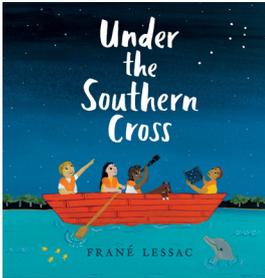




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Under the Southern Cross

Frané Lessac
ISBN: 9781925381016
September 2018

*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

Walker Books Australia
Locked Bag 22
Newtown, N.S.W., 2042
Ph +61 2 9517 9577
Fax +61 2 9517 9997

These notes were created by Steve Spargo and Carmela Masi.
For enquiries please contact:
educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au

Notes © 2018 Walker Books Australia Pty. Ltd.
All Rights Reserved

Outline:

Night-time in Australia, animals are waking, people are exploring, discoveries are being made – under the Southern Cross.

What makes ribbons of colour swirl in the sky? What are the spooky balls of light that bounce across the outback? What animal lays eggs that look like squishy ping-pong balls? Where can you watch a movie with bats circling overhead? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this factastic picture book tour of Australia after dark.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Frané Lessac is an author and illustrator of international renown, having over forty children's books published throughout the world. She was born in the USA and lived on the Caribbean island of Montserrat and London before moving to Australia. Frané has contributed her distinctive paintings to many critically acclaimed children's picture books, including *My Little Island*, a Reading Rainbow feature book. Also, *On the Same Day in March* was named in the Top Ten Science Books by ALA Booklist. Frané's contribution to Amnesty International's *We Are All Born Free*, celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has been translated into more than 30 languages and was a USBBY Outstanding International Book.

How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

These notes are for:

- Primary
- F-3
- Ages 5+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Geography
- STEM
- Visual Arts

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Australia
- Animals
- Outback



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

There are many other constellations that can be seen in the Southern Hemisphere. Choose one constellation from the list below (or research other constellations that can be seen from Australia) for the following two activities.

- Centaurus
 - Andromeda
 - Pegasus
 - Canis Major
 - Cetus
 - Perseus
 - Crater
 - Cygnus
 - Zodiac constellations (Sagittarius, Scorpio, Libra, Virgo, Leo, Cancer, Gemini, Taurus, Aries, Pisces, Aquarius and Capricorn)
1. Create a diagram of your chosen constellation. Plot and label the stars, then connect the stars to create the image your constellation represents. You could use pens, pencils or paint or collage your diagram with stickers, string, pipe cleaners, beads or natural found material from your school grounds
 2. Research facts about this constellation. What stars make it up? Who has written about it? What does it represent?

Loggerhead turtles nest at Mon Repos. Why do you think they nest there? How might it affect them if the beach at Mon Repos wasn't there anymore? Research the life cycle of a sea turtle and present your findings on a poster. Also include a list of other sea turtles that are similar to loggerhead turtles.

Create a guide for a beginner stargazer. What equipment would you need? When is the ideal time for stargazing? Where is the ideal location for stargazing? What can you expect to find?

Living things live in different places where their needs are met, for example, fish live in water where they can breathe and koalas in or near gum trees as gum leaves are their food. Find animals in *Under the Southern Cross* and discuss why you think they live in that particular location. Check out the spreads about Phillip Island, Boulia, Mon Repos, Broome, Perth and the Daintree River.

The Arts

Many of the locations in this book have similar features such as water, though Frané Lessac has used different colours to represent water in many of the illustrations. Why do you think that is? Also take note of the colours she has used in the sky. Keep a journal for a week where you take note of the colours you can see in the sky several times a day. Do your findings surprise you? Why?

The artist's images are created in gouache. Discuss the artist's choice of medium with students and encourage them to create a picture in the same style and an illustration using a different medium.

What colours are particularly emphasised on each page? Why do you think Frané Lessac chose to make that colour prominent?

Design a tourism poster or flyer that uses persuasive techniques to encourage people from overseas to visit Australia. Use facts and locations from the books to help you come up with some persuasive elements to include in your poster or flyer.

Create a spread in similar style to the book about your school or an Australian location or activity of your choice. Illustrate the page to show the most interesting features of the location. Include lots of interesting facts about your location around the spread. Display it in your classroom. What are some of the activities shown in *Under the Southern Cross*? If you could choose to go to one place and do one activity what would you choose?

Further Activities

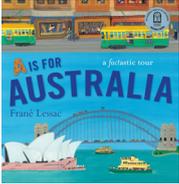
Write a letter to Frané Lessac giving your thoughts on this book. What did you like about it? What did it teach you? Edit your letter then send it to Walker Books Australia (Locked Bag 22, Newtown NSW 2042) to pass on to Frané!

Research the author/illustrator. What other books has she written/illustrated? Which of these books can you find in your school library? Choose your favourite and present it to the class using persuasive language to encourage others to read it. Read more about Frané Lessac at www.franelessac.com.



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Also by Frané Lessac



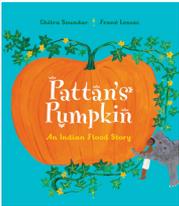
A is for Australia
Frané Lessac
9781925381979 PB
Classroom ideas available



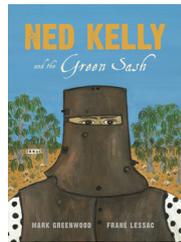
A is for Australian Animals
Frané Lessac
9781925381351 HB
Classroom ideas available



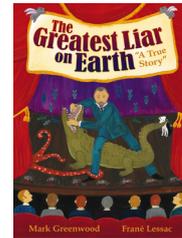
Midnight
Mark Greenwood
Frané Lessac
9781925126419 PB
Classroom ideas available



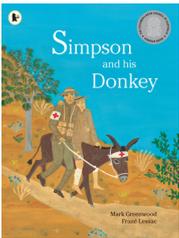
Pattan's Pumpkin
Chitra Soundar
Frané Lessac
9781910959848 PB



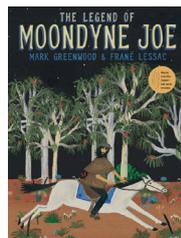
Ned Kelly and the Green Sash
Mark Greenwood
Frané Lessac
9781922244598 PB



The Greatest Liar on Earth
Mark Greenwood
Frané Lessac
9781921529856 HB
Classroom ideas available



Simpson and his Donkey
Mark Greenwood
Frané Lessac
9781921529542 PB

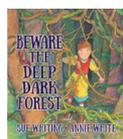


The Legend of Moondyne Joe
Mark Greenwood
Frané Lessac
9781921720123 PB

Other great titles from Walker Books:



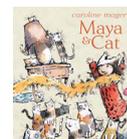
Backyard
Ananda Braxton-Smith
Lizzy Newcomb
9781925381177 HB
Classroom ideas available



Beware the Deep, Dark Forest
Sue Whiting
Annie White
9781742032344 HB
Classroom ideas available



Dinosaur Day Out
Sara Acton
9781760650049 HB
Classroom ideas available



Maya and Cat
Caroline Magerl
9781921977282 HB
Classroom ideas available