**English Groups**

The English groups in year 5 aim to build skills in the areas of Reading, Spelling, Writing and Grammar. The activities are designed to be hands on and students rotate through all the activities over the week.

In Year 5 we use elements of the Big Writing program. This program breaks writing up into four areas: Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation, or VCOP.

We focus on working our way through the VCOP pyramid so that we can independently use all examples correctly to enhance our writing. Some of the activities are pictured.

---

**Science**

In our Desert Survivors unit we have been learning about plants and animals who have adapted to live in the harsh desert environment. The students are pictured working on their group presentations, which will highlight the adaptations their selected animal has made to live in this climate.

---

**Year 5 Gold Rush**

To enhance our HASS unit on the Australian gold rush, the Year 5 class transformed back in time to become miners in the 1800's. Once students had applied and were granted a license, they began combing the school yard during breaks looking for gold and trying to strike it rich. Each week students were required to pay license fees, as well as purchase food to sustain themselves. Many found life on the Goldfields hard, with gold difficult to come by and mounting food bills. However some struck it rich and found their fortune. Students wrote Gold Rush Journals which kept track of their experience. This task gave us a hands on appreciation of the hardships the miners experienced in the 1800's and gave us an understanding of why an event like the Eureka Stockade occurred.