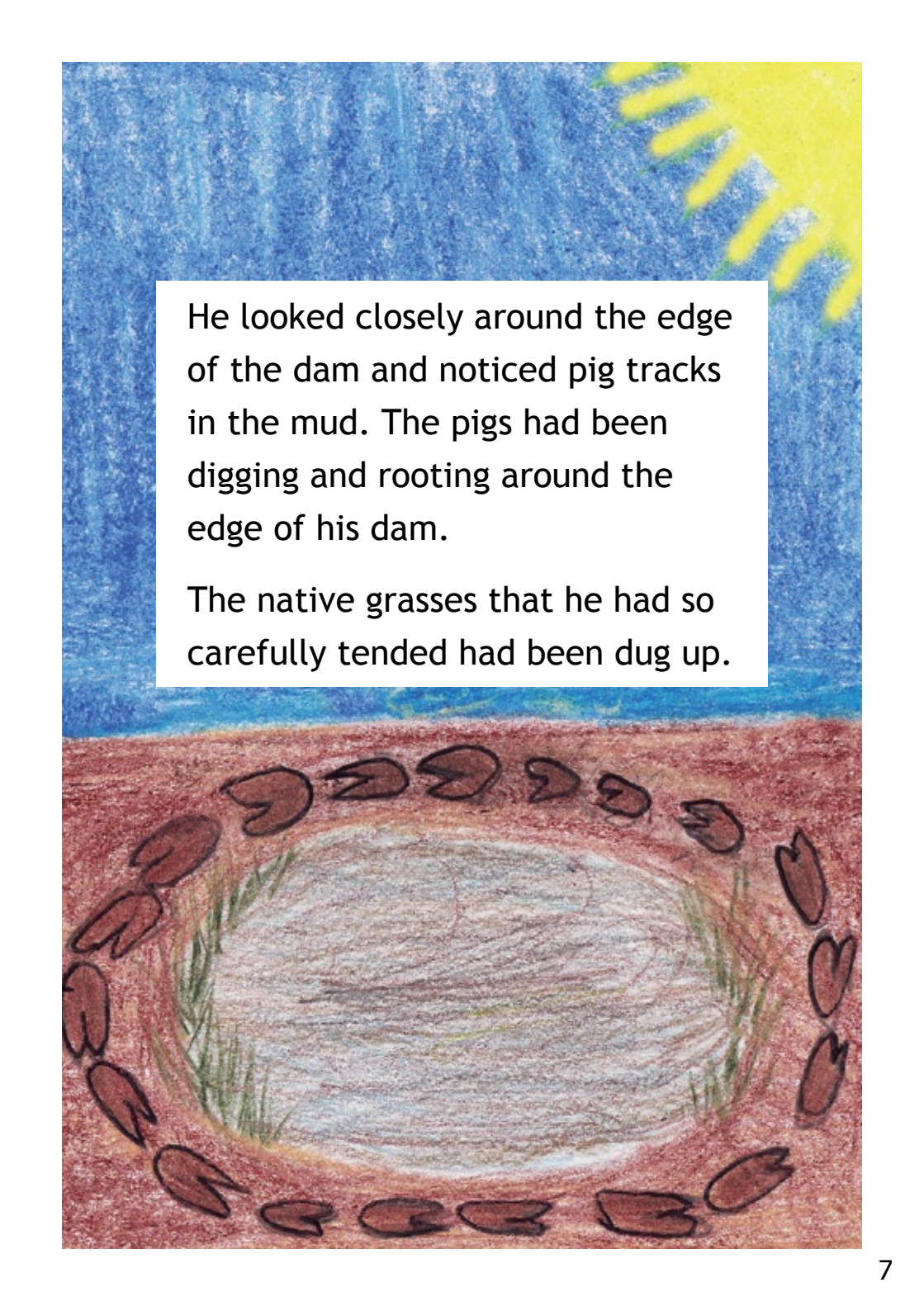


The farmer smiled happily to himself, thinking of the traps he had set to catch red claw yabbies for his tea.



The farmer got up from his comfortable chair on the porch and drove down to the dam. He pulled the traps out of the water. He was shocked! There were no red claw in the traps. This was unusual because he always caught red claw when he set his traps. He looked at the water. It was stirred up and very muddy!



The image is a child's drawing. The top half features a bright blue sky with a yellow sun in the upper right corner. A white rectangular text box is centered in the sky. The bottom half of the drawing shows a reddish-brown ground with a circular dam structure. The dam is drawn with dark brown outlines, and inside the circle, there are green grass-like strokes and a light-colored, textured area representing water.

He looked closely around the edge of the dam and noticed pig tracks in the mud. The pigs had been digging and rooting around the edge of his dam.

The native grasses that he had so carefully tended had been dug up.



He saw evidence that the pigs had also been wallowing in the water. The water had turned brown and murky in colour.





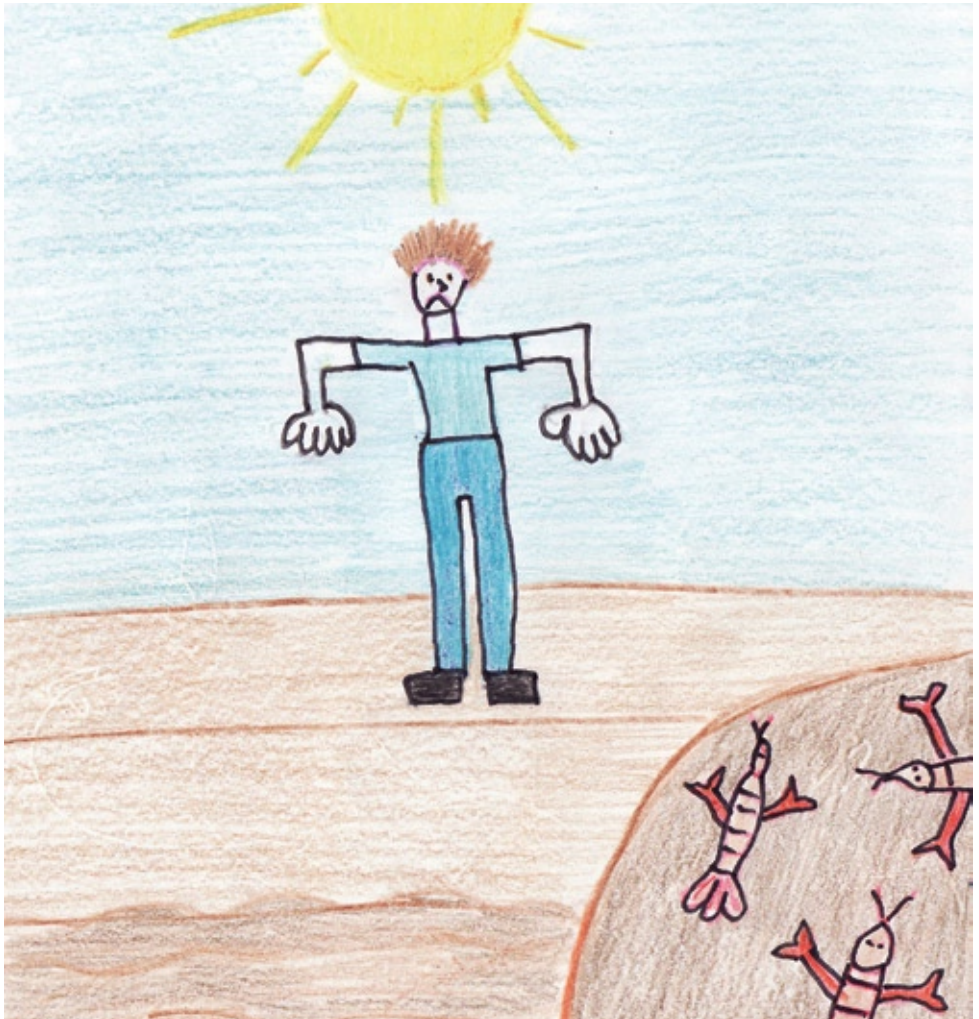
The farmer looked at the big holes the pigs had dug and was angry.

He knew if there was no grass to cover the soil it would be easier for weeds to grow.





If it rained and there were no grasses to hold the soil, it would wash away and could end up in his dam.



He walked to the other side of the dam to check for pig tracks. He found lots of dead red claw on the bank of the dam. The red claw had died because the water had been stirred up.

Red claw like to live in clear water.



Something had to be done. The feral pigs had killed his red claw and left deep holes in the ground where there had once been native grasses.

The pigs were a pest and damaging the healthy environment he had created on his farm.


The farmer knew that he would have to do something to stop the pigs from damaging the ecosystem around the dam.

He tried to decide what he could do about the pigs. He could shoot them, but he did not have a gun. He could bait them but other native animals could also die if they ate the bait.



The only option he had left was to trap the pigs. If native animals got caught in the traps he could set them free.





It took the farmer three weeks to catch the pigs in the traps. After he caught them he called professional pig catchers to take them away.

The farmer replanted the indigenous grasses and was happy because he found a few surviving red claw.



Abigail Hills
Moura State School, Grade 3 2011

