LOWER SECONDARY STUDENT WORKBOOK

Name: _____

School: _____

Class: _____

ADAPTATIONS

During your visit to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, you will see different animals.
Fill out the table below:

REPTILE - SPECIES:_____

	Adaptation	How it improves survival
1. Physical description		
2. Special characteristics		
3. Functional characteristics		
4. Is this animal "purpose built" to suit its habitat?		

BIRD - SPECIES: _____

	Adaptation	How it improves survival
1. Physical description		
2. Special characteristics		
3. Functional characteristics		
4. Is this animal "purpose built" to suit its habitat?		

MAMMAL - SPECIES: _____

	Adaptation	How it improves survival
1. Physical description		
2. Special characteristics		
3. Functional characteristics		
4. Is this animal "purpose built" to suit its habitat?		

ADAPTATIONS

Animals develop special characteristics which help them survive in their natural habitat. These can be colour, structure, reproduction, behaviour or function (internal).

Find these animals in the Sanctuary and complete the table.

Characteristic	Type of adaptation	Reason for adaptation
Tail of Shingleback Lizard	Functional	Stores fat for times of food shortage
Spur on the cassowary		
Colouration of the Tawny Frogmouth		
Koalas sleep for 18-20 hours everyday		
Owls produce a casting		
Female kangaroos can hold development of embryos		

Point of trivia: The Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat is classified as critically endangered.

VERTEBRATES

Animals are classified into major groups according to their physical characteristics. Animals are classified into the Phylum Chordata if they have a backbone. The Phylum Chordata includes all animals known as vertebrates.

List the five vertebrate classes of Animals:

1. Mammals
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Examples of different animals from the five vertebrate classes exist throughout the Sanctuary. Complete the following pages based on the animals you see in the Sanctuary.

Reptiles

1. Complete the following list of reptilian characteristics to learn more about classifying animals.

a. A body covering of_____

b. Reptiles are _____ blooded, which means that their body temperature changes with their environment

c. Reptiles give birth to _____ young or lay _____

d. If they are egg-laying reptiles, their eggs are not hard, they are _____ -shelled

2. Complete the following table for the Saltwater Crocodile
(Use enclosure signage to help you).

Level of Classification Phylum	**Australian Saltwater Crocodile**
Class	
Order	Crocodilia
Family	
Genus	Crocodylus
Species	Porosus

ANIMAL ANTICS

Observing an animal's behaviour tells us a lot about their health, breeding patterns, survival and adaptations. Observe a group of kangaroos in the kangaroo paddock for 10 minutes. Each minute, record their behaviour in the table below.

Behaviour	ROO 1	ROO 2	ROO 3	ROO 4	ROO 5	Total Frequency
Sleeping/Resting						
Scratching						
Jumping						
Eating						
Drinking						
Playing						

What was the most popular behaviour and why? _____

_____

_____

_____

What was the least common behaviour? _____

_____

_____

_____

Do you think that certain behaviours would change during the year?
Why or why not? _____

_____

_____

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

GOING, GOING, GONE ...

The Bilby species once covered 70% of Australia's mainland throughout the arid and semi-arid regions. Today, the bilby can be found in fragmented populations in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South-West Queensland.

Once considered critically endangered, conservation has helped increase numbers and change its IUCN status to "vulnerable". List reasons why animals may become endangered:

The following animals at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary are on the threatened/ endangered list. Use the table below to indicate the reasons behind them being endangered.

Species	Reasons Why Numbers Are Decreasing?				
	Feral introduced animals	Animal smuggling	Destruction of habitat	Water/air pollution	Hunted by humans
Bilby					
Frogs					
Tasmanian Devil					
Southern Cassowary					
Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat					

Comment on how you can help.

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

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Many organisations assist in improving the lives of animals and increasing their chance of survival in the wild. Do you think it is the responsibility of all humans to care about the future of animals and plants? Why / Why Not?

2. If you were working in a high level of parliament, give an example of one policy or action you would put into place to help protect our animals and their environment.

3. Today you've seen many different species of animals. Why is biodiversity so important to the ongoing survival of these animals? And why do you think biodiversity is important to the earth?

CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY | NATURE ED

AT CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY...

While you're visiting the Sanctuary, help us make sure you and the animals stay safe and happy by:

- listening to your teachers
- behaving safely on the train (keep limbs inside the train and do not disembark / board the train while it is still in motion)
- avoiding all train tracks
- showing respect for all animals and other people at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
- showing you understand that animals need a quiet, calm and safe environment

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
- getting involved. Have you thought about a career in working with animals? Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary offers hands-on courses aimed at teaching community members about caring for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife. Eight week night time courses run throughout the year. Phone 07 5534 0895 for details or visit currumbinsanctuary.com.au

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!