



Junior Biosecurity Officer program

Narrative

Stage 2: International Airport (Main character: Dusty)

The rhythmic sound of travellers' suitcases echoed through the arrivals hall. Dusty stood tall and attentive, ready to use her detective skills to spot sneaky risks. Blaze, the calm and focused leader, kept an eye on the crowds. And Scout, the adventurer with a curious spirit, was eager to learn from his peers.

Dusty, with her keen detective skills and quick thinking, was eager to demonstrate how creative problem-solving could help protect Australia. Today, it was her turn to take the lead as a Junior Biosecurity Officer. She trotted confidently through the terminal, ears alert and tail wagging.

Based at Melbourne International Airport, Dusty's job was to help protect the country from pests and diseases that might sneak in through people's luggage. She knew biosecurity wasn't just about following rules – it was about protecting Australia's farms, environment, and way of life.

Scanning the crowd, Dusty spotted a traveller looking confused over their Incoming Passenger Card. The card was smudged, and some parts were left blank. Dusty remembered her training: every traveller must declare things like food, plants, dirty shoes, and souvenirs. If they didn't, harmful pests or diseases could sneak into the country and cause big problems for Australia's crops and animals.

Dusty trotted over with a friendly wag of her tail. 'Welcome to Australia! 'Need a hand with your card?' she asked. Together, they checked the form. The passenger had ticked 'No' for food, but Dusty's sharp eyes spotted a half-eaten sandwich sticking out of their bag.

'Do you have any food or items that you are unsure about?' Dusty asked. The traveller, still looking confused, told Dusty about their hiking boots and some souvenirs, and said they had a sandwich from the plane. 'It sounds like you have some items that could carry pests or diseases, we better take a closer look,' Dusty said.

Dusty brought the traveller to an inspection bench and carefully searched inside the traveller's bag. Inside the bag she found the items that could be a risk – muddy hiking boots, a small bag of seashells, a wooden souvenir and the sandwich. Dusty's detective work had paid off!

'These are all items that could carry pests or diseases,' Dusty explained. 'Even a bit of dirt or a forgotten snack can be risky.' As Dusty carefully checked each item, she realised how easy it was for travellers to miss things when filling out the Incoming Passenger Card.

Dusty explained, 'Telling us about risk items won't get you in trouble, it's about protecting Australia. If everyone does their part, our farms and beautiful places stay safe for the future. If you're not sure, just declare it! That way, we can check it together and make sure it's allowed.'

Challenge

Can you work out which items the passenger should have declared, and which ones might be a risk? What should Dusty do next?

Now it's your turn to help Dusty make the right decision and keep Australia safe!