



DISCOVERY SESSION: 3-6 BACKYARD EXPLORERS

Lesson overview

Students use their senses to explore wildlife biofacts, discovering how habitats support native wildlife and how the structural features and adaptations of wildlife help them survive in their environment. Students are further challenged to look at our own backyards and assess suitability for wildlife.

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
- Identify structural features and adaptations that help animals survive in the wild
- Discuss ideas on making backyards a safe place for wildlife

Animals

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

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

Lesson summary

The Wildlife Education Officer introduces the idea that wildlife can be found in almost all environments and we can discover which animals might live in each habitat by looking at suitable environmental factors and animal biofacts.

The Wildlife Education Officer explores a treasure bag of biofact clues to narrow down as a group what the clues could point to. Students are then rewarded for their efforts by meeting the first animal and discussing its adaptations for surviving in its habitat.

The students are then challenged to work together in teams to look through their own biofact clue bags and identify three other mystery animals and share their findings with the group.

Students are rewarded for their efforts by meeting the animal their biofacts point towards most strongly. While the students are meeting the animals up close, discussion focuses on special features and environments. Students are challenged to think of their own backyards, school and natural urban spaces and how the animals might survive in these places.

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

Curriculum Links

The Backyard Explorers (Year 3 - 6) focusses heavily Biology. However, all Lone Pine Discovery Sessions aim to touch on multiple elements from the Science curriculum.

See the table below for a detailed breakdown of how Backyard Explorers (Year 3 - 6) meets the Australian Science Curriculum.

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)
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)
Science Enquiry Skills	
Questioning & predicting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With guidance, identify questions in familiar contexts that can be investigated scientifically and predict what might happen based on prior knowledge (3, 4)• With guidance, pose questions to clarify practical problems or inform a scientific investigation, and predict what the findings of an investigation might be (5, 6)
Other areas of the curriculum (e.g. English) are covered in the classroom resource section of the Discovery Session Guide for Backyard Explorers (Years 3-6).	

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's Learning Experiences, resources, ease of booking excursions or something else entirely, we would love to hear from you!