

Koala and Bilby Lessons

The following lessons are designed to accompany the koala and bilby craft activities and extend the students' learning. They are written for primary students, but can be adjusted to suit lower or higher year levels.

Curriculum Alignment

Science

Science Understanding

- Animals grow, change and reproduce. In order to survive they rely upon each other and their environment.

Humanities and Social Sciences – Geography

Geographical Knowledge and Understanding

- Environments provide habitats for animal populations and these need to be protected and nourished.

Broad Learning Outcomes

Participating in the lessons will assist students in achieving the following outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify various Australian animals and discuss their habitats, life cycles, behaviours, diets, etc.
- Students will explore how animals adapt to survive in their environments.

Lessons Ideas

- Brainstorm a list of Australian animals.
- Research the koala or bilby using the following headings: scientific name, habitat, diet, life cycle, behaviour, appearance and interesting facts. Indicate on a map where they can be found.
- Investigate which Australian animals are classified as vulnerable, threatened or endangered. What are the reasons for these classifications? What action can students take to help these animals? What classification applies to the koala and bilby?
- Select an Australian animal, then describe and list how it has adapted to suit its particular environment.
- Compare and contrast the koala and bilby on a Venn diagram.

- Describe the attributes of the koala or bilby that help them to survive. Students may draw and label the animal's characteristics, or create a model of one.
- Use plasticine or modelling clay to make a representation of the koala or bilby's life cycle.
- Sort a list of Australian animals into the categories of 'predator' or 'prey'. Is the choice always easy? Discuss and debate choices. How else could the animals be sorted?
- Create a habitat diorama for the completed koala and bilby pencil toppers.
- Brainstorm a list of Australian animals then create an 'achievement list'.

Consider:

- fastest
- slowest
- biggest
- smallest
- deadliest
- cutest
- most unusual looking
- best camouflage
- most adaptable

- Read a book about Australian animals and complete a book report. Here are some suggested titles:
 - *Koala Lou* by Mem Fox
 - *Hunwick's Egg* by Mem Fox
 - *Bilby Moon* by Margaret Spurling
 - *The Complete Adventures of Blinky Bill* by Dorothy Wall
 - *The Muddleheaded Wombat* by Ruth Park
 - *Diary of a Wombat* by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley
 - *How the birds got their colours* by Mary Albert and Pamela Loft
- Research marsupials and what makes them different to other animals. What do the koala and bilby have in common? Students list as many marsupials as they can.
- Conduct an internet image search of koalas and bilbies. Do they all look the same? How do they differ? Are any differences due to gender, habitat, age, etc? Create a digital photo story with the images.