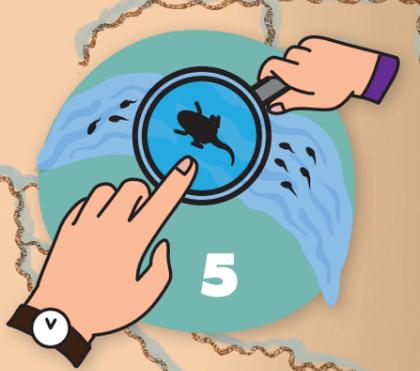




# OUR BIG BACKYARD

This map belongs to:  
**WRITE YOUR NAME**



	LAND		CREEKS
	OCEAN		HILLS
	BEACH		WETLANDS
	SCRUB		ROADS

See overleaf for all 60 activities and the best places to do them!

# 60 things to do before you're 12 in Aldinga and Sellicks.

Each activity sits next to a dot that tells you whether its location is at the

● beach ● wetlands ● creek ● scrub ● backyard.

We have included some **coordinates** for the map (overleaf) as suggested locations but don't let

1. ● Go for a fossil hunt at your nearest beach. **E1**
2. ● Make a cubby house from natural stuff in the Sheoak Forest. **E2**
3. ● Make a boat out of sticks and see if it floats at Hart Road Wetlands. **E4**
4. ● Make a mud pie in the muddiest place you can find!
5. ● Find some tadpoles in Port Willunga Creek. **G2**
6. ● Walk along the high tide line and see what things you can find at Sellicks Beach. **D9**
7. ● Draw a huge picture in the sand so you can see it from the Esplanade.
8. ● Go rock pooling at low tide on Aldinga Reef. **C3**
9. ● Look for animal tracks and traces in the Aldinga Scrub. **5E**
10. ● Listen to frog calls and have a go at making the call yourself at the Hart Road Wetlands. **E4**
11. ● On a clear night look try to spot the Southern Cross (you can do it from your backyard).
12. ● Build a mini-town out of sand at Aldinga Beach. **C5**
13. ● Find lots of different types of shells down at Aldinga Beach. **C4**
14. ● See if you can find any crabs amongst the rocks at Aldinga or Sellicks Beach.
15. ● Find a place to dig for worms (it could be your backyard).
16. ● Get up at sunrise. How many bird calls can you hear in your backyard?
17. ● Close your eyes and listen for 3 minutes to the different sounds at the Aldinga Scrub. **5E**
18. ● Find where the Washpool meets the sea at Sellicks Beach. **8D**
19. ● Go on a nature walk at night with a torch and find some animal eyes around Aldinga Scrub. **5E**
20. ● Go on a bug hunt in your backyard.
21. ● Find a climbing tree.
22. ● Make a crown from leaves and other stuff.
23. ● Cover yourself in sand at Aldinga Beach. **D5**
24. ● Feel a wave wash over you at Silver Sands. **D6**
25. ● Write your name with a stick or rock into a dried cuttlefish bone at your closest beach. (Check the high tide line for cuttle bone).
26. ● Build a home for bugs.
27. ● Go puddle jumping with a friend.
28. ● Skim a stone in the ocean at Port Willunga and get it to bounce three times. **E2**
29. ● From a distance, watch kangaroos in the wild, try the Hart Road Wetlands early or late in the day. **F4**
30. ● Find some natural objects and come up with ways that you think Aboriginal people may have used them.
31. ● Make a sand angel at a sandy beach (lay on your back and move your arms and legs to make the shape).
32. ● Dig a mini creek that goes out to sea using your hands, pebbles and shells at your beach.
33. ● Find the fisherman's caves and the old jetty piles at Port Willunga. **E2**
34. ● Explore the ruins of the cottage on the other side of the Port Willunga Creek. What lives there now? **F2**
35. ● Imagine you're a pirate landing at Aldinga Beach – find a place to hide your treasure.
36. ● Catch a raindrop on your tongue.
37. ● On a warm night, camp in your backyard. Could you hear any crickets?
38. ● Plant a herb or veggie seedling in your garden, or in a pot, look after it, and eat it.
39. ● Find a quiet place at the beach, sit and close your eyes for two minutes and just listen. Take notice of the smells around you. What did you hear or smell?
40. ● Make some mud gloves (they're like gloves just made from mud!).
41. ● Make a seaweed wig at the beach.
42. ● Find a Geocache in Aldinga or Sellicks. What did you find?
43. ● Walk to Cactus Canyon along Sellicks Beach. Why do you think they call it Cactus Canyon? **C10**
44. ● Find the Star of Greece wreck at Port Willunga Beach (go to the library to see a piece of the wreck!).
45. ● Walk from Port Willunga to Perkana Point (Gull Rock lookout) along the cliff top trail.
46. ● Make the tallest stone stack at Sellicks Beach. **D9**
47. ● Walk to the end of the Aldinga Reef at low tide. **C3**
48. ● Plant a tree.
49. ● Collect lots of fallen leaves from the biggest tree in your street and make a trail to the next tree (and to the next if you have enough leaves!).
50. ● Find Sellicks Reef at low tide. **C10**
51. ● Spot 5 different types birds at the Washpool (you might even see Hooded Plovers on the beach!). **8D**
52. ● Take a long walk in the rain (don't forget your raincoat!).
53. ● Weave something with natural stuff, it could be a basket, hat or crown - try green sticks, grass, reeds or even seaweed!
54. ● Make your own treasure hunt (mark it on your map).
55. ● Roll down a grassy hill.
56. ● Collect some snails for a snail race.
57. ● Make a perfume or magic potion (don't drink it though!).
58. ● Show a grown-up how to play outside and your favourite places to do it.
59. ● Walk from Sellicks creek to the top of Cactus Canyon on the cliff top trail, keep your eyes peeled for Dolphins! **C10**
60. ● Make a sea monster out of things you can find on the beach.

# Go for a fossil hunt at your nearest beach.

1 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!

Did you know the whole of Aldinga Bay area is rich in fossil material from millions of years ago?

Fossils are the remains of animals and plants preserved in stone. They can tell us what the area might have looked like millions of years ago and what creatures lived here. Fossils can help us understand history and are linked to dinosaurs and the Ice Age.

## How to do it

1. The beaches of Port Willunga and Aldinga are rich in fossils. Walk along the edge of the water looking for shapes of snails, sponges and tube worms in the stones.
2. You can see the layers that made up the ancient sea bed below Perkana Point at the north end of Port Willunga Beach. These layers took millions of years to form and are full of small creatures.
3. By the time you've walked down the ramp from top to bottom, you will have traveled through 50 million years of rock!
4. Take a toothbrush and magnifying glass to clean away the sand and take a closer look. The most common fossils are pointed snail shells – remains of Turret Snails from 30–40 million years ago!



### Where can you find fossils?

Port Willunga Beach  
Perkana Point  
Aldinga Beach  
Sellicks Beach South

## Did you know?

If you lined up an orange for every year that those fossils have been there you would have a line of oranges from Sydney to Perth! How many oranges would you need to show how many years you've been here?

If you are very lucky you might find a fossilised shark tooth!

## Play safe!

Obey the warning signs and keep clear of the cliffs as they might be unstable.

Stay on the walking trails wherever possible.

Wear sturdy shoes as the rocks can be slippery.

## Look after nature

Leave your discoveries for others to share and always lift rocks carefully as they might be an animal's home.

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.

### Research Online

Search the web for SA Museum, the geological society of South Australia, Port Willunga, Aldinga Library.

# Make a cubby from natural stuff in the Sheoak Forest.

2 of 20  
2  
COLLECT THEM ALL!

Do you remember building cubbies and dens from natural stuff when you were a kid? It actually has a heap of benefits!

It is a good way to problem solve, think outside the square, use your imagination (really important for kids), be creative, get away from stress, create a quiet place, and most importantly ... have fun!

Cubbies can be for us to fit into or for an imaginary animal of any size.

## How to do it

1. Find a natural place outside (make sure it is *not* in the Aldinga Scrub) that has lots of trees and has a bit of a messy look about it.
2. Collect fallen sticks with forks at the end (like two prongs) as these will help hold the cubby together. Fallen leaves, pebbles, seed pods and twigs can all be part of the cubby. If collecting natural stuff for a backyard cubby, call the City of Onkaparinga
3. A teepee or giant nest is a good place to start. The cubby can be anything from a castle to a hotel!
4. Dismantle your cubby and scatter the natural objects when you're done so others can use them, or they can break down into the ecosystem.



### Where can you build your cubby?

The Sheoak Forest is located at Port Willunga Linear Park  
Your backyard

## Did you know?

Shelters have been made for thousands of years by Aboriginal people using only natural things.

All the natural stuff will eventually decompose into a natural fertiliser and feed the living plants – it's like another type of food.

Animals use many different homes including burrows, tree hollows, leaf litter, bark, rock crevices, nests, and even houses (because they don't have enough homes out in the wild).

## Play safe!

Remember to be safe by always looking out for wildlife such as snakes and be careful with the pointy ends of sticks.

There may also be some signs that you need to read.

**Remember the Aldinga Scrub isn't a good place to build cubbies because the plants and animals that live there are sensitive to disturbance.**

### Research Online

For more information contact the City of Onkaparinga, who can guide you in selecting an area to build your cubby without damaging any significant areas.

## Look after nature

Remember that trees are important for birds, possums and even lizards, so when collecting natural stuff make sure it's already on the ground as living trees are easily damaged. By keeping them healthy we can keep building cubbies!

Some areas such as the Aldinga Scrub are too sensitive for building cubbies. Call the City of Onkaparinga or NRM Education to find an ideal place.



# Make a boat out of sticks and see if it floats

## at Hart Road Wetlands.



Aldinga Bay has a long history of ships and shipwrecks.

You can create your own boat out of found materials.

Will it float ... or become a shipwreck?

Building a stick boat is a great way for kids to problem solve and gain a sense of ownership – as well as elation when their boat floats!

### How to do it

1. Boats can be made from a single stick or a piece of bark to become a miniature raft depending on your skills and who can help. You can even make a sail from a leaf, or anything else that will catch the wind. Your boat can be as big or as small as you like. Try a few designs and see which works best!
2. Try to use only what you can find nearby and make sure it is natural, as litter can get lost and harm wildlife.
3. The best place to start your maiden voyage is at the edge of the water with your back to the wind.
4. Once you've mastered boat building you can hold boat races with your friends and family. No one is ever too old to make a stick boat!
5. Up for a challenge? Have a race to build and sail your boats from one side of the water to the other!



### Where can you float your boat?

At the beach  
Aldinga Reef rockpools  
Willunga Creek  
Hart Road Wetlands

### Did you know?

The most famous shipwreck in the area is the Star of Greece, wrecked in 1888. Check the plaque in the Port Willunga carpark and Aldinga Library for more information.

Aboriginal people have made rafts and canoes for fishing for thousands of years. The scars where the bark was cut from large trees is still visible today!

A group of explorers from Norway floated on a balsa log raft from South America to the Polynesian Islands in 1947 – it took 101 days and they travelled 8000 kilometres.

### Play safe!

Keep safe near the water and observe any warning signs. Not all water is safe to drink or swim in!

Keep an eye out for wildlife and reptiles that might be coming to the water for a drink.

#### Research Online

Search the web for SA Museum, Aldinga Library, Living Kurna Culture Centre and SA Maritime Museum.

### Look after nature

Don't make your boat out of anything that can't turn to compost. String and plastic can be dangerous to many wetland and sea animals.

Don't take any live branches as trees need them to survive. Pick one up off the ground instead.

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.



# Make a mud pie

**in the muddiest place you can find!**

4 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
**4**

Do you remember making mud pies when you were young?  
How dirty and sticky your hands got from squishing it between your fingers?

Making things is an important part of childhood – it gives children the creativity to make their own interpretation of a mud pie or mud character.

It's time to get muddy!

## How to do it

1. Find a place that is muddy: a creek, wetland, dirt patch in a park or a backyard (it's always ideal when it has been raining or you have water with you).
2. Collect some natural things that will help decorate your mud pie such as twigs, flowers, small stones, and bark. You may even want a flat rock to put your pies on.
3. A mud pie needs the perfect amount of mud and water. You can either make your own mixture, or find mud that has the right texture. Rolling the mud in your hands and moulding it into a pie or cookie will work if you have a drier mixture. Otherwise, making it on the ground allows it to be a bit more 'sloppy'. If you are in a backyard, old pots and pans can add to the fun!
4. Leave your mud pies for others to see as it may inspire them to make their own.



### Where can you make your pie?

Your backyard  
Hart Road Wetlands

## Did you know?

International Mud Day is on June 29. The whole world celebrates mud!

Some birds such as Magpie Lark (looks like a smaller version of the Magpie and is also the bird on the State Government logo) make solid mud nests!

## Play safe!

Stay on the trails and read the signs.

Don't enter the scrub on high fire danger days in summer.

## Look after nature

Some creeks have sensitive banks and can erode (break away) quite easily. Picking flatter areas is much better for the environment.

Wetlands are the ideal places to build your mud pies as long as you don't dig big holes or take too much from the banks.

### Research Online

Search the web for Mud Day, mud pies.



# Find some tadpoles in Port Willunga Creek.

5 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
5

Do you remember catching tadpoles when you were young? Where did you catch them? Do children still play in the areas where you caught tadpoles? Many of these areas have disappeared and if they are still there not as many kids use them.

Catching anything down at a creek is exciting and can keep you busy for hours! Any activity with animals provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate the 'power of nurture', particularly given how children bond to little creatures.

## How to do it

1. Tadpoles are almost impossible to catch with your hands – but you can always try! Find a creek or wetland that has very slow-moving or still water. If you look very closely you may see some tadpoles swimming!
2. Find a white container and if you can, make a net by using a coat hanger and stocking material.
3. With your container take scoops of water – search very carefully as there may be other things in the water. If you make a net, you can try to scoop up some tadpoles and put them in your container (make sure it has some water in it first!).
4. Once you catch your tadpoles, look closely to see if they have any legs yet. If they are about to have legs you should see them bulging beneath their skin as they will eventually push their way through (which can be quite exciting for children to learn!). Remember, tadpoles can't breathe outside of water as they have gills like fish, so always have water ready for them. Frogs are different as they grow lungs and can breathe out of water.
5. When you have finished, return your tadpoles from where you caught them. Next time you visit them they might be frogs!



### Where can you catch tadpoles?

Port Willunga Creek  
Creeks, wetlands and dams  
Sellicks Creek Wetlands  
Willunga Creek  
Hart Road Wetlands  
The Washpool

## Did you know?

Tadpoles have gills, frogs have lungs. A tadpole's tail holds all the nutrients and slowly feeds the tadpole. It shrivels up and disappears as the tadpole grows into a frog.

Frog eggs look like white foam and can be laid on the surface of water or surrounding plants.

Sometime tadpoles may appear to have one leg – but it's because the other one hasn't pushed through the skin yet!

## Play safe!

Tadpoles generally won't be found in deep or fast-moving water, so steer clear of these areas!

Wear appropriate shoes as creek banks can be slippery.

Always pay attention to signs.

### Research Online

Go to the Aldinga library and pick up an ID chart about local frogs.

## Look after nature

Tadpoles are important as they keep the population of frogs healthy and are valuable food for fish. We always need to put them back where we found them.

Tadpoles are also sensitive to handling and can easily die if you are not careful.

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin.

# Walk along the high tide line and see what things you can find

## at Sellicks Beach.

6 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
**6**

How often do you go down to the beach? Do ever go searching for treasure? You can find some amazing things to find when you start to explore.

Exploration and discovery are really important activities for children to engage in as they can express their innate curiosity and interpret 'discoveries' in their own way.

### How to do it

1. The high tide line is where the tide reaches its highest point. You see it where the smooth sand meets the rough dry sand. It is also lined with seaweed and other washed up bits and pieces. This is your starting point.
2. To make things interesting it is good to find different-shaped and coloured objects. You can collect them as you go or simply examine all the

'cool stuff' (if you find any creatures or eggs, look but don't touch!). If you are with a friend, set a challenge to see 'who can find the coolest thing'!

3. If you do collect things, leaving them behind will allow them to go back into the natural system. And remember, leave nothing but footprints.



#### Where is the washpool?

The Washpool can be accessed from Button Road, Sellicks Beach.

The Washpool is halfway between Silver Sands (Aldinga Beach) and Sellicks Beach.

### Did you know?

Port Jackson Shark eggs are often washed up on the beach. They look like giant corkscrews! The female shark wedges them into rocks where they will take up to 12 months to hatch.

White, oval-shaped Cuttlefish is one the most common things you will find.

Dried starfish and seahorses can sometimes wash up but are quite hard to find. The biggest starfish in the world is the Sunflower Starfish measuring over a metre across!

### Play safe!

Fish and jellyfish that wash up should never be touched, and some shells may still have creatures in them, so make sure you find the empty ones. Avoid sifting through piles of seaweed as they may contain sharp shells and objects.

#### Research Online

Go to the Aldinga library and pick up an ID chart about Coastal Education.

### Look after nature

If you put your findings back on the beach they can rejoin the natural system.

Hooded Plovers are very rare birds that sometimes lay eggs on the shoreline. If you find a nest, stay away and contact the Council so they can make sure it is well protected (you may have discovered a nest that we didn't know was there!).

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.

# Draw a huge picture in the sand

so you can see it from the Esplanade.



Want to do something BIG? How about drawing the biggest picture ever? The sprawling beaches of Aldinga Bay are a perfect canvas!

Try drawing yourself, a giant sea monster or just big shapes with a stick, stone or even a garden rake! This activity is ideal for developing creativity and children can often surprise themselves with what they are capable of.

## How to do it

1. Imagine the biggest picture you can. Get a friend to help find a nice flat spot on the sand, below the tide line at low tide. Summer has the lowest tides and you can check to see when it will be lowest in the local newspaper or on the internet.
2. Use a stick, a stone, your finger or a garden rake to make huge patterns. You are limited only by your imagination!
3. Find the highest nearby spot to see your giant artwork. Try Sellicks Beach Esplanade.
4. The tide will clean away your giant drawing tonight and leave a fresh place to do another tomorrow!



### Where can you draw your picture?

Aldinga Beach  
Car-free section in front  
of the Aldinga Bay Surf Club  
Port Willunga  
Sellicks Beach

## Did you know?

Marree Man is a giant picture of an Aboriginal man in the desert of South Australia. It measures 4.2 kilometres long!

The ancient peoples of Peru created a series of giant pictures drawn in the Nazca Desert. Some of them are over 270 metres across!

## Play safe!

Keep an eye out for cars that are moving on the beach at Sellicks and Aldinga Beach.

There is a car-free section in front of the Surf Club at the end of Norman Road.

### Research Online

Search the web for SA Museum, Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges, Natural Resources Management Board, Hooded Plover, Marree Man.

## Look after nature

Look for small birds with black markings on their heads. These are the rare Hooded Plovers which nest above the high tide line. If you see one, keep a safe distance to make sure you don't disturb it as it may have chicks. If you see any eggs, leave them as they are and consider moving your work of art away from them.

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.



# Go rock pooling at low tide on Aldinga Reef.



The reefs of the Aldinga Bay are exciting places to explore and learn about the animals and plants that call them home.

From shallow pools that you can step across to large reefs that can stretch well out to sea at low tide, there is a lifetime of discoveries to be made.

## How to do it

1. Look for the rocky reef at Snapper Point in Aldinga at low tide. There are also great reefs at Port Willunga and Sellicks Beach.
2. Move slowly across the reef looking into the pools for trapped fish, sea stars, anemones, octopi and crabs. Keep the sun in front of you so that you don't cast a shadow over the pool and scare the creatures away!
3. If you sit quietly for a few minutes you'll see many creatures start to move around, many that you didn't even know were there. The longer you watch the more creatures you'll see!
4. Keep an eye out for seabirds and other animals that use the reef. You might see seals, dolphins or, if you're very lucky, penguins!
5. There's no need to try to catch the reef dwellers. It's much more fun to sit quietly and watch them go about their lives. See what you can learn and how many different animals and plants live in one tiny pool!



### Where can you rock pooling?

Aldinga Reef rock pools  
Port Willunga Beach  
Perkana Point  
Sellicks Beach (southern end)

## Did you know?

The Aldinga Reef is a protected Marine Reserve and a very important breeding ground for many fish and marine creatures.

Aboriginal people have used the reef to gather food for thousands of years.

Did you know that Sea Sponges are animals, not plants?

The Blue-ringed Octopus is one of the world's most venomous marine animals. Watch out!

## Play safe!

An old pair of sneakers or reef shoes is handy to make your way onto the reef and protect you from sharp rocks.

Don't put your hands under ledges or where you can't see. You don't know who's living there!

Keep an eye out for dangerous animals including the Blue-ringed Octopus. These can be very dangerous if handled, and sometimes make their homes in old bottles and cans. Crabs aren't poisonous but they can still get you with their nippers!

## Look after nature

Don't take crabs away from their homes. Enjoy watching them and leave them for others to discover.

Tread lightly on the reef and sea grass. Many animals depend on them for food and shelter.

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.

### Research Online

Search the web for SA Museum, Aldinga Library, Living Kaurna Culture Centre, ReefWatch SA.



# Look for animal tracks and traces

## in the Aldinga Scrub.



What do you think when you hear 'animal poo'?

It may sound off-putting – but finding tracks and traces such as footprints, diggings, and feathers can be fascinating!

In all natural areas (including your backyard) there are tracks and traces of animals just waiting to be found. Becoming an explorer for the day can heighten a child's sense of excitement, problem-solving, and knowledge of their local area.

### How to do it

1. Tracks and traces are often found on paths. Venturing into vegetation to find them can be tricky and can also damage rare plants and scare off any sleeping creatures.
2. There are some easy things to start with. Kangaroo poo which is shiny, brown and roundish, a little larger than a marble. Echidna diggings are small and long (cylindrical) holes which you could almost fit your

fist into. Possum poo is long and cylindrical in shape, and bird nests are common in all shapes and sizes.

3. When you find tracks and traces you may not know what they are, but you can certainly guess! This is where imagination and creativity comes in. If you want to leave your own track or trace, use some small twigs or rocks to leave behind your own special pattern.



**Where can you find tracks and traces?**

Aldinga Scrub  
Your backyard

Any place natural that has had animals

### Did you know?

Koala poo actually smells like Eucalyptus leaves, and Echidna poo looks like tightly rolled up ants (this is what an Echidna's diet consists of!).

Echidnas are in a special group of two animals (known as monotremes), the other one being the Platypus. These two creatures are different to all the rest as they suckle their young (like all mammals), but, unlike any mammal, they lay eggs (like reptiles and birds). This is one of the strangest things in the animal kingdom!

### Play safe!

Never handle animal poo.

You may find your eyes will be glued to the ground or looking up at the trees but remember to watch where you are going!

Don't enter the Scrub on high fire danger days (you can check at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)).

#### Research Online

There is a great book called 'Tracks, scats and other traces' by Barbara Triggs, which will help you identify what you find.

### Look after nature

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.

Try to leave the Scrub as you found for others to enjoy. Everything that you find in nature (other than rubbish) belongs there.

Sticking to paths will help protect the unique plants and animals that live in the Scrub.



# Listen to frog calls and have a go at making the call yourself

## at the Hart Road Wetlands.



There are heaps of frogs around the Aldinga area.  
You just have to know how to look ... and listen!

Frogs call to find mates, to tell other frogs that this is their territory and sometimes, maybe, just for fun! You can talk to frogs as well if you know their language. Luckily, most frogs only have one call, and once you learn it they might start to call back to you!

## How to do it

1. Frogs are most at home near permanent fresh water, so a creek or wetland is a great place to start looking. They often call out in the morning and evening, or after rain. These are the best times to listen.
2. Wait quietly until you hear your frog. It may be a "BOONK" for an Eastern Banjo Frog, or a "crick crick crick" for a Common Froglet. You can research to find even more.
3. Once you've mastered a call, try it out and wait quietly for a minute to see if a frog calls back. Once you've learned one, try another!
4. Look closely at the places that particular frogs like to call home. Some prefer shallow wetlands, others deep pools. You might even find the foamy egg rafts clinging to the reeds, ready to hatch into the next generation of tadpoles!



### Where can you hear a frog?

Creeks, wetlands and dams  
Sellicks Creek Wetlands  
Willunga Creek  
Hart Road Wetlands  
The Washpool

## Did you know?

Frogs live in many places in South Australia ... even in the Northern Desert!

Frogs are very sensitive to pollution. Their presence in an area is a good sign that the ecosystem is healthy.

There are at least 28 species of frogs in South Australia and at least 8 are found on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

You can attract frogs to your garden by building a pond and creating places for them to hide.

## Play safe!

Keep safe near the water and observe any warning signs. Not all water is safe to drink or swim in!

Keep an eye out for wildlife and reptiles that might be coming to the water for a drink.

### Research Online

Search the web for SA Museum, Aldinga Library, Frogs of South Australia, Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (build a frog pond).

## Look after nature

Listen and watch but leave the frogs to get along with their froggy business. Their skin is very delicate and can be damaged by handling. If you lift a log to check underneath, make sure you replace it as you found it.

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.



# On a clear night look at the stars and try to spot the Southern Cross from your backyard.

11 of 20  
11  
COLLECT THEM ALL!

Stargazing can be really exciting, particularly when you are lucky enough to see shooting stars!

Stars open up a world of imagination. Where do they come from? How old are they? All these questions can be explored as a family or between friends. The Southern Cross (which features on the Australian flag) is an easy constellation to find if you look hard enough!

## How to do it

1. On a clear night head outside and find piece of lawn and lay down looking out into the stars.
2. The Southern Cross (known as 'Crux' constellation) can be found in the southern portion of the sky. It is shaped like a kite with four bright stars and one not-so-bright star. Take your time in searching as you may
3. Once you have found the Southern Cross, spend some time talking about stars. As you are chatting, keep your eyes focused on the sky as it is likely you will see a shooting star!



### Where can you stargaze?

Your backyard  
The beach  
Anywhere you can get a relaxing view

## Did you know?

Stars are an important part of Aboriginal Dreaming.

The cloudiness you can see amongst the stars is the Milky Way (a galaxy).

The oldest star is believed to be 13.6 billion years old. The sun, also a star, is around 4.6 billion years old!

A comet orbits the sun and has a tail.

Asteroids are similar to comets but don't have a tail. Meteors are space objects that enter our atmosphere – if they survive and land they are called meteorites! A shooting star is actually a meteor, not a star.

## Play safe!

It's a good idea to take a torch with you, but be sure to turn it off when you get comfortable as the lights can interfere with the clarity of the night.

If you are stargazing down at the beach keep an eye on the tide as it can sneak up on you!

## Look after nature

If you keep your voices down you can avoid scaring any nocturnal animals such as possums. If stargazing somewhere other than home, be sure to leave nothing but footprints.

### Research Online

For more information you can find plenty of constellation maps online (make sure it is a southern hemisphere map). There are smartphone apps that help you find all the constellations by pointing out into the sky (although stargazing is a lot more relaxing without technology).



# Build a mini-town out of sand at Aldinga Beach.

12 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
12

Have you ever wanted to build your own personal town or city?  
You can! All you need is your hands and some imagination!

The beach has an unlimited supply of building materials and room to build your own mini-town. Don't forget to include harbours and rivers as well! Building things is a great way to problem solve and work together with family or friends.

## How to do it

1. You'll need a little bit of space at your local beach and some friends and family as building buddies. Start by making some sandcastle buildings.
2. Now let's think about other building materials. Can you find any feathers for flags, dried cuttlefish, sticks, seaweed, or even bits of litter (pop these in the bin when you leave)? Try to use only what you can find on the beach.
3. You can build tunnels and roads, roundabouts and parks. You are limited only by your imagination ... and the tides! Dig a channel all the way to the water's edge and watch your channels and rivers fill as the tide comes in!
4. Try drip castles to make tall points. Use the very wet sand and let it run through your fingers to raise a castle drip by drip!
5. You can even build a town in your backyard ... and you won't have to worry about the tide washing it away!



### Where can you build your town?

At the beach  
Aldinga beach  
Port Willunga beach  
Sellicks Beach

## Did you know?

The world's tallest sandcastle measured 11.53 m high and was created by Ed Jarrett at Winding Trails Recreation Area in Farmington, Connecticut, USA, on 20 May 2011.

There is almost 12 kilometres of beach between Perkana point and Cactus Canyon!

Sand dunes store and stabilise the sand which nourishes the beach and prevents erosion.

## Play safe!

Never dig holes or tunnels big enough to climb into. They can collapse unexpectedly!

### Research Online

Search the web for sandcastle art, giant sandcastles, sand art.

## Look after nature

Don't forget to take any litter that you use to decorate your town when you leave. String and plastic can be dangerous to many sea animals.

Leave the beach as you found it. Take only memories and leave only footprints.



# Collect lots of different types of shells down at Aldinga Beach.

13 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
13

How often do you go down to the beach?  
Do you ever see people collecting shells?

There are some amazing-looking shells to find when you start to look. Exploration, discovery, and new textures such as shells are really important ways for children to heighten their senses and creativity.

## How to do it

1. When you get down to the beach, the best place to start looking is the shoreline where things have been washed up.
2. You can collect your shells in a small basket or container (that is if you want to compare all of your findings). Avoid putting them in your pocket and make sure the shells are empty before picking them up.
3. Once you have finished collecting you can compare the colours and textures and try and figure out what type of creature once lived in them. If you do collect things, leaving them behind will allow them to go back into the natural system. And remember, leave nothing but footprints.



Where can you walk along the high tide line?

Aldinga Beach  
Sellicks Beach  
Willunga Beach

## Did you know?

Common shells you may find are Cockles, Scallops and Abalone.

The world's largest shell belongs to an endangered Giant Clam which reaches over a metre in length and weighs as much as 200 kilograms (with the creature still living in it).

Aboriginal groups across Australia's coast have long used shells for food (when there was a creature inside) and jewellery.

You may be lucky enough to find a shell with a hole that looks like it's been drilled. This is where another sea creature has pierced the shell to eat the animal inside!

## Play safe!

Some shells may have dangerous creatures in them so make sure you only pick up ones you can clearly see have nothing in them (such as cockles and fan-looking scallops) and don't put them in your pocket.

Avoid sifting through piles of seaweed as there can sharp shells and objects in them.

### Research Online

Go to the Aldinga library and pick up an ID chart about Coastal Education.

## Look after nature

If you put your findings back on the beach they can rejoin the natural system.

Hooded Plovers are very rare birds that sometimes lay eggs on the shoreline. If you find a nest, stay away and contact the Council so they can make sure it is well protected (you may have discovered a nest that we didn't know was there!).

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.



# See if you can find any crabs amongst the rocks

## at Aldinga or Sellicks Beach.

14 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
**14**

The rocky shores and reefs of Aldinga Bay have many types of animals that call them home. These include lots of different kinds of shore crabs, hiding by day and roaming the shore for food at night.

You can get a glimpse of these remarkable locals just by knowing where, and how, to look!

### How to do it

1. Crabs prefer to shelter by day in holes and cracks in the reef and under rocks along the shore line. Look for a patch of reef or rocks to start your search.
2. If you carefully move rocks you might find a crab sheltering there. Remember to always put the rock down carefully just as you found it. This is the crab's home!
3. Crabs have sharp claws and don't like to be handled so it's best to look, but not try to catch them.
4. Draw a picture of the crabs or try to remember their colours and shapes. You can research online to try to identify them. The two most common crabs along our shore are the Reef Crab and Red Bait Crab. How many different kinds can you find?



#### Where can you find crabs?

Aldinga Reef rock pools  
Port Willunga Beach  
Perkana Point  
Sellicks Beach (southern end)

### Did you know?

Many crabs can regrow their limbs if they are broken off, so if a predator grasps the limb, the leg breaks off and the crab can scuttle away! It takes about six moults to regrow a severed limb.

The European Green Shore Crab is an introduced crab species that has been found at the Aldinga Reef.

You can tell if a crab is male or female by looking at its underside. The males have a triangular tail flap and the females have a round one!

### Play safe!

An old pair of sneakers or reef shoes is handy to make your way onto the reef and protect you from sharp rocks.

Don't put your hands under ledges or where you can't see. You don't know who's living there!

Keep an eye out for animals including the Blue-ringed Octopus. These can be very dangerous if handled, and sometimes make their homes in old bottles and cans.

#### Research Online

Search the web for SA Museum, Aldinga Library, Life on Australian Seashores – Crab identification.

### Look after nature

Don't take crabs away from their homes. Enjoy watching them and leave them for others to discover.

Tread lightly on the reef and sea grass. Many animals depend on them for food and shelter.

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.

# Dig for worms in your backyard.

15 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
15

**How often do you play in the backyard?**

Exploring our own backyards can help children feel at home and connect to their natural environment outside.

Finding worms is a fond childhood memory for most adults, and an important one that we need to create today. Exploring and discovering are important parts of childhood that foster creativity and imagination. So let's find some wriggly worms!

## How to do it

1. Find a place in your backyard (or a friend's) that is ideal for digging (such as a garden bed). You won't have to dig too deep to find them – although if the soil is too dry they may not be there at all, so you will need to find another patch.
2. Return your worms to the soil when you have finished, make sure they are covered when you put them back so they are not in the direct sun.



### Where can you dig for worms?

Your backyard  
A friend's backyard  
School

## Did you know?

The largest worm in the world is the Bootlace Worm from Britain and Ireland – which has been known to grow over 50 metres in length!

Worm 'wee' is a great natural fertiliser that comes from your home-made worm farm (worms used in worm farms are different to Earthworms that live in the soil).

The channels worms leave help aerate the soil and help with drainage.

Some say worms will survive if cut in half, however only the part with the head has any chance of survival – so it's best to be on the safe side and keep them intact!

## Play safe!

Always wash your hands after playing in soil and with worms.

Don't eat the worms – we leave that up to the birds.

Remember to fill in your hole so you don't fall into it!

## Look after nature

Always be careful handling worms. Although they are slimy and covered in dirt they are just as important as any other animal.

You may find other creatures in the soil, so be delicate with these too.

### Research Online

Search the web for instructions on how you can set up a worm farm at home.

# Get up at sunrise. How many bird calls can you hear in your backyard?

16 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
16

Sunrise is a beautiful time of day! Not only do different colours stretch across the sky, but this is also the time of day that birds are most active and vocal.

On an average morning you should be able to hear more than five bird calls. Any more you are on your way becoming an expert! Listening to birds is great for concentration and an ideal activity to do as a family.

## How to do it

1. Set your alarm early, have a healthy breakfast and get ready to listen!
2. Head outside into your backyard or front yard and sit for several minutes (more if it's not too cold). Count the number of bird calls you hear – do you know what they are? Have you heard them before? Can you see them? Are there any feathers? If you do this over a few mornings you will begin to
3. If you want to hear more birds and you feel like you are getting to know the birds around your home, find a new place with trees and shrubs and see how many birds you can find. If you get this far you can consider yourself an up-and-coming bird expert (ornithologist)!



### Where can you listen for birds?

Your backyard or front yard  
Aldinga Scrub  
Aldinga and Sellicks Beach

## Did you know?

You will most likely hear pigeons – the one with a crest is actually a local native bird!

You can generally tell what birds eat from their beaks. Those with thin curved beaks (honeyeaters) prefer nectar, while those with short stumpy beaks (finches) like seeds. Birds with strong sharp beaks (Magpies) prefer insects and small reptiles.

Some birds need tree hollows instead of nests to raise their young. Tree hollows take over 100 years to develop! How many trees in your local area are over 100 years old?

## Play safe!

If you are looking for the birds, try and do it standing still. It's easy to trip if you are looking up while you're walking!

## Look after nature

The quieter you are, the more likely you are to see the birds making the calls.

Always keep your distance with birds as you can easily scare them away.

### Research Online

Go to the Aldinga library and pick up an ID chart about Bird Education. It is also handy to purchase or borrow a field ID book on birds from the library.

# Close your eyes and listen for 3 minutes to the different sounds

## at Aldinga Scrub.

17 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
17

The Aldinga Scrub is an amazing place to visit to get a glimpse of what the Aldinga Bay area may have looked like in the past. Many of its plants, flowers, animals and birds are rare and hard to find anywhere else.

A great way to experience the scrub is to listen. Listening helps us tune in to our surroundings and heightens our awareness of the many creatures around us.

### How to do it

1. A great spot to access the Scrub is from the carpark at the corner of Dover Street and Fraser Street at Aldinga Beach. Take time to look at the sign showing the trail network to decide where to go.
2. Find a quiet spot (the lookout on the loop trail has a nice seat) and close your eyes. Listen for as long as you can and try to count the number of different things you hear.
3. Don't forget to use your nose! You'll be surprised how many different plant smells you can find as well (especially in the spring or after rain).
4. Walk with your friends and family to share the experience. Be prepared! Take a drink bottle if it's warm outside and wear comfortable walking shoes.
5. Always stay on the trails to protect the plants and make sure that no one gets lost! Remember, the slower you walk, the more you'll see.



#### Where do you find the Scrub?

Corner of Dover Street and Fraser Street, Aldinga Beach

### Did you know?

If you go for a walk in spring you can see the hundreds of wildflowers in bloom!

Aldinga Scrub has 166 species of birds, 18 butterflies and over 540 species of insects!

One of the many animals that live in the park are Echidnas. Move quietly and you might see one.

The Scrub supplied food and materials for the Kaurna Aboriginal people during the summer months.

### Play safe!

Stay on the trails and read the signs.

Don't enter the Scrub on high fire danger days in summer.

#### Research Online

Search the web for SA Museum, Friends of Aldinga Scrub, Living Kaurna Culture Centre, Aldinga Scrub park guide and map.

### Look after nature

Try sticking to paths and to leave the Scrub just as you found it for future generations. Everything that grows and lives in there belongs there.

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.



# Find where the Washpool meets the sea at Sellicks Beach.

18 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
18

The Washpool is one of the only coastal lagoons left along our stretch of coast. It has cultural importance for the local Kurna Aboriginal people, as well as providing important homes and resting places for many resident and migratory birds.

During winter rains the lagoon can triple in size and break out through the cobblestones to the sea. The Washpool is a great place to show children how places can change, both seasonally and in a matter of days.

## How to do it

1. To find the Washpool, check our map. Otherwise, you can find it at the end of Button Road at Sellicks Beach.
2. Wear some sturdy shoes or gumboots for exploring the network of trails around the Washpool. It can get a little muddy, especially in winter!
3. Try to count the different birds that you see and watch what they are doing. Watch the different ways that they feed. Some dive, some dig and some wait very still and catch small fish and animals as they pass by.



### Where is the washpool?

The Washpool can be accessed from Button Road, Sellicks Beach.

The Washpool is halfway between Silver Sands (Aldinga Beach) and Sellicks Beach.

## Did you know?

Part of the Tjilbruke Dreaming Tracks, the lagoon is home to many species of water birds and has several rare plant species.

The Washpool provides important breeding habitat for native fish and is also a great place to practice your frog calls!

## Play safe!

Keep safe near the water and observe any warning signs. Not all water is safe to drink or swim in!

Keep an eye out for wildlife and reptiles that might be coming to the water for a drink.

## Look after nature

The quieter you are, the more you might see. Try not to disturb the animals as you watch them.

If you find some litter, drop it into the bin as you leave to make it safer for all the animals that live nearby.

### Research Online

Search the web for SA Museum, Aldinga Library, Living Kurna Culture Centre, Bird Life Australia.



# Go on a nature walk at night with a torch and find some animal eyes

## around Aldinga Scrub.

19 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL!  
**19**

Some of our native animals sleep during the day (nocturnal) and come out when the sun sets to look for food. A great way to discover a whole new world of wildlife is to take a torch and see what animals are active after dark.

Try your backyard or take go for a family night walk nearby – it makes for a great adventure.

### How to do it

1. Make sure children have an adult with them when they look for nighttime animals. It's a good idea to make sure that it's an area that you know well and have been to before.
2. Make sure everyone in your group has a torch and stays together. Remember, the more quietly and slowly you move, the more you'll see!
3. Slowly move your light over the ground in front of you, next the bases

of the trees and bushes, and then slowly follow the trunk up to the tree tops.

4. You might see a pair of eyes shining back at you from a possum, an owl, or a small mammal. You might even the shape of a small bat flying past! Try different times of evening and different seasons to see which creatures live near you!



#### Where can you look?

Your backyard  
The trees in your street  
The edge of Aldinga Scrub  
(stay on the surrounding roads,  
don't enter the scrub at night)  
Hart Road Wetlands

### Did you know?

Many native animals can see better at night than daytime! There are more than 90 species of bats in Australia, with at least 12 species found in South Australia.

One of the most common native animals you might see is the Brushtail Possum, with its distinctive dark, bushy tail. Because there aren't many tree hollows for them, they sometimes like to live in your roof!

Rabbits and Foxes can be seen at night, sometimes even in your street!

### Play safe!

Never spotlight alone. Always take an adult with you.

Make sure you know where you're going and check it out in daylight first.

#### Research Online

Search the web for SA Museum, Aldinga Library, Australian Museum and Bats of Australia, Australian Museum and Brushtail Possum.

### Look after nature

Try not to disturb the animals that you're watching. Keep quiet and leave them to feed and move on. Wildlife can be very sensitive to flashes on cameras so try and capture it in your memory instead!



# Go on a bug hunt in your backyard.

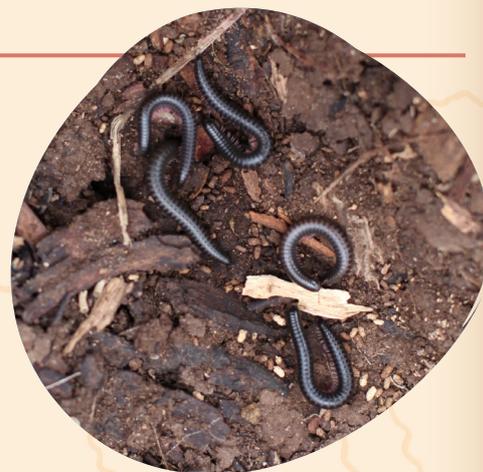
20 of 20  
COLLECT THEM ALL  
20

Finding bugs can be an exciting adventure full of fascination and discovery.

There are hundreds to be found under rocks and logs, from slaters (silver oval-shaped critters) to beetles. When children engage with animals, big or small, they can learn to nurture and care for other beings and develop a keen interest that may fuel their desire to learn more. Above all, it can be a load of fun!

## How to do it

1. You don't really need anything to go on a bug hunt. A magnifying glass is handy but many bugs are easy to see. Find a place with some small rocks, logs, trees and dirt.
2. Take a look around and think about where bugs might be living – in the trees, on leaves, under small rocks and logs, amongst leaf litter, on tree trunks, and anywhere else natural.
3. How many different things can you find? What was the biggest? What is the strangest looking? What would you be if you were a bug and why? Did you find anything else other than bugs?



### Where to find bugs

Your backyard  
Hart Road Wetlands  
Willunga Creek

## Did you know?

Spiders are different to insects. Insects have six legs and three body parts, whereas spiders have eight legs and two body parts.

The term 'bugs' only describes a small portion of terrestrial invertebrates ('terrestrial' means living on land, 'invertebrates' means animals without a backbone) and technically doesn't include spiders – but most people refer to them as bugs. The proper term is Arthropods, which includes insects and spiders.

Some insects lay their eggs inside the bodies of others – they feed on their insides. Although this may seem gross it's all part of the animal kingdom!

## Play safe!

Avoid lifting up large rocks and logs as you may find a snake coiled up!

Avoid picking any critters up as some may be poisonous, like the Centipede and Redback Spider.

Always wear sturdy shoes and don't pick up anything too heavy.

## Look after nature

If you pick up rocks and logs to look underneath, always put them back very carefully in the same spot. If there is a lizard under a rock or log be careful not to squash it! Instead wait for it to scurry off (it will usually come back).

Pulling bark off trees can be bad for many creatures as this is their home – peek under instead.

### Research Online

Search online for a range of identification charts that you can take into the field.