

MOVEMENT MAPS

Taking time to observe, not just see

WHAT YOU NEED

1. Nature journal or some paper
2. Pen or pencil
3. A space where you can sit safely and observe some animals

OPTIONAL

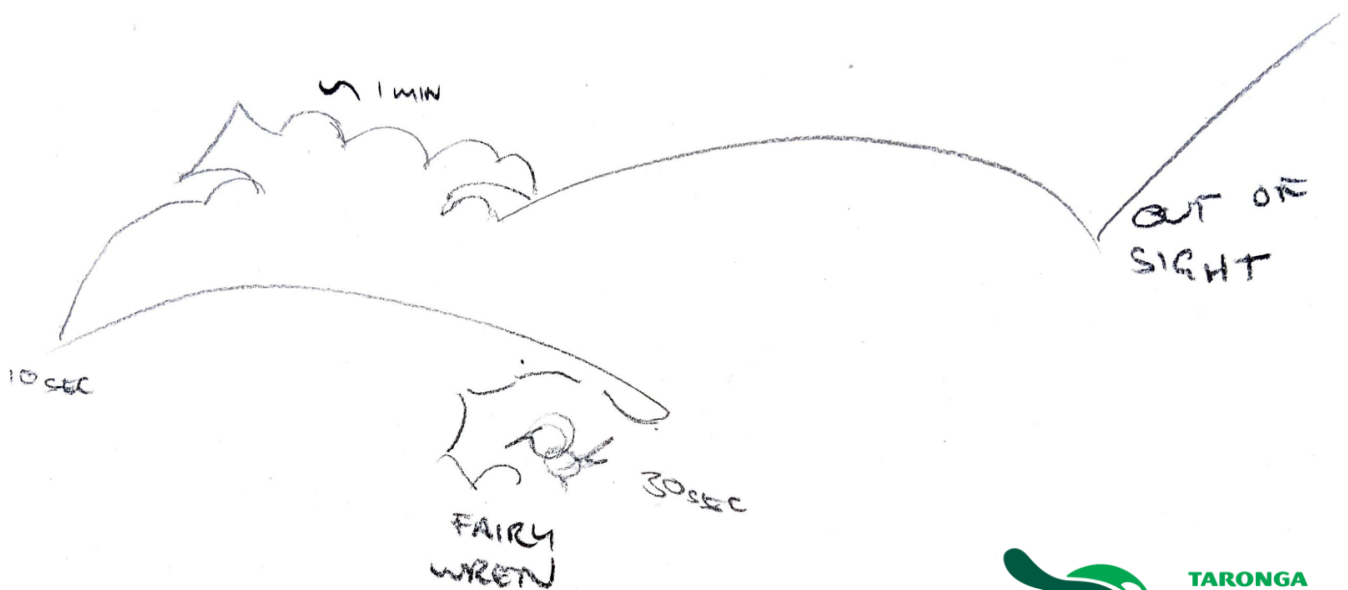
Coloured pencils, crayons



METHOD

Stroll slowly around the park or yard, noticing animals or plants that interest you. Don't forget to look up and down as well as in front of you. Listen and smell, but don't touch, most wild animals don't want to be touched, be careful and respectful.

1. Choose one bird, animal or insect to observe. Watch it for a moment, seeing how it moves.
2. In the middle of a blank page, draw an X where your creature is
3. Keeping your pen on the page, every time your creature moves, draw a small line to where it stops. You'll need to keep looking quickly between the page and the scene. It may take a few goes to figure out a sense of scale and movement – how far to move your pen for each change in position. Make sure you note down which creature you were drawing, and you might consider also noting the duration of your observational sketch.
4. Repeat the exercise with different creatures. Some will move faster and more frequently than others. Consider using different colours for different creatures when drawing things on the same page.
5. Consider adding sounds and smells to your movement map, can you look close and sketch some textures?



Resource adapted from Take this Book for a Walk – Paula Peeters, (2020). Paperbark Writer, Nerang, Qld