

Home from market
Activity sheet



National
Science
Week





2021 National Science week

14 August to 22 August

See the Gallery's collection afresh and celebrate the 2021 National Science week school theme—*Food: different by design*. In this activity, we explore the artist Eugenie Durran's painting *Home from Market* 1916, to stimulate discussion around food production systems, sustainable food futures, and to promote thinking about how science and technology are represented in art.



Home from market 1916

Geelong-born Eugenie Durran began her career as a concert pianist before enrolling at the National Gallery School in Melbourne in 1911, where she studied under fellow Geelong painter Helen Peters. Durran excelled in the painting of still life subjects, with her works winning numerous student prizes. Durran painted *Home from market* for the 1917 National Gallery of Victoria Travelling Scholarship competition.

The models used in this scene include Durran's mother on the left, her future sister-in-law on the right, and one of her young piano students. Here, three generations of women animate their market bounty through contrasting gestures, an apple is gracefully presented for inspection and a fish is gripped for imminent preparation. Perhaps the stray cabbage leaf beneath the table will soon be swept-up by the broom clasped by the youngest of the trio.

Eugenie Durran
Australian 1889–1989
Home from market 1916
oil on canvas
Gift of Mr and Mrs MJ Dowling, 1980



Home from market— Activity

Discuss

Home from Market 1916 was painted in Melbourne during the height of World War I. Australia, like the rest of the world, was facing a major food shortage and people were encouraged to be more self-sufficient by growing their own food or establishing local farmers' markets or co-operative buying in their area. Rationing and food shortages continued in Australia during World War II—an article in the *Argus* newspaper in 1943 provided its readers with instructions on how to plan a vegetable garden in their own back garden.

Farmers' markets are considered a traditional, primary production food system. Do you know from where in Australia your food comes? Research different types of food production systems in your local area and discuss the processes involved, including growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transportation and marketing.

Do you know what a primary producer is? Discuss what systems you find innovative and are sustainable for future production?

Check out [Yerrabingin](http://yerrabingin.com.au/projects/rooftop-farm) Australia's first native rooftop farm located in Sydney. Consider how you could design a similar project at your own school?

Website: yerrabingin.com.au/projects/rooftop-farm

Explore

The artist Eugenie Durran paints a freshly caught fish being prepared to be eaten. Where does your family buy their fish? What type of fish do you eat at home? What is aquaculture?

Seafood is an important part of the Australian diet, and we are now consuming more farmed seafood than ever before. Explore the fish farming industry in Australia. Why do we need fish farms? What are some of the negative effects or impacts of fish farming?

The Australian Marine Conservation Society's *GoodFish* project is a community of chefs, restaurants, fishers and wholesalers who work towards supporting healthier oceans. As a class explore their mission and sustainable seafood guide for consumers.

Website: goodfish.org.au
Instagram: @GoodFishproject

Curriculum links

Australian Curriculum / Science / Levels 6 to 10 / Science as a Human Endeavour

Australian Curriculum / Design and Technologies / Levels 6 to 10 / Knowledge and Understanding

Australian Curriculum / Design and Technologies / Levels 6 to 10 / Process and Production Skills

Cross-curriculum priority

Sustainability

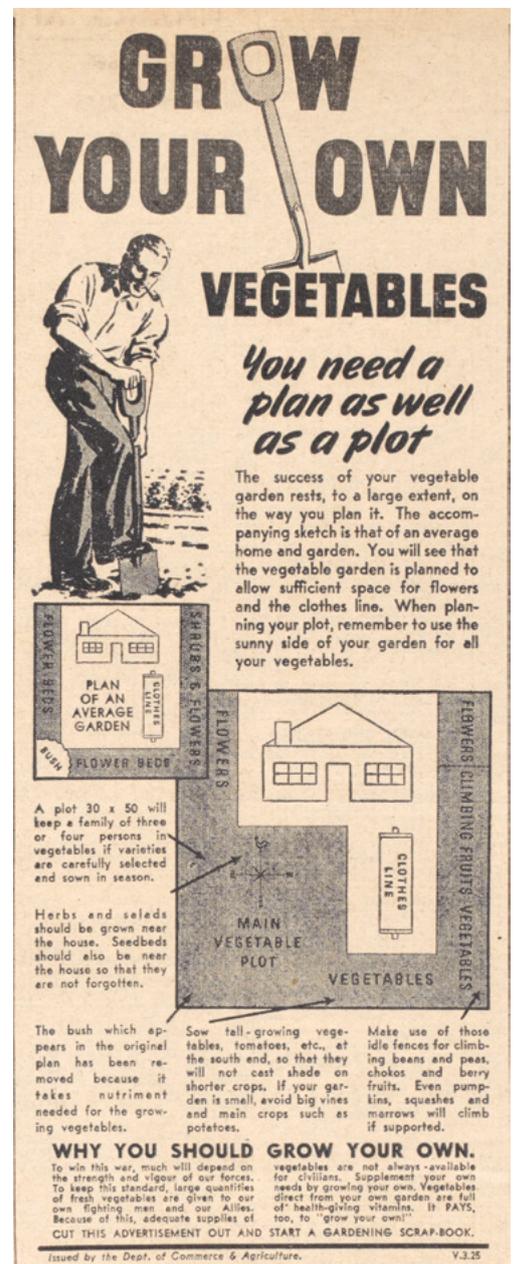
General capabilities

Literacy, ICT capability, Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, and Personal and social capability.

Design

How could you promote sustainable fish consumption in your local area? Imagine you've been commissioned by the *Goodfish project* to create a sustainable seafood guide or promotional poster to inform better choices for consumers when purchasing fish from their local market or supermarket. Consider:

- Key messages required for The guide,
- Display and promotion,
- Imagery, design and text ,
- Target audience,
- Select and justify your choices of materials, components, tools, equipment and techniques to create an effective design solution.





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