



DISCOVERY SESSION: P-2 BACKYARD EXPLORERS

Lesson overview

Students will use their senses to explore wildlife biofacts, discovering how native animals meet their basic needs in different environments, including our own backyards.

Lesson objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify different animal habitats
- Use senses to identify animal biofacts (fur, sheds, scats, tracks, food sources etc) in nature as indicators animals live nearby
- Describe what animals need in their habitats to survive
- Discuss the special features of animals

Animals

- Frog*, Python*, Koala*, Lizard*, Bird*

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

Lesson summary

Students will be introduced to the Education Officer in the role of a Backyard Explorer: someone who explores different habitats and uncovers clues in order to discover, appreciate and conserve wildlife.

The Backyard Explorer will share some of their favourite adventures and the clues that lead them to discover amazing wildlife along the way.

Students will then get the chance to use their own senses to explore wildlife clues on their own and see if they can figure out what animal the clues point to.

Once the students have figured out the clues, they will get the chance to meet each animal to learn even more about the special features that help it to survive in its specific habitat.

Curriculum Links

The Backyard Explorers (Prep – Year 2) Discovery Session focusses heavily on the Prep and Year One ‘Biology’ area. However, all Lone Pine Discovery Sessions touch on multiple elements from the Science curriculum and can be integrated into other curriculum subjects.

See the table below for a detailed breakdown of how Backyard Explorers (Prep – Year 2) meets the Australian Science Curriculum.

Science Understanding (F) = Foundation (1) = Year 1 (2) = Year 2	
Biological	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living things have basic needs, including food and water (F)• Living things have a variety of external features (1)• Living things live in different places where their needs are met (1)• Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves (2)
Earth & space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily and seasonal changes in our environment, including the weather, affect everyday life (F)• Observable changes occur in the sky and landscape (1)• Earth’s resources, including water, are used in a variety of ways (2)
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The way objects move depends on a variety of factors, including their size and shape (F)• Light and sound are produced by a range of sources and can be sensed (1)
Science as a Human Endeavour	
Nature & development of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science involves exploring and observing the world using the senses (F)• Science involves asking questions about, and describing changes in, objects and events (1, 2)
Use & influence of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things (1, 2)
Science Enquiry Skills	
Questioning & predicting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond to questions about familiar objects and events (F)• Respond to and pose questions, and make predictions about familiar objects and events (1, 2)
Planning & conducting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore and make observations by using the senses (F)• Participate in different types of guided investigations to explore and answer questions, such as manipulating materials, testing ideas, and accessing information sources (1, 2)
Processing & analysing data & information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in discussions about observations and use methods such as drawings to represent ideas (F)• Through discussion, compare observations with predictions (1, 2)
Evaluating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compare observations with those of others (1)
Communicating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share observations and ideas (F)• Represent and communicate observations and ideas in a variety of ways such as oral and written language, drawing and role play (1, 2)
Other areas of the curriculum (e.g. English) are covered in the classroom resource section of the Discovery Session Guide for Backyard Explorers (Prep – Year 2).	

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!