



Teacher Resource

Photography Prize

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. The Australian Geographic photographic prize focusses on what type of photography?
 - a. Portrait
 - b. Nature
 - c. Sports
2. What did Maya choose to photograph for the photographic competition?
3. What is your first impression of Maya's photograph? What did you notice?
4. How would you describe the image to someone who hasn't seen it?
5. What do you think makes a photograph interesting?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Photography Prize story. Here are some questions to guide the discussion:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What was SURPRISING about this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have about this story?
- In pairs, students discuss what they think makes an interesting nature photograph. Share the main points of their discussion with the class.



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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the key elements of photography and analyse images created by young nature photographers. They will also create their own nature photographs.

CURRICULUM

Visual Arts – Years 5 & 6

Explore ideas and practices used by artists, including practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent different views, beliefs and opinions.

Develop and apply techniques and processes when making their artworks.

Plan the display of artworks to enhance their meaning for an audience.

Activity: Photographic Techniques

Students will explore some key concepts of photography. Discuss what they think makes an interesting photo.

An important element when composing a photo is the [Rule of Thirds](#). This makes photos more interesting. Imagine a photo divided into 9 squares – two vertical lines and two horizontal lines. Instead of putting the main subject in the middle of the photo, place it where the lines cross, to the side. BTN also has a video explaining [Rule of Thirds](#)



Rule of Thirds ([Source: Wikipedia](#))

Lighting Sources of light, for example, daylight or camera flash, affect the mood and appearance of photographs. Ask the students how light changes throughout the day – sunrise or sunset (softer and warmer) as opposed to light in the middle of the day (harsher). When might be a good time of day to take photographs outside?

Perspective The position where you take a photo affects how the subject appears. Different perspectives include a birds-eye view – a photo taken from above, or a shot from ground level looking up. Close-up photos can capture interesting details like the texture or pattern in a leaf. Changing the perspective can create a more interesting photo.

Activity: Responding to Photographs

Students will select their favourite image/s from the Junior category of the [2024 Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year](#) competition. They will analyse and reflect on the image/s and then respond to the questions below.

- What is your first impression of the image? Look at the photo closely. What do you notice?
- What techniques is the photographer using to create the image? (colour, light, pattern, texture, contrast)
- What is the mood of the photograph?
- How would you describe the image to someone who hasn't seen it?
- What do you think the photographer is trying to communicate?
- How does the image make you feel? What do you like about it?



[Elegance](#) (winner) Maya Hughes



[Family](#) Charlie Macpherson Smith



[Nest of Silk](#) (runner-up) Oliver Lacey



[Burrowing Beauty](#) Arlo Wallace



[Prickly](#) Anouk Chapman



[Spotlight on Dieback](#) Oliver Lacey



[The World's Only Alpine Parrot](#) Jack Hinz



[Blurred Horizons](#) Levi Trapp

Activity: Nature Photography Shoot

Students will need access to a tablet, smartphone or camera for this activity.

Begin with a class brainstorm of possible locations to take nature photographs in or near the school grounds. Remember, it doesn't need to be a large space, it can be as small as a patch of grass. Students can then practise taking photos in their chosen natural environment. Ask them to experiment with the following:

- Rule of Thirds
- Different perspectives – birds-eye view, ground level looking up, close-up details
- Different patterns, textures and colours
- Different light – full sun versus shade/part shade

Back in the classroom, students can share their favourite photos explaining why they chose them and what photographic techniques they used.

Class Exhibition

Curate a class exhibition of your students' photographs. Students choose one or two of their favourite images and give the photo a title. Invite students from other classes at your school to attend your exhibition. Consider holding your exhibition at your local library, council or gallery.

Useful Websites

- [Nature Photographer of the Year](#) – SA Museum
- [Conversation Starter Cards Resource](#) – SA Museum
- [Photo Quest](#) – SA Museum
- [Take awesome outdoor shots](#) – National Geographic Kids