Lesson overview

Students are introduced to early level taxonomic classification with a focus on terrestrial vertebrate Classes. Students put their knowledge to the test by sorting animals and animal biofacts into classes.

Lesson objectives

Students will be able to:

- Understand animals can be sorted based on form and structure
- List the four terrestrial animal taxonomic Classes; mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians
- Describes features of each terrestrial animal Class
- Identify and sort animal biofacts into Classes

Animals

One terrestrial vertebrate from each Class group:

- Mammal: koala*
- Bird: tawny frogmouth*, lorikeet*, chicken*
- Amphibian: frog*
- Reptile: python*, lizard*, turtle*

* Specific species are subject to availability and may be substituted if necessary

Lesson Summary

Students are introduced to early level taxonomic classification.

Teams are challenged to classify animals and biofacts into Mammalia, Aves, Reptilia or Amphibia and discuss the distinguishing features of each class. Higher age groups may even wish to classify these animals further!

Upon successful completion of classifying the biofacts, students meet animals from each Class and discuss their classification. Order, Genus and Species level classification will be explored with our four focus animals.

Curriculum Links

Biology	
Key concepts	• Organisms live an interdependent existence in environments to which they are adapted (11, 12) • A variety of mechanisms result in continual change at all levels of the natural world (11, 12) • There are mechanisms by which characteristics of individuals in one generation are passed on to the next generation (11, 12)
Geography (focus unit – Sustaining biodiversity)	
Key ideas	• Biodiversity means the variety of biological life (11, 12) • Biogeographical areas have distinctive plant and animal groups that have adapted to that particular environment (11, 12) • Physical elements and human-related processes contribute to the biogeographical pattern of an area (11, 12) • The maintenance of biodiversity can be assisted by sustainable management strategies (11, 12) • Meeting human needs while protecting natural heritage and sustaining biodiversity is a challenge shared by all inhabitants of our planet (11, 12)
Multi-Strand Science (core topic – Environmental studies)	
Subject matter	• Biotic features (11, 12) • Ecological interactions (11, 12) • Describe interactions within the environment (11, 12)

Suggestions for Follow-up & Evaluation

Post-visit classroom activities: Your Classroom Resources pack is full of amazing ideas to assist your exploration into science and wildlife. All activities are linked to the Australian Curriculum and the VAK Model of Learning.

We need your help!: Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is always investigating ways to improve and develop the support we offer to classroom teachers. Whether it is Learning Experiences, resources, ease of booking excursions or something else entirely, we would love to hear from you!