



# DISCOVERY SESSION: 7-10 AUSTRALIAN TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES

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## **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 that 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.

## Curriculum Links

Science Understanding	
Biological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are differences within and between groups of organisms; classification helps organise this diversity (7)</li> <li>• Interactions between organisms can be described in terms of food chains and food webs; human activity can affect these interactions (7)</li> <li>• Multi-cellular organisms contain systems of organs that carry out specialised functions that enable them to survive and reproduce (8)</li> <li>• Multi-cellular organisms rely on coordinated and interdependent internal systems to respond to changes to their environment (9)</li> <li>• The transmission of heritable characteristics from one generation to the next involves DNA and genes (10)</li> <li>• The theory of evolution by natural selection explains the diversity of living things and is supported by a range of scientific evidence (10)</li> </ul>
Science as a Human Endeavour	
Nature & development of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific knowledge can develop through collaboration and connecting ideas across the disciplines of science (7, 8)</li> <li>• Scientific understanding, including models and theories, are contestable and are refined over time through a process of review by the scientific community (9, 10)</li> <li>• Advances in scientific understanding often rely on developments in technology and technological advances are often linked to scientific discoveries (9, 10)</li> </ul>
Use & influence of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science understanding influences the development of practices in areas of human activity such as industry, agriculture and marine and terrestrial resource management (7, 8)</li> <li>• People can use scientific knowledge to evaluate whether they should accept claims, explanations or predictions (9, 10)</li> </ul>
Science Inquiry Skills	
Questioning & predicting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify questions and problems that can be investigated scientifically and make predictions based on scientific knowledge (7, 8)</li> </ul>
<b>Other areas of the curriculum (e.g. English) are covered in the classroom resource section of the Discovery Session Guide for Australian Terrestrial Vertebrates: Classified! (Years 7-10)</b>	

## 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!