

# UPPER PRIMARY STUDENT WORKBOOK

**CURRUMBIN  
WILDLIFE  
SANCTUARY**



# NATURE ED



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

# ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

Animals develop special characteristics which help them function best in their natural habitat. These characteristics can be colour, structure, reproductive, behaviour or function. Find these animals in the Sanctuary and describe the unique characteristics that help them survive.

## Colour and Blue-tongued Lizards

How does their colouring assist in protection?

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## Reproduction and echidnas

What is unique about this animal?

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## Structure and pelicans

What is unique about a pelican's feet?

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## Behaviour and owls

Owls are nocturnal. Why is this an advantage for owls?

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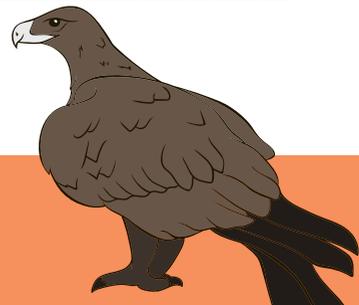
## Function and koalas

Eucalyptus leaves are toxic (poisonous). How does their body deal with this?

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Life and living things: A Wedge-tailed Eagle can carry prey of 7 to 8 kg in its talons.

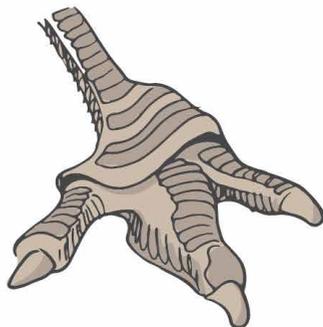


# WHAT AM I?

Try to work out the following animals from the clues provided.

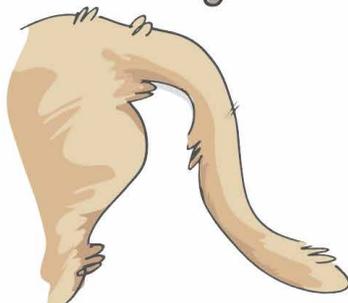
1. I live in a rainforest. I have large claws on both my feet. I can reach a height of 1.8 m. I can weigh up to 60 kg. I lay bright green eggs and I can run very fast.

S \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_



2. I can be three different colours. I live in the outback or on beaches. I am a carnivore. I give birth to a litter of pups, and I like to howl.

D \_\_\_\_\_



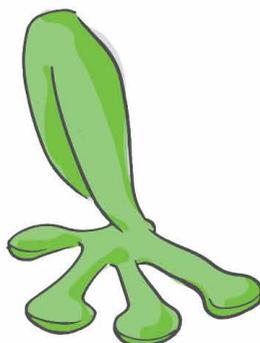
3. I live in trees. I have a loose membrane of skin between my arms and legs. I eat fruits and berries. I am covered in fur. I am a marsupial.

S \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_



4. I eat insects. I have a long tongue. I have a unique vocal sound. My skin is slimy. I lay eggs. I live in the trees and in water. I am an amphibian.

G \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_



Point of trivia:

Sugar Gliders can glide through the air for up to 50 metres.

# BODY PARTS



Animals develop special characteristics which help them function best in their natural habitat. These characteristics may be colour, structure, reproductive, behaviour or function.

**COLOUR:** The physical colour of an animal can camouflage, scare away predators or attract a mate. E.g. the tongue on a blue tongue lizard.

**STRUCTURE:** The body of the animal has adapted to suit its environment. E.g. owls have sharp claws/talons to catch their prey.

**REPRODUCTIVE:** The animal's ability to produce young varies depending on its body make up. E.g. echidnas lay eggs.

**BEHAVIOUR:** Animals behave in ways that enable them to survive in their environment. E.g. owls are nocturnal.

**FUNCTION:** An adaptation which has a specific purpose in increasing that animal's survival. E.g. koalas can consume toxic eucalyptus leaves due to their large caecum.

Complete the table below to discover why animals have certain body parts.

|              | KOALA   | BARN OWL                                | CROCODILE   |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Colour       | Grey and white for camouflage – grey back to be hidden from above and white bottom to hide amongst trees when seen from below | _____                                   | _____   |
| Structure    | _____   | Has talons to catch and kill its prey   | _____   |
| Reproductive | Is a marsupial, and joeys stay in pouch for 6-7 months to protect them from predators   | _____                                   | _____   |
| Behaviour    | _____   | _____                                   | Performs the death roll to confuse and drown prey |
| Function     | _____   | Silent flight to sneak up on their prey | _____   |

Point of trivia: Echidna spines are made from the same material as our hair and nails. It's called keratin.

# The Wild Herald

## NEWS FLASH

### Animal Detective

What do you think happened to the birds?

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Why do you think they were stolen?

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How can this kind of activity be avoided in the future?

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Three black cockatoos have vanished from their enclosure at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Reports say that in the early hours of yesterday morning, a keeper found the cockatoo enclosure had been tampered with. Ken the Keeper said, "I noticed the lock had been cut and there were signs of a struggle due to the numerous feathers around. The one remaining black cockatoo appeared to be very distressed."

An investigation was undertaken and police found three clues; a long cylinder with holes in it which suggests smugglers, footprints around the enclosure and a tyre burn out in the car park.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary keepers are very worried for the welfare of these birds, and are appealing to the public for their assistance.



Point of trivia: There are only 1000 to 1500 Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (South Eastern) remaining in the wild.

# NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T

According to the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), about 600 Australian species are in a vulnerable state. Another 100 species are endangered.

**Endangered** means that an animal's population is decreasing and at risk of extinction.

Name three extinct animals (from anywhere in the world):

\_\_\_\_\_

Feral animals in Australia are responsible for many species becoming endangered or extinct.

What is a feral animal? Define. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name three feral species. 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

What impact have these animals had in Australia?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

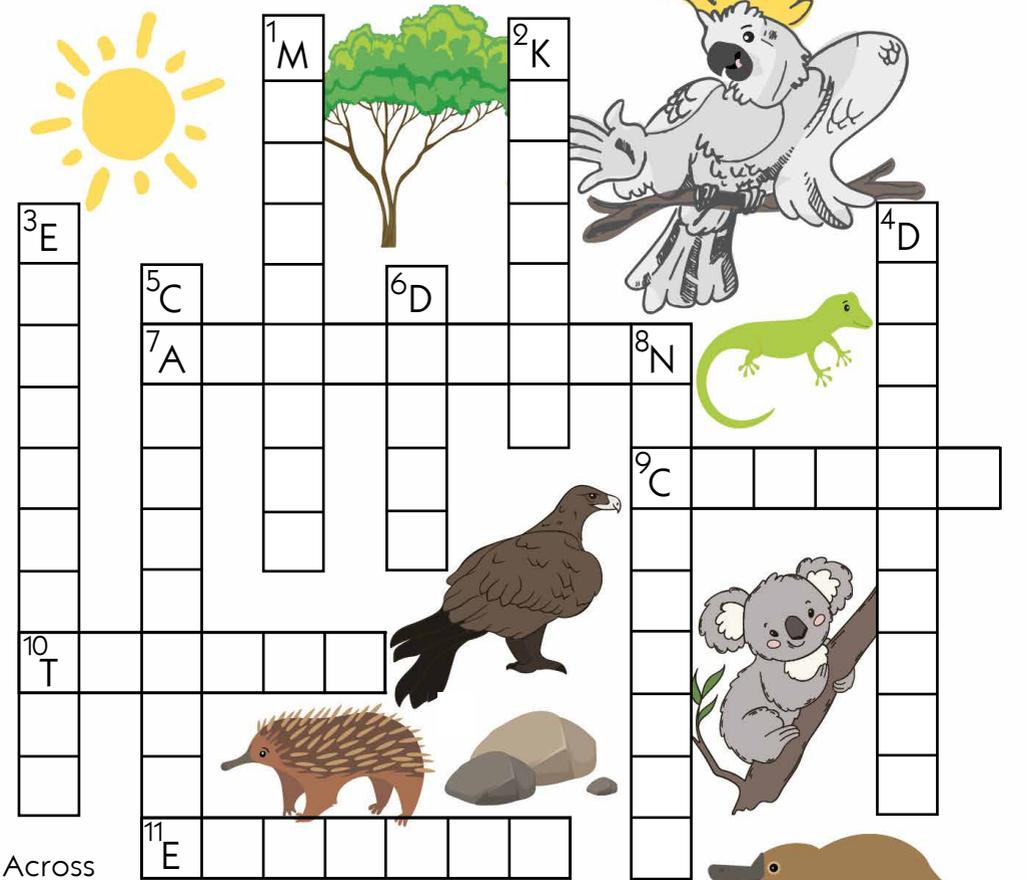
Life and living things: The Red-bellied Black Snake can give birth to up to 40 live snakes at one time.



It is estimated that 25% of mammals, more than 40% of amphibian species, nearly 33% of sharks and 25% of plant groups are threatened with extinction.

United Nations Environment Programme – 2018

# CROSSWORD



Across

7. A frog is known as an \_\_\_\_\_
9. At Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, you can get \_\_\_\_\_ to the animals.
10. Many birds have these kinds of claws to catch their prey
11. When an animal species disappears from the environment, it is known as being \_\_\_\_\_

Down

1. An animal with a pouch is called a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Echidna spines are made from \_\_\_\_\_
3. Koalas eat these kind of leaves
4. Finish this statement "Together, we can make a \_\_\_\_\_"
5. What is it called when an animal can disguise itself in the environment?
6. I am an Australian carnivore
8. As owls are active at night, they are known as being \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Trivia: There are now 41,415 species on the IUCN Red List, and 16,306 are endangered species threatened with extinction. IUCN - 2018



## *AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL*

You, your family and friends can do many things in your own environment to make a positive difference by:-

- putting rubbish in the bin;
- turning the tap off when cleaning your teeth to save water;
- turning off lights and fans when not in use to save power;
- reducing waste, for example, say “No” to plastic bags, reuse bottles and plastics as much as possible;
- planting native plants;
- telling an adult and/or Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary when you see an injured Australian native animal.

***TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***