



Bandicoots. Back from the Brink

Lesson Plan Pack Yr 7-8

This pack includes everything you need to deliver three engaging lessons, aligned with the 7-8 Biological Sciences, Science Understanding & Place, Space & Interconnection curricula.

These lessons include an exclusive, evening Bandicoot Discovery Tour on Moonar'mia - (Churchill Island). Inspire your students with real-world learning, build their understanding of native wildlife, and create an unforgettable educational experience as you observe these incredible creatures in the wild.



Contents

IN THIS PACK YOU'LL FIND:

- 3 x Victorian curriculum-aligned lesson plans
- Links to online resources
- A fact-finding worksheet
- A Questions for the expert worksheet
- An online quiz to test your knowledge
- A Field Notes page for collecting data
- A map of Moonar'mia (Churchill Island)
- An online assessment task (with individualised results sent to the teacher)
- An assessment task outline - Creating an endangered species poster
- An example assessment poster
- A blank poster template
- A survey link to give us feedback on the pack

Bandicoots: Back from the Brink | Lesson plans

Subject(s): Science & Geography

Year level/stage: 7&8

Curriculum elaborations

There are differences within and between groups of organisms; classification helps organise this diversity.

Interactions between organisms can be described in terms of food chains and food webs and can be affected by human activity.

Multicellular organisms contain systems of organs that carry out specialised functions that enable them to survive and reproduce.

Scientific knowledge and understanding of the world changes as new evidence becomes available; science knowledge can develop through collaboration and connecting ideas across the disciplines and practice of science.

Science and technology contribute to finding solutions to a range of contemporary issues; these solutions may impact other areas of society and involve ethical considerations.

Explain processes that influence the characteristics of places

Identify, analyse and explain interconnections within places and between places and identify and explain changes resulting from these interconnections

Learning objectives

- Eastern barred bandicoots (EBBs) are an Australian marsupial.
- As with other organisms, EBBs fit into a food chain and food web.
- EBBs have features and adaptations suited to their environment.
- EBBs have an amazing story of being saved from extinction via scientific collaboration.

Success criteria

- I can demonstrate knowledge of food chains and webs via an interactive game.
- I have conducted research to find out the diet, features and adaptations of EBBs.
- I can demonstrate knowledge of how EBBs were saved from extinction and why that's important.

CURRICULUM CODES

Biological Sciences: VCSSU091, VCSSU093, VCSSU094

Science Understanding: VCSSU089, VCSSU090

Place, Space & Interconnection: VCGGC099, VCGGC101



Lesson #1 PRIOR TO YOUR VISIT

Lesson stage	Tasks -	Monitoring student learning
Review of previous learning		
Introduce or recap prior learning of food webs and food chains with a fun interactive.	Have students pair up and complete the game – Who's for Dinner? And/or the activity – Build Food Chains & Food Webs. An introduction to the Eastern barred bandicoot (EBB): As a class, watch this video about the EBB. (2 minutes) (If you'd like to watch a longer video there are several on YouTube including this one. – 10 minutes)	Ask questions to check for understanding as the students complete the interactive activities.
Explicit teaching of new learning ('I do') – Bandicoots back from the brink. Group fact-finding.		
Give an overview of the learning objectives to the students. Using the 'fact finding' page, demonstrate locating the information page and filling in a couple of answers.	Introduce the 'fact finding' worksheet (from the pack). Read through it together. Open the links below and demonstrate how to find the answer to the first question. EBB FACT LINKS: The Nature Parks Nature notes The Nature Parks Penguin Foundation EBB factsheet Zoos Victoria EBB mainland population DEECA Conserving threatened species Museum Victoria Eastern barred bandicoot Animal Diversity Web Perameles gunnii	



Lesson #3 AFTER YOUR VISIT - Assessment & Project

Lesson stage	Tasks	Monitoring student learning
Review of previous learning		
Conduct a class discussion about the visit to Moonar'mia and the bandicoot tour.	Recap learning via discussion. Use this online quiz as an assessment task or to identify areas of misunderstanding. (A spreadsheet of the quiz results will be sent to the school via the email address provided at time of booking)	Test yourself: Eastern barred bandicoot quiz  You can also use this QR code to access the quiz.
Explicit teaching of new learning ('I do') – Introduction to other threatened species poster		
Show the students the example threatened species poster from the pack.	Watch this video from Zoos Victoria about threatened species – good news. Discuss the implications of saving threatened species using the students' knowledge of EBBs as a starting point. What is to be gained by saving species from extinction? What risks are there? Is it worth the effort?	



Eastern barred bandicoot

FACT FINDING WORKSHEET

Write the EBB's scientific name

Your name

Physical features & adaptations

What physical features do EBBs have that make them recognisable?

What features make them well suited to their environment?

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Location & habitat

Where are Eastern barred bandicoots from?

What type of habitat do they live in?

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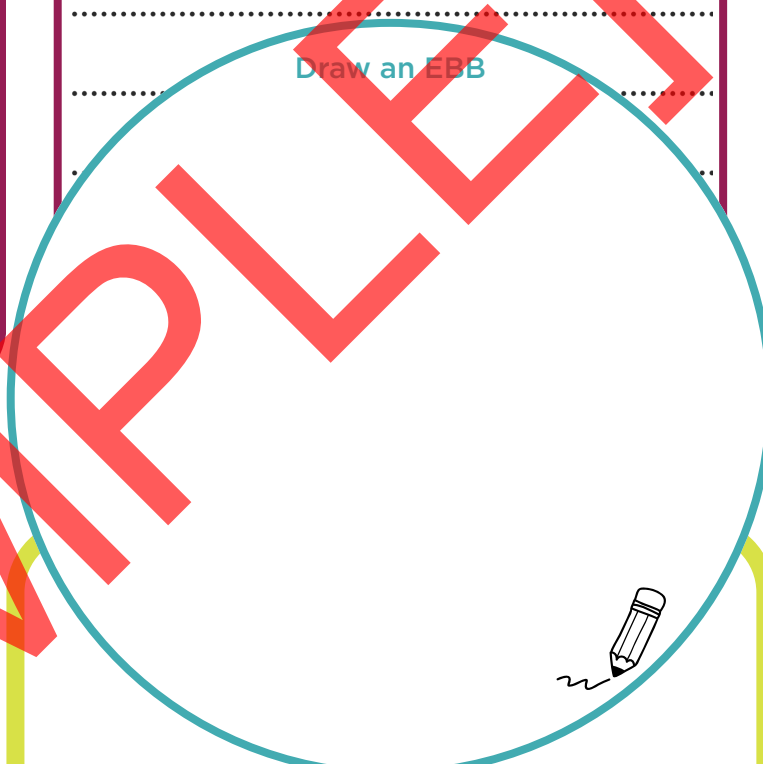
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Draw an EBB



Life-cycle

How often do EBBs have babies?

What other life-cycle facts can you find?

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Diet

What do EBBs eat?

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Did you know?

Add your favorite fact here...

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Bandicoots: Back from the brink

LESSON 2 - FIELD NOTES

Student's name

Date ____/____/____

Spotlighting Start time ____ : ____

Spotlighting Finish Time ____ : ____

Wind direction: N NE E SE S SW W NW

Wind Strength: None Gentle Moderate Strong Gale

Rain: None Light Moderate Heavy



Cloud Cover: 0% 25% 50% 75% 100%



Number of bandicoots sighted (adults and young)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Number of young at foot bandicoots

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Number of bulging bellies (pouch young)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Route taken A or B

Number of people in your group _____

Behaviour of group (Like they were never there) 0 1 2 3 4 5 (Like a rock concert)

Bandicoot behaviour (any comments about animals)

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Mark on the map where you found bandicoots



Bandicoots: Back from the brink

LESSON 2 - KNOWLEDGE CHECK-IN

In context of a food web,
Eastern barred bandicoots
(EBBs) are:

- ☐ Predators
- ☐ Prey

EBBs were considered
extinct in the wild. Thanks
to a scientific collaboration
they are now considered:

- ☐ Sort of extinct
- ☐ Threatened
- ☐ Endangered
- ☐ Totes fine

The main threats to EBBs
are:

- ☐ Predators (foxes, cats etc.)
- ☐ School groups
- ☐ Cold and flu
- ☐ Habitat loss

EBBs' diet consists of:

- ☐ Insects
- ☐ Spiders
- ☐ Shellfish
- ☐ Maccas
- ☐ Fruit
- ☐ Onion-grass bulbs
- ☐ Worms

EBBs are:

- ☐ Mammals
- ☐ Marsupials
- ☐ Monotremes
- ☐ Rodents
- ☐ Small kangaroos
- ☐ Cute

EBBs are:

- ☐ Nocturnal
- ☐ Diurnal



Endangered animal poster example

THE NORTHERN HAIRY-NOSED WOMBAT

The Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat is one of Australia's rarest mammals and is listed as **critically endangered**. Once found in parts of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, the species is now restricted to a small area in central Queensland.

There are less than 400 remaining!

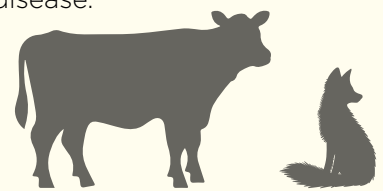
HABITAT

- The Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat lives in grasslands and sandy soils that make burrow-digging easier.
- Today, they are mainly found in Epping Forest National Park and Richard Underwood Nature Refuge in Queensland.
- Their burrows are extensive tunnel systems, sometimes up to 90 metres long, which provide protection from heat and predators.



THREATS

- Habitat loss due to farming and grazing.
- Competition for food with cattle and kangaroos.
- Predation from dingoes and wild dogs.
- Drought and climate change, which reduce grass availability.
- Small population size makes them genetically vulnerable to disease.



CONSERVATION

- The species is fully protected under Australian law.
- Epping Forest National Park was created specifically to save them.
- Fenced reserves prevent cattle, kangaroos, and predators from entering their habitat.
- Researchers monitor the population with camera traps and DNA testing from wombat droppings.
- Conservation breeding and habitat management aim to increase their numbers



WHAT CAN WE DO?

Thanks to ongoing conservation programs, Northern hairy-nosed wombat numbers are slowly increasing.

Protecting their habitat and reducing threats is essential to ensure this species survives for future generations. We can also help at home by recycling and using recycled paper products to reduce land being cleared for paper plantations.