



# Guidance Document and Ideas for Venomous Bites and Stings Education

Ideas and tips to educate students on venomous creatures and the appropriate first aid by drawing on the educational posters, worksheets and class activities.

## Learning objectives (LO)

### Primary school level

**LO1:** Introduce the main venomous snakes, spiders and marine creatures found across Australia.

**LO2:** Educate on the environments and habitats where these venomous creatures can reside and foster a healthy caution to admire from a safe distance.

**LO3:** Gain a basic understanding that venom is complex with many different components, and that venom is injected into a person or animal through a bite or sting.

**LO4:** Educate students on the need to call for emergency care for all bites and stings, and that bites and stings can cause serious reactions that may require urgent medical care.

### Secondary school level

**LO1:** Introduce Australia's venomous snakes, spiders, marine creatures and the different locations and seasonal activity found across Australia.

**LO2:** Educate students on the structure, function and complexity of various venoms. Discuss the potential immune reactions if bitten or stung by a venomous creature that will require appropriate medical care to be sought urgently.

**LO3:** Educate students on the need to immediately apply the correct first aid depending on the venomous creature and seek emergency care for all bites and stings.

**LO4:** Understand the pressure immobilisation technique (PIT) and in what circumstances the PIT is recommended for use in.

**Share stories** on any experiences of venomous creatures and promote maintaining a safe distance

**Develop an acrostic poem** around venomous creatures e.g. Snake, spider and jellyfish

**Arts and crafts:** paint, draw or collage - e.g., Discuss the different types of venomous creatures and their habitats and draw/create their favourite (e.g. snake, spider, jellyfish)

**Identify** species of snakes, spiders and marine creatures via the Bites & Stings App

**Take the Bites & Stings Quiz** - it's a secondary school competition found at [www.bitesandstings.com.au](http://www.bitesandstings.com.au)

Students to form groups and **create their own educational PIT videos**

**Research** and present to the class various uses of venom

### Useful materials

- Posters (colour print and laminate if possible)
- Worksheet (black and white print)

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- Posters (colour print and laminate if possible)
- Worksheet (black and white print)
- Pressure bandages
- Old pieces of clothing
- Scissors
- Wooden ruler (to use as splint)



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the Australian Government  
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## Guidance Document and Ideas for Venomous Bites and Stings Education

### Ideas for how to implement the educational content in the classroom:

1

Put up the educational posters  
in the classroom.

2

Check out our activation ideas to  
bring the worksheets and posters  
to life in the classroom.

3

Engage with a local first aid  
training company.

4

Take photos of your class learning  
and enjoying the various bites  
and stings activities suggested.  
Distribute photos with parents and  
the school community to share the  
knowledge on how to safely enjoy  
the great Aussie outdoors!



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# Guidance Document and Ideas for Venomous Bites and Stings Education

## Primary School Worksheet – Celebrating Australia's Outdoors Safely (I SPY)

**Celebrating Australia's Outdoors Safely**

Australia is home to many venomous snakes, spiders and marine creatures. These creatures produce venom and can be dangerous. Always admire them calmly and at a safe distance. If you do encounter a venomous creature in your home or outdoors (e.g. bush or beach) and if you or someone you know is bitten or stung, it's important to **seek help from an adult and call 000**.

**Let's look at some of the places where they could be hiding.**  
Read through the rhymes and hints to spot the hidden creatures.

**Take it outside**  
Now let's see if you can point out all the creature hiding spots in the photograph. Remember it's important to only point from a safe distance and not touch!

**1** **Some like it dark**  
Hint: Where would you look for it?

**2** **Some like it bark**  
Hint: Where would you look for it?

**3** **Some like it bushy**  
Hint: Where would you look for it?

**4** **Some are a bit more clunky**  
Hint: Animals might have things that make them harder to move.

**5** **Some don't like it dry**

**6** **But all don't like it when you pry**

Remember to always be careful around these spots. If you see a creature, make sure you have it alone and go tell an adult. Share what you learnt with your family.

**Download the Australian Bites & Stings App now!**

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### Making it Interactive:

#### I SPY (Primary Level):

- Read through the rhymes provided, to help students to spot hidden venomous creatures in the worksheet graphic.

#### Go outside and spot hiding places:

- Take students to the playground to identify and point to possible critter hiding spots, educating them on the need to keep a safe distance.
- Remembering only to look and not to touch!

#### Materials Needed:

- Print out in colour on A4 paper
- Pens and or pencils
- Hats, sunscreen and appropriate outdoor wear if going outside

## Secondary School Worksheet – Australian Snake Venom

**Australian Snake Venom**

Did you know nearly 70% of Australia's 214 land-based snake species are venomous? Snake species can vary greatly – both in the environments they inhabit around the country, and also in the composition of their venom. Let's take a look at three examples:

**Tiger snake**  
Not all tiger snakes have prominent black and yellow stripes/bands – some might have no stripes/bands at all.

**Desert death adder snake**  
There are eight species of death adder snakes. Some are currently under threat due to habitat destruction.

**Eastern brown snake**  
Brown snakes cause over 30% of all snake bite related hospitalisations in Australia.

**There are 4 main types of toxin:**

<b>Neurotoxin</b> Interrupts Function of the nervous system	<b>Cytotoxin</b> Damages cells and tissues
<b>Haemorrhagic</b> Interferes with the blood	<b>Myotoxin</b> Causes muscle damage

Anyone bitten by a snake should call 000, apply the **Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT)** and seek appropriate medical care urgently. Learn more about venomous creatures and first aid for bites and stings via the **Australian Bites & Stings App**. For further information on bites or stings, please ask your doctor.

**Download the Australian Bites & Stings App now!**

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### Making it Interactive:

#### Class discussion:

Outline the infographics and ask students to share their own knowledge and experience on venom and venomous snakes.

#### Research task:

Ask students to conduct their own research and share their findings with the class.

**Easy:** Download the Bites and Stings App to find creature specific information describing symptoms of a snake bite and how to apply the correct first aid using PIT.

**More difficult:** Conduct research into the different snakes and venoms, their habitat and symptoms of envenoming.

#### Materials Needed:

- Print out in colour on A4 paper
- Pens and or pencils
- Hats, sunscreen and appropriate outdoor wear if going outside



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# Guidance Document and Ideas for Venomous Bites and Stings Education

## Primary and Secondary School Poster – First Aid with DRS ABCD

**First Aid with DRS ABCD!**

Do you know what to do if you or someone you are with is bitten or stung by a venomous creature? Learn what DRS ABCD stands for to help you remember what to do if you need to apply first aid!

**Seek help from an adult, call 000 and follow DRS ABCD steps below.**

- D Dangers?** Check the area for any danger. Is the venomous creature still around? Stay cautious.
- R Response** Check if the person is conscious (awake). Ask, "Can you hear me?", "Open your eyes.", "What's your name?" and "squeeze my hand."
- S Send for help** Shout for help from an adult and call 000 for an ambulance.
- A Airways** Is there anything blocking their nose or mouth? If so, try and clear the airways.
- B Breathing** Is the person who was bitten or stung breathing? Check their chest, is it rising and falling?
- C CPR** If they are not breathing, it's time to perform CPR. Give 30 compressions to every 2 breaths.
- D Defibrillator** If an adult / ambulance officer is present, follow the instructions on how to use an AED safely.

**41% of Australians** reported never receiving first aid training. Knowing how to respond to a venomous bite or sting can be the difference between survival and death. Learn first aid!

Download the Australian Bites & Stings App now!

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### Making it Interactive:

#### Go through the steps:

- Demonstrate DRS ABCD and have students follow along.
- For younger audiences, play the DRSABC - First Aid Sing-a-long! video and ensure they understand how to call 000 for emergency services.

#### Practice different scenarios described below, emphasising the need to call 000:

- Someone is injured but responsive.
- Someone is injured and unconscious.
- Someone is injured but in a dangerous situation.

### Materials Needed:

- Print out poster on colour A3 and laminate (if possible)
- Classroom space to move around
- Pressure bandages

## Primary and Secondary School Poster – First Aid For Bites and Stings

**First Aid for Venomous Bites and Stings**

Australia is home to some of the most venomous creatures in the world! They can inject venom through bites and stings. Learn the correct first aid such as DRS ABCD, the Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT) and the main differences outlined below so you'll know what to do.

**Always alert an adult and seek medical advice by calling 000 for an ambulance.**

**Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT):**

- Australian snakes (including grey snakes)
- Funnelweb and tick-like spiders
- Blue ringed octopus
- Cone snails

**Ice Pack:**

- Red back spider
- Other insect bites/stings
- Scorpions
- Leeches
- Centipedes

**Hot Water:**

- Stingrays
- Stingray fish (seawasp, bluefish)

**Sea Water:**

- Blue bottle

**Vinegar:**

- Blue jellyfish and box jellyfish

Learn more about venomous creatures and first aid via the Australian Bites & Stings App. For further information on bites or stings, please talk to your doctor.

Download the Australian Bites & Stings App now!

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### Making it Interactive:

#### Class discussion:

Outline the various first aid approaches for different venomous creatures, e.g. PIT, ice pack, hot water, vinegar, sea water. Follow discussion with PIT demonstration and activities.

### Materials Needed

- Print out this poster on A3 paper, coloured, and laminate (if possible)
- Refer to the Creature Specific First Aid section of the Bites and Stings App



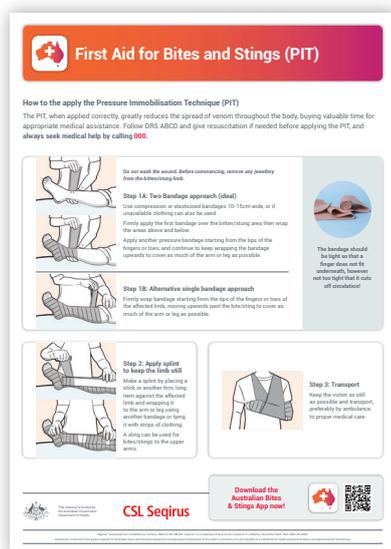
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# Guidance Document and Ideas for Venomous Bites and Stings Education

## Primary and Secondary School Poster – How to apply the Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT)



### Making it Interactive:

#### How to apply the PIT:

- Demonstrate the PIT to students and have students follow along letting them know that CPR, if needed, should take precedence over the application of the PIT.
- Have students practice the PIT on themselves and each other using two pressure bandages and a splint.
- Refer to the PIT section of the Bites and Stings App for more information.

#### Materials Needed:

- Print out poster on colour A3 and laminate (if possible)
- Pressure bandages
- Wooden ruler to use as splint
- Old clothes or fabric that can be torn into strips (For scenario 3)
- Clear classroom space to move around
- Bites and Stings app (to view PIT instruction video)

### Additional exercises to test secondary students' knowledge

Ask students to discuss the following scenarios. Students can be divided into smaller groups for this activity to come up with a solution or you can work together as a class. Test their knowledge first and then allow them to look at the correct steps to check their answers.

**Scenario 1:** Student has just been bitten by a snake. Their friends are a few metres behind them and unsure of where the snake has gone. What can the victim do? And what can their friends do?

**Answer:** Victim can verbally inform friends of the situation, either they or their friends should immediately call for emergency help by dialling 000. Victim should remain where they are if there is no immediate danger. Friends should assess for danger before approaching victim to commence first aid and PIT.

**Scenario 2:** Student has just returned from a bushwalk. There are no physical signs of a bite mark from a snake, but a small area on their leg has become very swollen. They are starting to feel nauseous and are having trouble breathing. What should you do?

**Answer:** Keep victim as still and as calm as possible. Call for emergency help by dialling 000. Commence first aid and apply the PIT to the leg that has become swollen.

**Scenario 3:** You have been bitten by a snake and have called for emergency help by dialling 000. You are waiting by the side of a road alone for the ambulance to arrive but have no first aid kit. What will you do?"

**Answer:** Take clothing or pieces of fabric, ideally with stretch, cut or tear into strips if possible commence applying PIT to the limb that has been bitten. TIP: Always carry a high-quality compression bandage when you are out and about.



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# Guidance Document and Ideas for Venomous Bites and Stings Education

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