

Activity 2: Acquiring and representing geographical information – Trees, shrubs and grasses

Drawings and paintings made by early European colonists give us a unique insight into the natural vegetation they saw before them. Those arriving in Australia saw these unique plant species for the first time, all looking very different to those from their home country. Many plants were recorded through drawings and paintings for scientific purposes or simply because they were interested.

Observe the colonial sketches of Australian plants in Sources 2 to 4 then 5 to 14. Group them as tree, shrub or grass in Table 1.

TREE

A tall plant with a single woody trunk and having branches growing from the main trunk, such as a gum tree.

Source 2: Gum tree, 1853, sketch by William Leigh (Item 27)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=448200>

SHRUB

A plant smaller than a tree with several woody stems growing from the base near the ground, such as many wattles.

Source 3: Wattle, c1794, Drawings of plants of New South Wales by Thomas Watling/ William Paterson (Item 496)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=940938>

GRASS OR GROUNDCOVER

Usually a short plant with soft, flexible stems growing close to the ground, such as a moss, fern or grass.

Source 4: Flax grass, 1853, sketch by William Leigh (Item 64)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=448200>

Source 5: Sydney red gum, 1893-1897, botanical sketch by Edward William Minchen (Item 6)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=845697>

Source 6: Waxflower, c1794, drawings of plants of New South Wales by Thomas Watling/ William Paterson (Item 283)



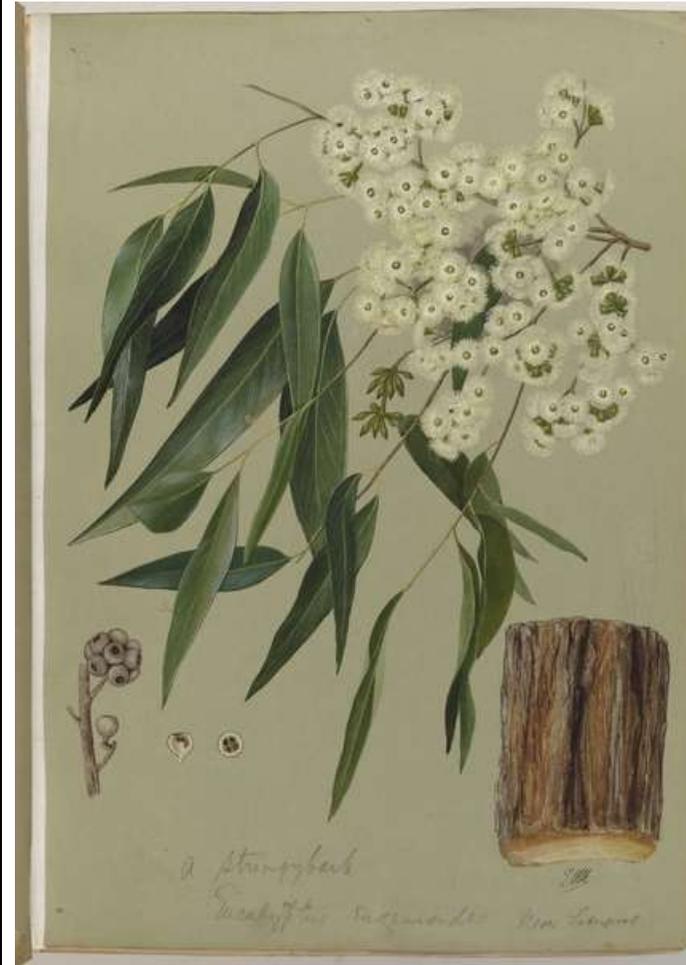
<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=940938>

Source 7: Common barb-grass, 1803-1806, botanical sketch by John Lewin (Item 13)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=431242>

Source 8: Stringybark tree, 1893-1897, botanical sketch by Edward William Minchen (Item 16)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=845697>

Source 9: Vanilla lily, 1893-1897, botanical sketch by Edward William Minchen (Item 103)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=845697>

Source 10: Native pea bush, 1893-1897, botanical sketch by Edward William Minchen (Item 139)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=845697>

Source 11: Saw-grass, 1803-1806, botanical sketch by John Lewin (Item 220)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=431242>

Source 12: Guinea flower, 1803-1806, botanical sketch by John Lewin (Item 92)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=431242>

Source 13: Many-flowered mat-rush, 1803-1806, botanical sketch by John Lewin (Item 60)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=431242>

Source 14: Grey ironbark, 1893-1897, botanical sketch by Edward William Minchen (Item 7)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=845697>

TABLE 1: EXAMPLES OF AUSTRALIAN NATIVE VEGETATION - Cut and paste each sketch into their correct category.		
Trees	Shrubs	Grasses or groundcovers
		