



Student Activity

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Save the Bilby

It is time to stand up and take notice of the bilby - a native Australian animal whose numbers are continuing to decline. In Queensland, the situation is dire with less than 600 bilbies living in the wild. As a Conservation Ranger your role is to learn as much as you can about the bilby so that you can help us to save this magnificent animal before it is too late!

Here are some simple facts about the bilby:

Fact # 1: The bilby requires very little water in order to survive

Fact # 2: The bilby is omnivorous which means that it feeds on both plants and animals, a great way to survive in the toughest conditions

Fact # 3: The bilby can breed all year round and is the second fastest breeding mammal in the world

Activity 1 - Food Webs

A food web sets out the energy exchange between one living thing to another

For this activity Our Wildlife Education Officer will provide you will some information about the bilbies natural food web and the impact introduced species have had on this food web. Listen carefully so that you can answer the questions below:

Task 1: Describe the impact that these animals may have had on the bilby population.

a) The rabbit



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b) The cat and the fox

c) The bilby isn't the only animal that has been affected by introduced species. Describe the impact that the introduction of the rabbit, the fox and the cat may have had on the woma python and the western quoll:

Task 2: *Only if there is time*

Draw a simple copy of the food web in the space below:



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Self Directed Exploration – Activity 2 – Adaptations

Now you are on your own to further explore the world of bilbies!

As a Conservation Ranger, it is important that you understand the physical characteristics of the animal that you are helping to save.

At this station you will learn all about the bilbies adaptations:

Adaptation (noun): A feature in the structure or behaviour of a species which improves their chance of survival in a certain environment. Variations that prove successful will spread throughout the population of the species.

Task 1: Locate our bilby house where you can observe the bilbies

Task 2: At the bilby exhibit, spend a few minutes observing the bilbies, their environment and reading about them on the information posters provided

From your observations, how would you describe the habitat of the bilby?

**hint: think about the type of ground, its colour and texture, where the bilbies have made their home, the availability of shelter and food, the temperature, and any other features you may observe*

Task 3: What do you think would happen to you if you were forced to live in the arid environment of the bilby for two weeks with no supplies?

**keep in mind that there is very little water to be found in an arid environment*



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Task 4: The following table looks at the features or adaptations of the bilby and how they use these features to survive in their environment

Your task is to fill in the table by outlining how each of these features help the bilby to survive:

Long Ears <i>*hint: blood flows through these ears</i>	Pouch	Sharp Claws <i>*hint: where do the bilbies sleep?</i>	Long Nose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

Task 5: **Only if you have time**

Try to draw a bilby in the space below and, if you have time, label some of its features:



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Self Directed Exploration – Activity 3 – Conservation

Fact 1: It is estimated that there are currently 20 million feral cats in Australia

Fact 2: Introduced species such as the rabbit, fox and the feral cat are so common in Australia that it is almost impossible to eradicate them completely

Task 1: Bilbies are endangered due to competition and hunting by introduced species. Have you heard of any projects that are designed to help to save the bilby? If so, what are they?

The Fence

The Save the Bilby Fence encloses a 25 km² area in Currawinya National Park where bilbies can live safely in their own natural environment. The two-metre-high fence is predator and feral animal proof, providing the bilbies with a safe haven in which to live and breed.

Task 2: You are standing in front of a picture of the Save the Bilby Fence. On the diagram on the next page, fill in the empty boxes by matching the correct feature from the list below.

The “Floppy Top”

Steel Post

Underground Rod

Electric Wires

The Skirt



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Task 3: If you were to design your own bilby fence what features would you include to keep out feral cats, foxes, and rabbits?

Task 4: Your final task as a Conservation Ranger is to think of a couple of ways that you could help save the bilby. You can put down some of your ideas in the space below:

Task 5: **Only if you have time**

In the space below, design a poster that could be used by the Save the Bilby Fund