



DISCOVERY SESSION: 3-6 TALKIN' BOUT YOUR BIOME!

Lesson overview

In a 'game show' style session, students identify a variety of Australian biomes. The challenge intensifies as students compete to sort native wildlife they meet into biomes by matching the suitability of structural features and adaptations to different environments.

Lesson objectives

Students will be able to:

- Recognise Australia as a biodiversity hotspot
- Identify the major biomes of Australia
- Discuss features of individual biomes
- Match animals to biomes based on adaptations
- Discuss how adaptations and environmental components help animals survive in their biome

Animals

- Frog*
- Python or lizard*
- Freshwater turtle*
- Koala*

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

Lesson Summary

Students are introduced to biomes as a way of categorising environments and the group is introduced to some of Australia's basic biomes; desert, grassland, rainforest, alpine, freshwater and bush. Students are then put into groups with a card of each biome to form a team.

The Wildlife Education Officer gives a series of clues relating to an animal species from a specific biome. Students are tasked with identifying the animal and which biome the animal may fit into based on the Wildlife Education Officer's description of adaptations and behaviour.

Each time a team guesses the biome and animal correctly, points are allocated on the scoreboard and the Wildlife Education Officer will bring the animal to each group for a close encounter.

The session is 'won' by the team with the most points and concludes with a recap of primary biome concepts and congratulations to all for participating in the game show challenge.

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

Curriculum links

Science Understanding	
Biological	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things (3)• Living things have life cycles (4)• Living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive (4)• Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (5)• The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (6)
Earth & space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earth's rotation on its axis causes regular changes, including night and day (3)• Earth's surface changes over time as a result of natural processes and human activity (4)• The Earth is part of a system of planets orbiting around a star (the sun) (5)• Sudden geological changes or extreme weather conditions can affect Earth's surface (6)
Science as a Human Endeavour	
Nature & development of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science involves making predictions and describing patterns and relationships (3, 4)• Science involves testing predictions by gathering data and using evidence to develop explanations of events and phenomena (5, 6)
Use & influence of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions (3, 4)• Science understandings, discoveries and inventions are used to solve problems that directly affect people's lives (5, 6)• Scientific knowledge is used to inform personal and community decisions (5, 6)
Other areas of the curriculum (e.g. English) are covered in the classroom resource section of the Discovery Session Guide for Talkin' 'Bout Your Biome!	

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!