

The Art of Video Conferencing

Australian Museum

2011



The Australian Museum's video conferencing programs have provided a great opportunity to combine museum educators, school students and museum objects in a class link up around themed lessons. The programs offered cover indigenous heritage, environmental science, earth sciences, creative art, Pacific Islander culture, Palaeontology through Puppetry, Megafauna and NAIDOC Week amongst other topics.

In the Indigenous art program, for example, students explored Indigenous culture and art from various regions of Australia. Students investigate the traditional styles, symbols, materials and tools of Indigenous art around Australia. Using Indigenous art and cultural objects as a stimulus they use the practical workshop to create an artwork of their own.

More than 5,200 public school students throughout NSW took part in Museum video conferences in 2009-10 as part of the NSW Department of Education and Training's Connected Classroom initiative. In 2010-11 this increased to over 8,000 students with over a third in rural and regional schools. In 2012 the museum is hoping to run 250 events reaching 20,000 students in 600 classes.

The program also offers professional development workshops via videoconferencing for teachers which assist them in using web resources, including the upload of music, image and sound files, along a curriculum theme.

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/Video-Conferencing/>

Art work above created by student during video conference with Liverpool Hospital School