



DISCOVERY SESSION: 11-12 SECRET LIFE OF WILDLIFE

Lesson overview

Students explore relationships and adaptations Australian animals have evolved to survive alongside humans. With the aim of promoting understanding and appreciation of complex ecosystems, students are challenged to consider their daily actions and how our choices have the ability to strengthen the environment and our shared future with wildlife.

Lesson objectives

Students will be able to:

- Discuss relationship links between wildlife and their habitats
- Discuss how human activity can affect wildlife and ecosystems
- Discuss how healthy ecosystems and wildlife can benefit human populations
- Identify simple daily actions to contribute to healthy ecosystems
- Commit to one action targeting a positive change in lifestyle for wildlife

Animals

- Barking owl*, Wedge-tailed eagle* OR White-bellied sea eagle*
- Lizard*
- Python*
- Frog*

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

Lesson Summary

The Wildlife Education Officer shares insights into the lives of Australian wildlife in hopes of increasing understanding of the intricate, often fragile links between predator and prey, flora and fauna, and humans and the natural world.

Through understanding these concepts and meeting Lone Pine's ambassador species, we hope to create a meaningful connection between students and the natural world.

Once the connection between student and wildlife is created (or strengthened in many cases) we ask the group to consider committing one simple behaviour change, one action easily achieved at home or school, somewhere in their daily lives to positively contribute to our shared future with wildlife.

Students are invited to write their commitment on a recycled paper leaf and place it on the 'habit for habitat' tree on their way out of the presentation venue.

* Specific species are subject to availability and may be substituted if necessary. The order the animals are presented in may change on the day depending on availability and daily circumstances.

Curriculum links

Science Understanding	
Biological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are differences within and between groups of organisms; classification helps organise this diversity (7) • Interactions between organisms can be described in terms of food chains and food webs; human activity can affect these interactions (7) • Multi-cellular organisms contain systems of organs that carry out specialised functions that enable them to survive and reproduce (8) • Multi-cellular organisms rely on coordinated and interdependent internal systems to respond to changes to their environment (9) • Ecosystems consist of communities of interdependent organisms and abiotic components of the environment; matter and energy flow through these systems (9) • The transmission of heritable characteristics from one generation to the next involves DNA and genes (10) • The theory of evolution by natural selection explains the diversity of living things and is supported by a range of scientific evidence (10)
Science as a Human Endeavour	
Nature & development of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science knowledge can develop through collaboration and connecting ideas across the disciplines of science (7, 8)
Use & influence of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and technology contribute to finding solutions to a range of contemporary issues; these solutions may impact on other areas of society and involve ethical considerations (7, 8) • Science understanding influences the development of practices in areas of human activity such as industry, agriculture and marine and terrestrial resource management (7, 8) • People use understanding and skills from across the disciplines of science in their occupations (7, 8) • People can use scientific knowledge to evaluate whether they should accept claims, explanations or predictions (9, 10)
<p>Other areas of the curriculum (e.g. English) are covered in the classroom resource section of the Discovery Session Guide for Secret Life of Wildlife (Years 7-10)</p>	

Suggestions for Follow-up & Evaluation

Post-visit classroom activities: Your Discovery Session Guide is packed 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!