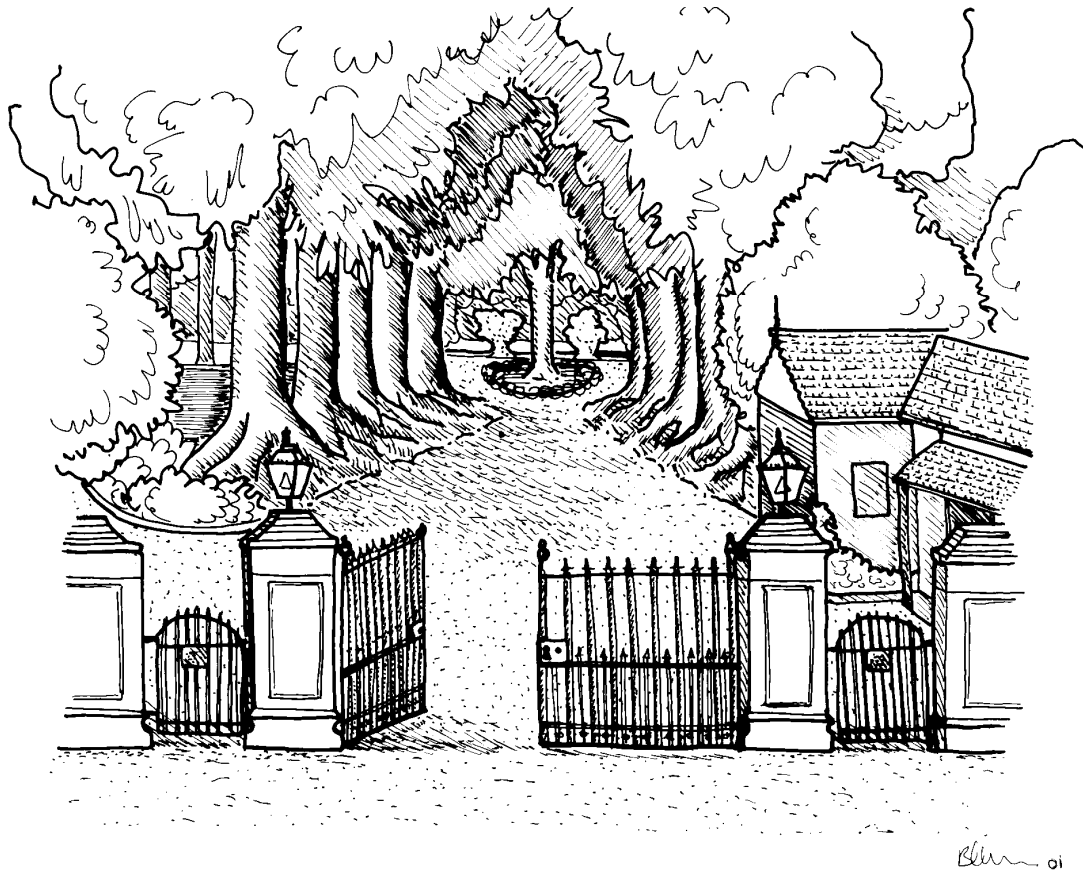


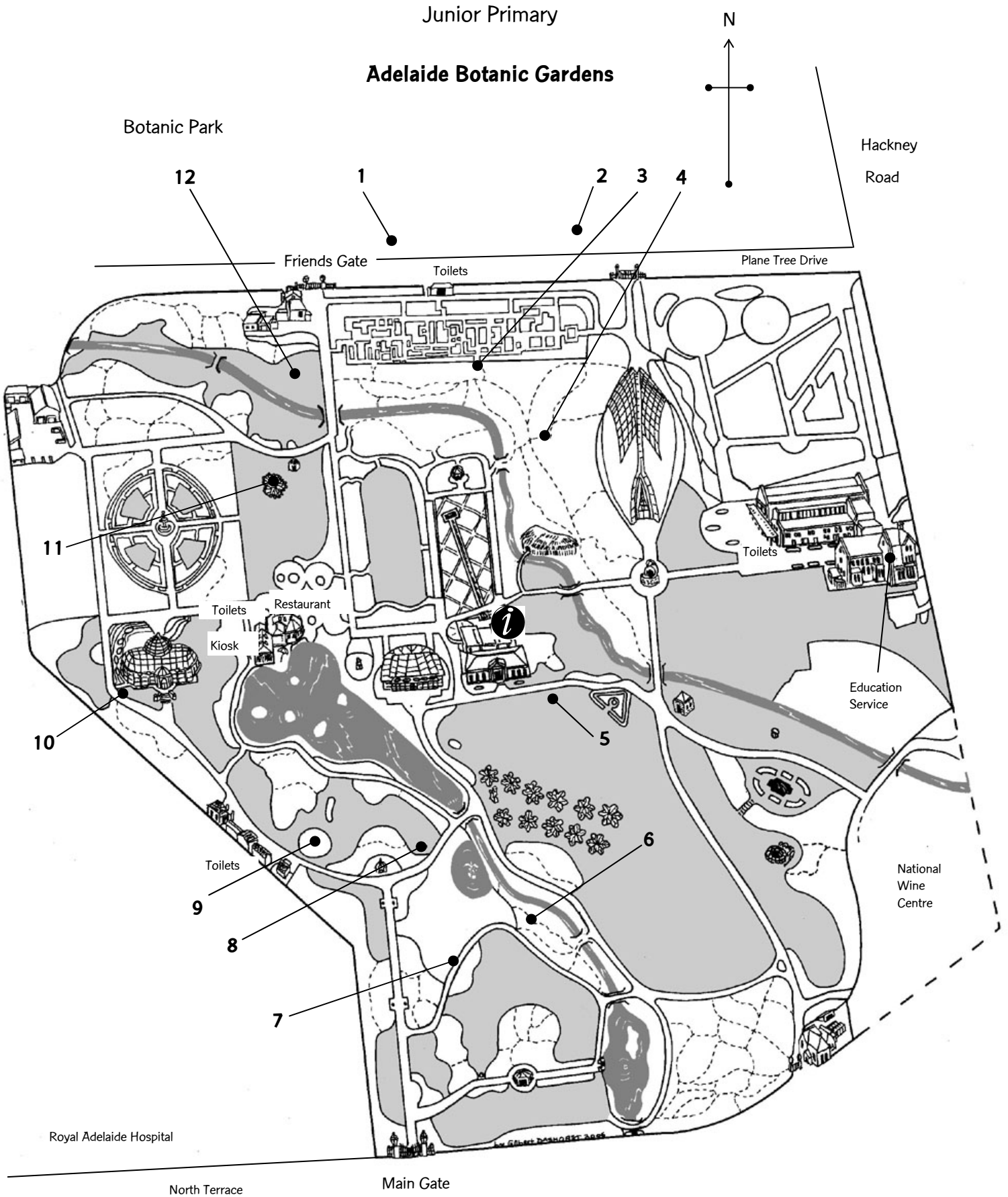
Talking Tree Trail

Junior Primary Student Guide



Education @ Adelaide Botanic Garden

Talking Tree Trail



1. Strangler Fig

My roots grow in the **g r _ _ _ d** and the **a _ _**.

My roots grow **up / down**.

Add some roots to the drawing.

My figs are coloured **yellow / green**.



My Story

Strangler Fig

Ficus thonningii

I am a Strangler Fig, but don't be scared of me. Lucky for you my strangling roots do not harm people and only strangle other trees!

I start my life high up in the rainforests from seed brought to the branches by birds, bats and other animals. Up high my leaves catch the sun and grow quickly. My roots twist and turn as they grow down to the ground. They then put a bear hug around the trunk of the tree I am growing on until eventually it may die.

Now don't think badly of me. I have an important job to do in the rainforest. I make food and homes for animals and I only harm the weak old trees and replace them with brand new healthy fig trees like me.

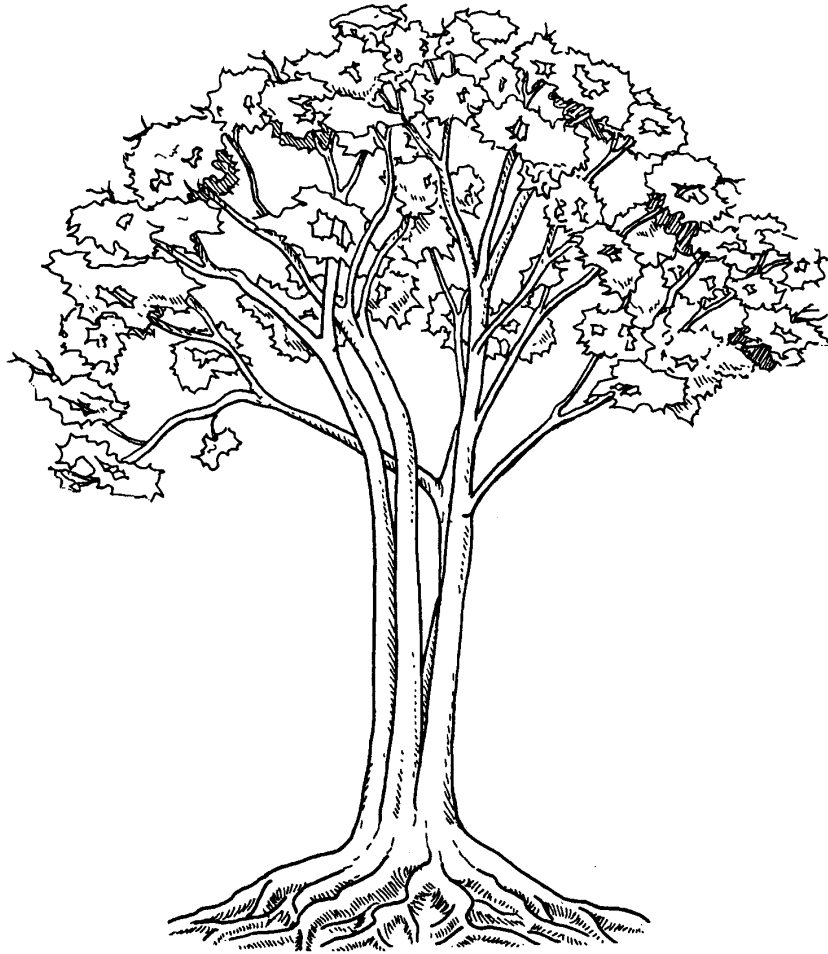
2. Moreton Bay Fig

Finish the drawing of my roots.

My roots grow **above**/ / **below** the ground.

Under my roof of leaves it is **light** / **dark**.

It feels **cooler** / **hotter** here.



My Story

Moreton Bay Fig

Ficus macrophylla

Look up. Can you see the big roof my leaves make? In Queensland rainforest where I grow I make it cool and dark down below on the forest floor.

People love my beautiful winding roots that grow on top of the ground. They help to hold up my giant trunk.

Lots of people have their wedding photos taken around me here, it can get very busy on Saturday afternoons. I guess they think I am beautiful. What do you think?

Be careful if you climb on my roots, I can be slippery and it is easy to fall. Some people that live in rainforests use my roots as drums to send messages to other people.

3. Shelter Tree

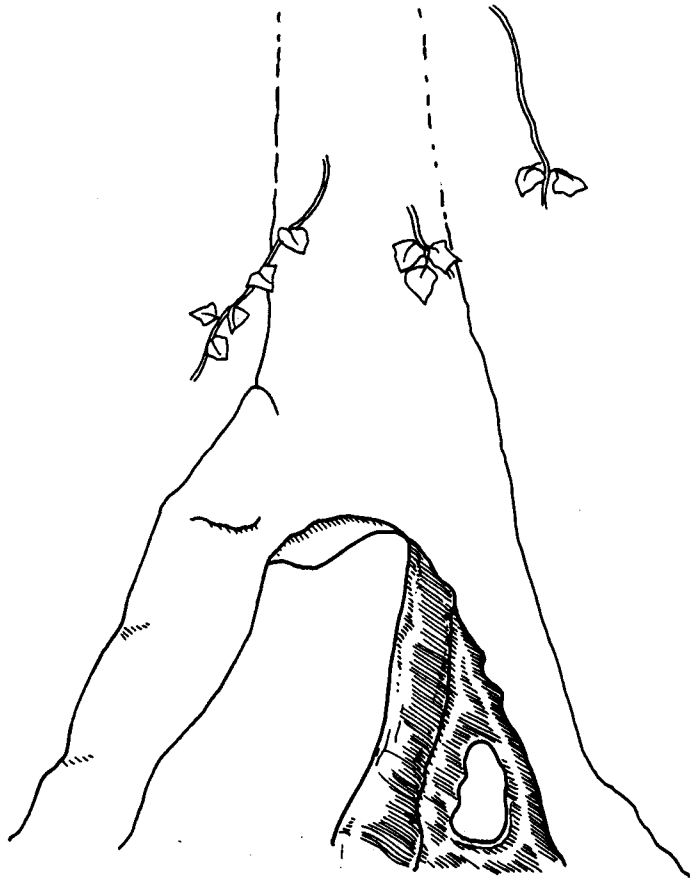
This tree is **dead / alive**.

The black marks inside my trunk were made by **f _ _ e**.

Aboriginal people used the tree for **a home / clothes**.

How many students can fit inside the trunk? _____

Add some ivy to the tree.



My Story

Shelter Tree (River Red Gum)

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

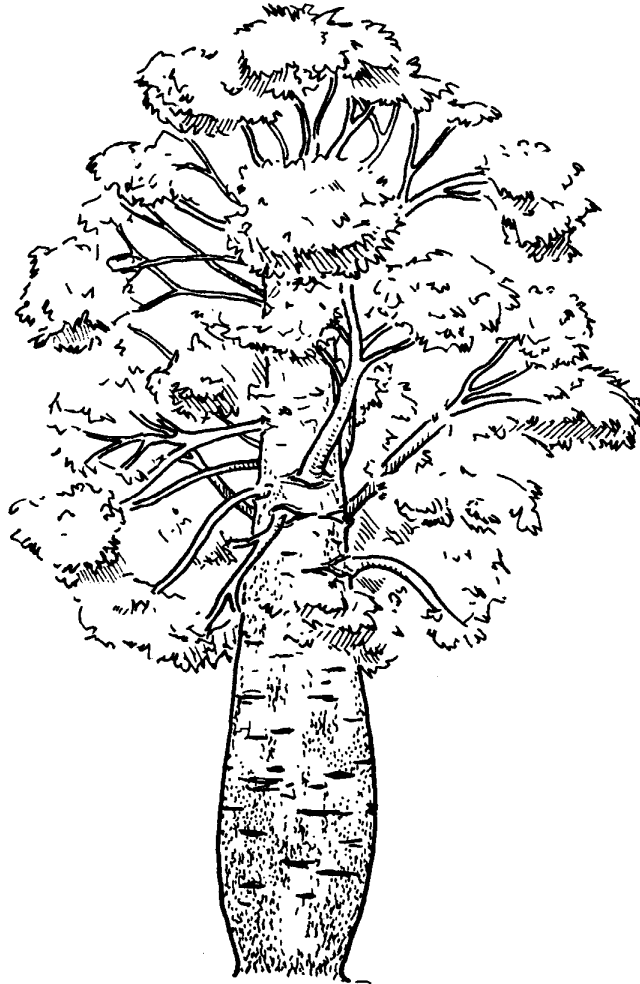
Many people are tricked into thinking I am alive because there are green ivy leaves growing at the top of my trunk. Even though I am dead don't be sad for me because I had a good life living here for up to 400 years. My hollow trunk shelters many insects and spiders. Sometimes birds make mud nests here as well. Long ago Kurna Aboriginal people burnt away my centre to make a shelter home that kept them warm and dry in winter. I wonder if I can be a home for you all. See if the whole class can fit inside my trunk.

4. Bottle Tree

My trunk is **fat / thin**.

I have scars on my **trunk / branch**.

Tap my trunk. What do you think is inside ? _____



My Story

Bottle Tree

Brachychiton rupestris

Don't I have the strangest shaped trunk? Some people think I look like a bottle. Some think I am more like a giant bowling pin. Others think I am a big baseball bat. What do you think?

My big trunk holds lots of water. This keeps me alive in the dry season up in Queensland where I usually grow. Long ago I might have saved the lives of many thirsty Aboriginal people and early settlers by providing water from my trunk.

The attractive scars running across my trunk are made when my branches break off and drop to the ground.

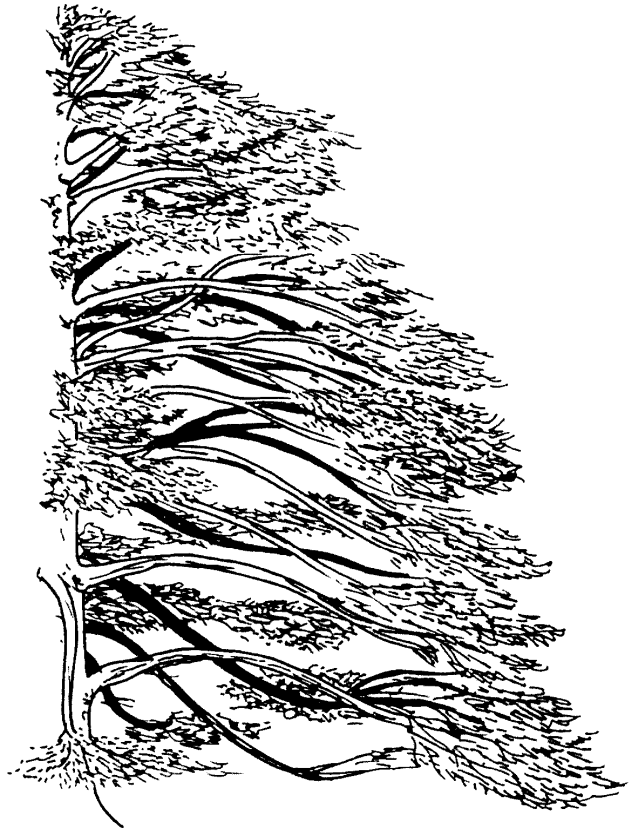
5. Indian Cedar

Finish the drawing.

My leaves are **wide / thin**.

I grow my seed in cones. Can you see some? **yes / no**

My shape is like an **arrowhead / ring / road?**



My Story

Indian Cedar

Cedrus deodara

My native home is the highest mountain range in the world, the Himalayas. It can get very cold up there so I have leaves like needles to get rid of snow and to stop me from freezing. I use cones instead of flowers to make my seed. I might have some on me right now. Look at the top for female cones and along the branches for smaller male cones.

Stand back from me and notice how my branches grow out from my trunk. They give me a great body shape, don't they? Some people like me so much they have given me the name "Tree of the Gods". What do you think?

My soft wood is used for timber and the oils in my roots are a medicine for healing wounds and soothing itchy skin.

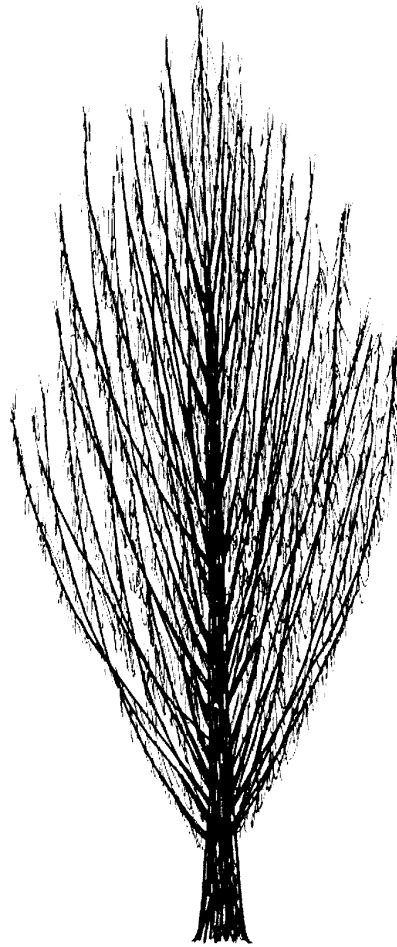
6. Casuarina Forest

In the forest it is **dark / light**.

Do other plants grow on the forest floor? **yes / no**

Can you find cones on the trees? **yes / no**

The leaves feel **round / square**.



My Story

Swamp Oak

Casuarina glauca

Do you like being in our forest of Swamp Oaks? The ground here is soft from our string like leaves; it is like walking on carpet. Can you spot the very large old trees and the younger thin trees? Many of the younger trees grow from the roots of the older trees. Some also grow from seeds. Can you find some cones on the ground with seeds inside them?

Notice how dark it is underneath the roof we make with our leaves? It is so dark here that no other plants can grow underneath us.

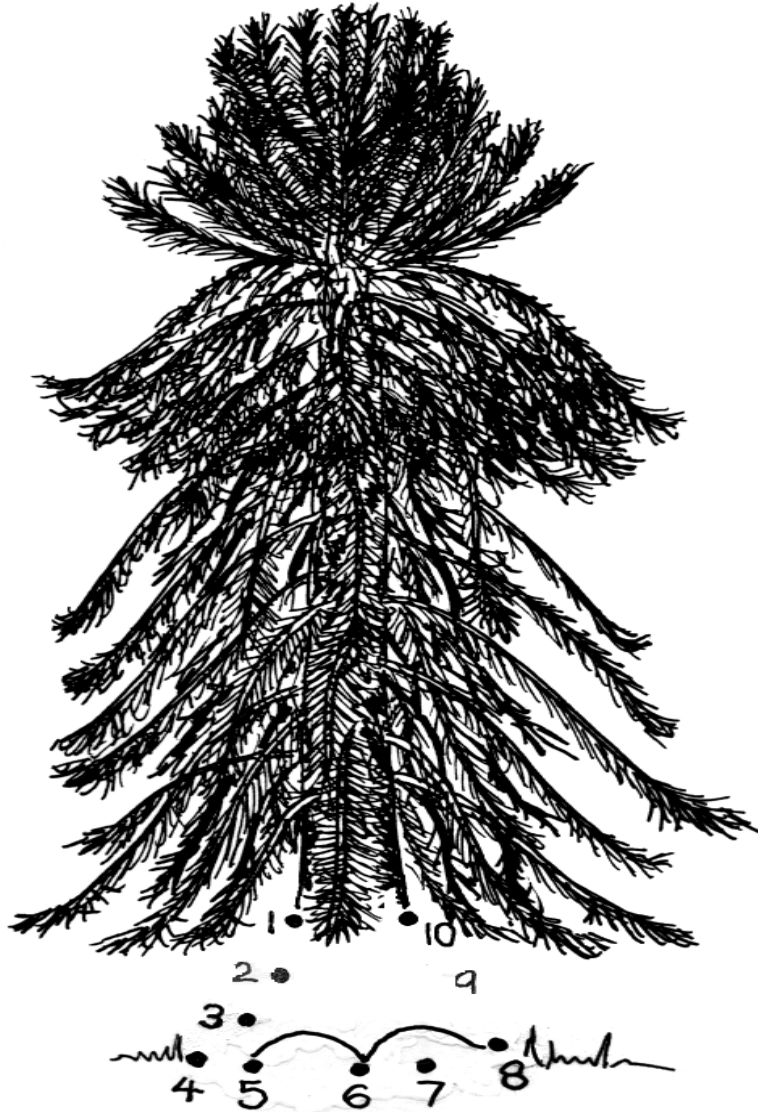
Aboriginal people made spears from our thin trunks and boomerangs from where our roots join to the trunk.

7. Bunya Bunya Pine

Join the numbers to finish the drawing.

My trunk looks like an elephant's **f** ___ **t**.

My leaves feel **sharp** / **soft**.



My Story

Bunya Pine

Araucaria bidwillii

I am a very famous Australian tree because I make the biggest pine cones in the world. They can weigh up to 10 kg and when they fall it can be dangerous around here. So dangerous in fact that the gardeners have to put up a special fence so no-one gets hurt. The cones are full of seeds that taste a little like new potatoes. Aboriginal people in Queensland had giant picnics and feasted on the seeds with friends and family who lived nearby.

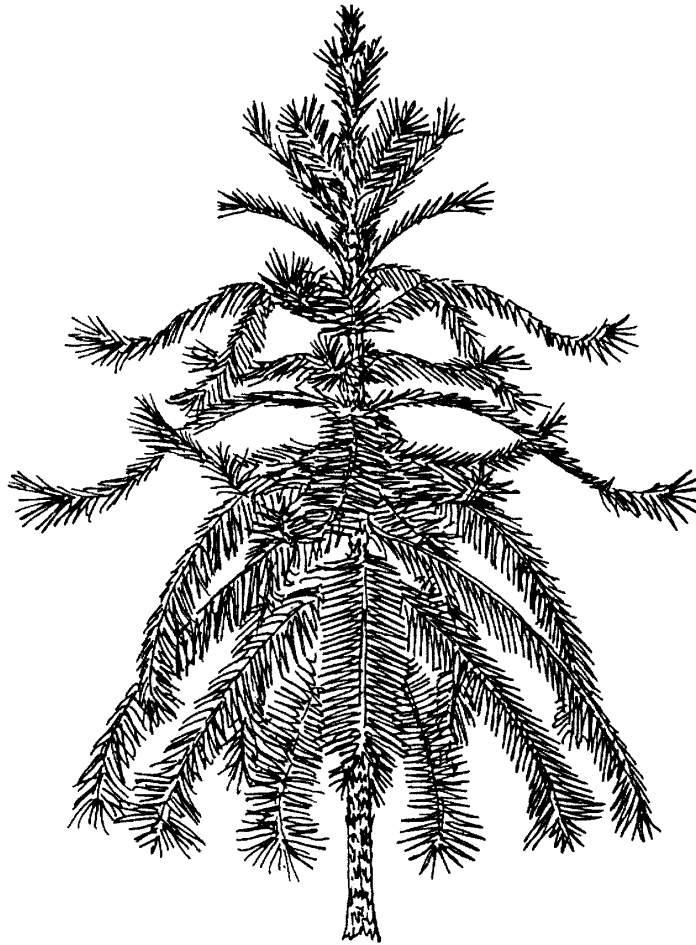
Be careful if you want to touch my leaves. I protect myself with spiny leaves that make unusual spiral patterns as they grow from the end of branches.

8. Wollemi Pine

The tree **is / is not** taller than me ?

The tree is **young / old** ?

Can you see some big trees near here that look like the Wollemi tree? **yes / no** ?



My Story

Wollemi Pine

Wollemia nobilis

I am one of the rarest trees in the world and many people would like to take me home and grow me. A small group of trees like me were discovered for the first time only a few years ago growing not far from Sydney. The valley where I live has been kept a secret. This is to stop too many visitors who could damage my small population. Trees like me were on the earth when dinosaurs roamed. Does that explain one of the reasons I am a tall tree when fully grown?

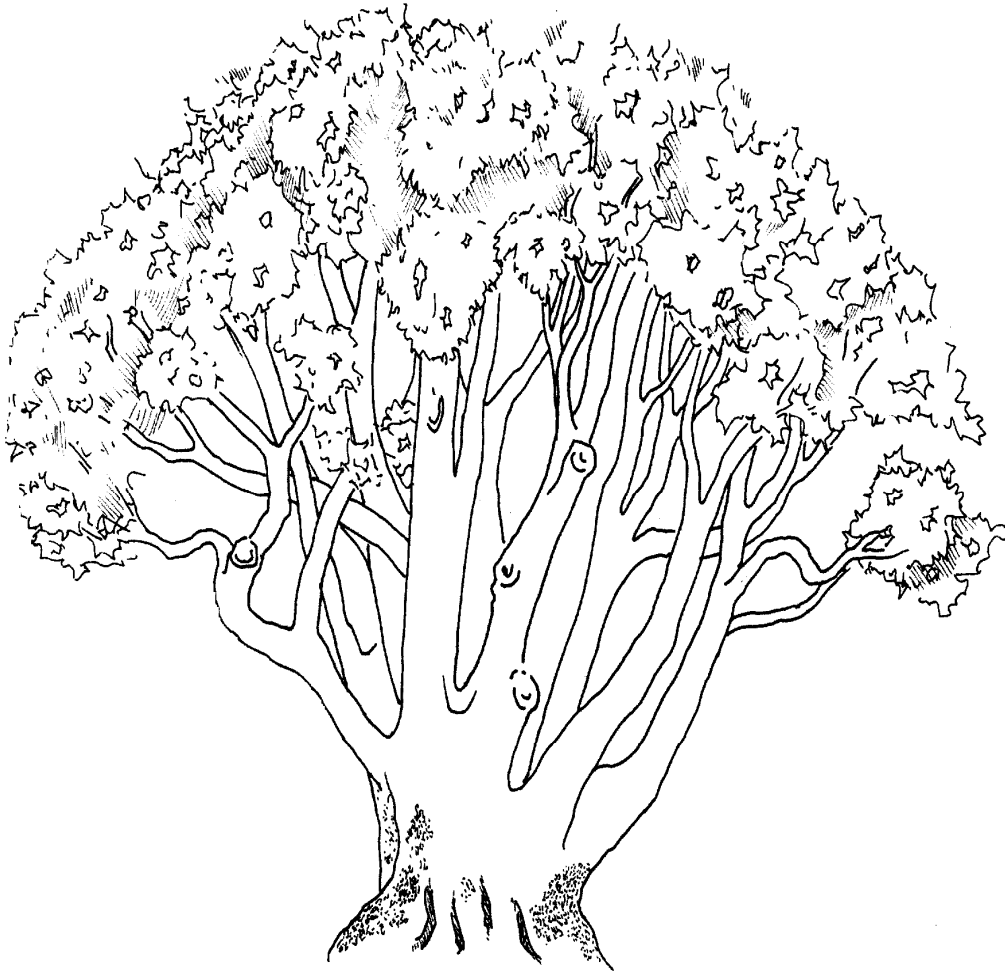
Special gardeners grew thousands of Wollemi pines which were sold all around the world. This is so people can grow them in their gardens without taking the wild trees from the bush where they belong. The money from the sale now helps to protect my wild home.

9. Camphor Tree

My leaves smell like _____ .

I have **one / two / many** branches.

I come from China and **J** _____ .



My Story

Camphor Tree

Cinnamomum camphora

I was brought to Australia because I make a grand stately tree in parks and big gardens. Do you like my spreading shape here with many big branches coming out of a short trunk? My leaves have a strong smelling oil to stop insects from eating them. This oil has been used in cupboards to stop insects from eating clothes. In China my wood has been used to carve beautiful chests.

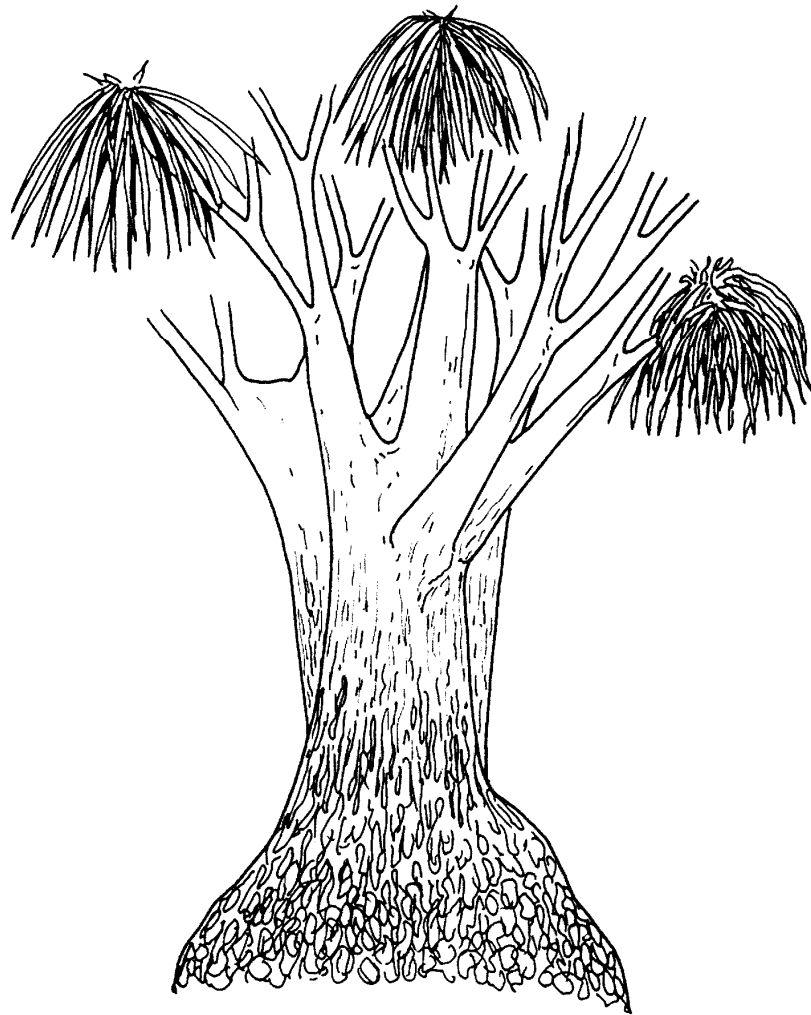
Unfortunately, in parts of Queensland I have become a pest. I grow so well there that I am taking over the living places of many Australian plants. I have become a weed and need to be stopped before I spread too far.

10. Nolina

Finish drawing my leaves and bark.

My bark feels **smooth** / **rough**.

My trunk is fat / thin, it could hold **a little** / **lot of water**.



My Story

Nolina

Nolina recurvata

I am probably one of the strangest looking trees in the garden. You cannot help but notice how my trunk is so big and fat at the bottom. It makes me look a little like a giant onion. I live in the dry deserts of Mexico and need the big trunk to store water and keep me alive during hot summers. I guess I am a little like a "Camel" plant aren't I? Can you work out why?

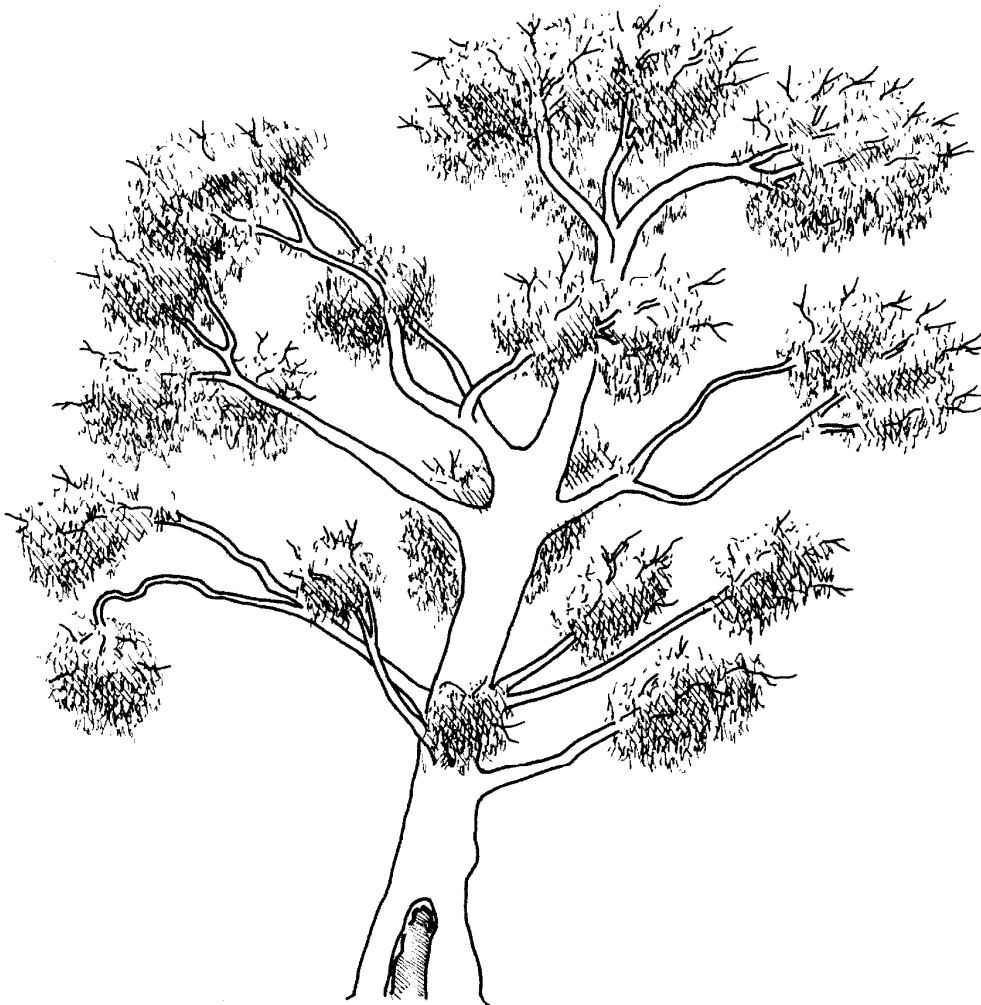
I am also a very adaptable, I can even be grown indoors as an unusual looking pot plant.

11. River Red Gum

Find the possum home.

Above the possum home are **b _ _ s**.

Am I growing near a river? **yes / no**



My Story

River Red Gum

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

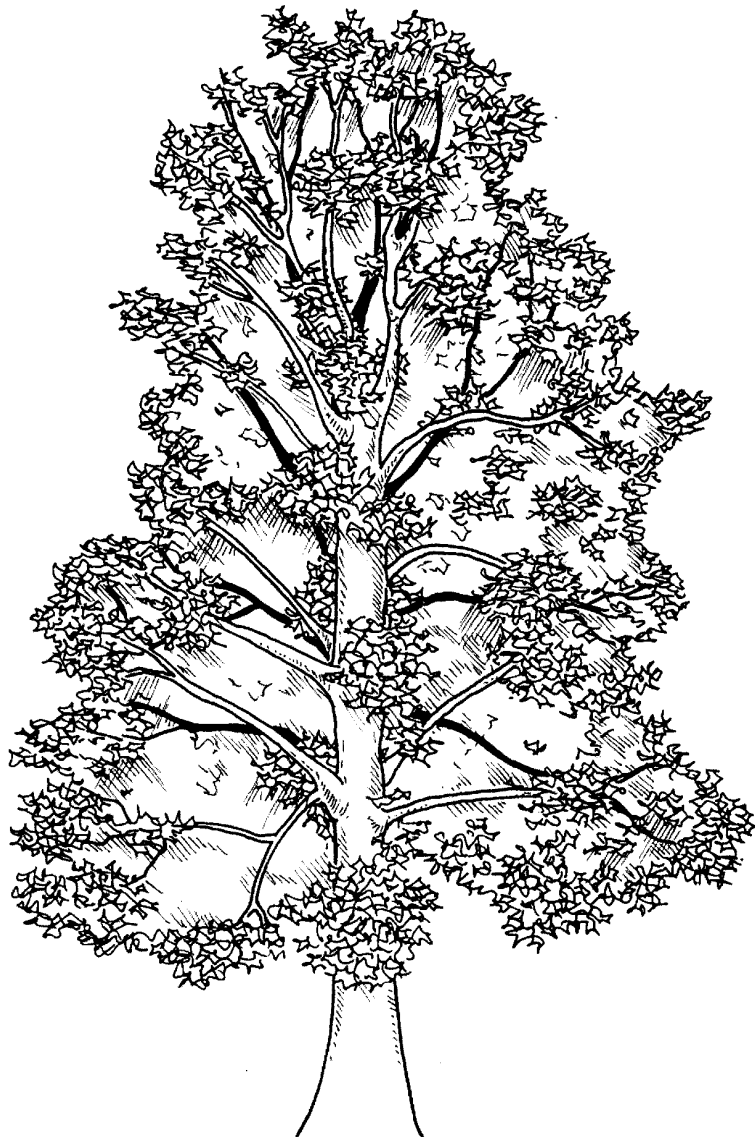
I grow all over Australia by staying close to watercourses. When I get old my trunk hollows out making homes for all sorts of Australian animals including possums, parrots and even wood ducks. Aboriginal people used me for making bark canoes, kitchen bowls and my leaves were an important medicine for colds. Because my beautiful red wood is hard and strong I have been used to make railway sleepers, fence posts and jetties. As you can see I have been an important tree for the people and animals of Australia. See if you can find a part of me that would make a big, round kitchen bowl.

12. Plane Tree

Draw my bark pattern here.

My fruit is round / square.

My furry / smooth leaves make a lot of/ little shade.



My Story

London Plane

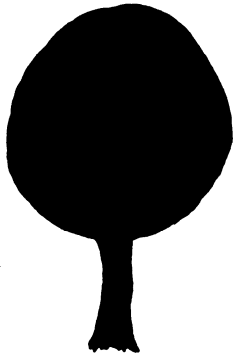
Platanus x acerifolia

Don't you just love the beautiful patterns on my bark and the cool shade I provide people on hot days. My bark is always flaking off making new patterns throughout the year. I also change a lot in other ways during the year. In autumn, my leaves turn brown and fall off, then in spring, fresh new green leaves grow back and cover my branches. I grow well in Adelaide and many of our main roads are lined with me to make grand avenues of stately trees. Look for a beautiful avenue of me when you walk out the nearby garden gate.

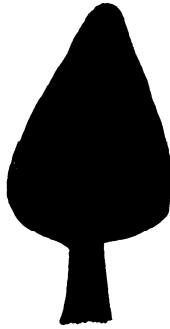
Tree Shapes

(Between Stations 5 and 6 on the Conifer Lawn area)

Tick these tree shapes when you find them.



round



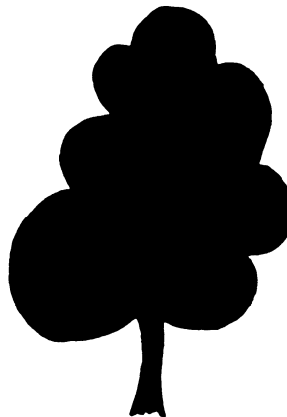
triangular



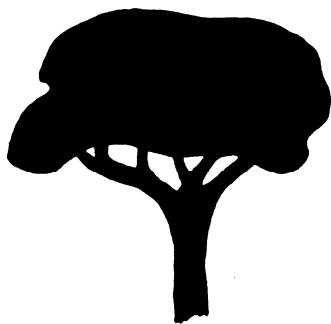
oval



columnar



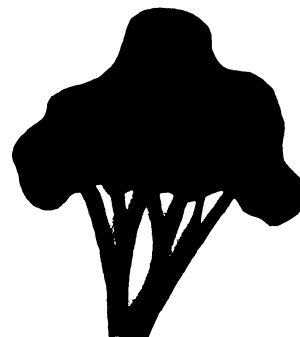
irregular



flat



palm



mallee

Leaf Shapes

Make drawings of some of the tree leaves you find on the trail.
