

Supermodels of State forests



Mighty Missy Red

Real name: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, also known as river red gum

Lives: Moira State Forest by the Murray River. "I have relatives across mainland Australia, inland flood plains and rivers are spots we river red gums love."

Height: "20 metres and still growing."

Girth: "A healthy two metres."

Describe yourself: "Strong, durable and twisted, my branches and trunk that is!"

What do you hope to be when you grow up: "I would make an excellent bridge or great railway sleepers. I would love to show off my red fine textured grain in furniture, veneer or flooring. I might even grow the right hollows to become a habitat tree providing shelter for birds and possums."

Favourite time of the year: "When annual flood waters recede; this is the best time for me to drop seed and watch the little river reds grow before the heat of summer."

Did you know?

One hectare, or two football fields, of river red gum forest can produce 250 million seeds per year.

ECHUCA • MURRAY

Flood your own river red gum forest and watch it grow.

You will need:



- 1 • Scissors • Sticky tape
• River red gum forest cut outs
• Things to hold and secure cut outs, for example toothpicks, paddle pop sticks and wooden skewers
• Plastic tray (an old meat tray works well)
• Blotack • Cotton wool
• Bird seed • Water

To build your forest:

- 2 1. Line the plastic tray with a thick layer of cotton wool.
2. Use crayons to colour, and cut out the red gums, birds and people enjoying the forest on the next page.
3. Using sticks and blotack, create a red gum forest. Part the cotton wool so the blotack adheres to the bottom of the tray.
4. Flood the forest with water; use enough water to soak the cotton wool so it is nice and wet.
5. Sprinkle bird seed on the cotton wool.
6. Place the tray in a warm, well lit area; a window sill is ideal.
7. Over the next week or so, keep the cotton wool damp and watch your forest grow.

Did you know?

River red gum pavers were used in Sydney in the late 1800's.

Illustrations by Kathryn Liddlaw



Follow the lines to cut out each group of pictures or individual picture.

