

Koalas and Conservation

Lesson Plan Pack F - 2

This pack includes everything you need to deliver three engaging lessons, aligned with the F-2 Biological Sciences - Place, Space & Interconnection and Data & Information curricula.

These lessons include a hands-on tour at the Koala Conservation Reserve on Phillip Island. Inspire your students with real-world learning, build their understanding of native wildlife, and create an unforgettable educational experience.



Contents

IN THIS PACK YOU'LL FIND:

- 3 curriculum-aligned lesson plans
- A koala fact sheet - Koalas and Conservation. Lesson 1 - Discover Koalas'
- An 'example drawing' of a koala and joey
- A 'blank drawing page' where students can draw their koalas
- A 'koala colouring sheet'
- A 'matching features activity page'
- A page of 'key features labels'
- A double-sided document comprising a map and 'bushland bingo'
- An 'Importance of Recycling' sheet
- An example 'recycled paper collage'
- A 'Labelling animal parts - interactive game' PowerPoint document



Koalas & Conservation | Lesson plans

Subject(s): Science/Geography

Year level/stage: F-2

CURRICULUM CODES

Biological Sciences: VCSSU042, VCSSU043
Place, space & interconnection: VCGGC058
Data & information: VCGGC060

Lesson #1 BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Curriculum elaborations

Living things have a variety of external features and live in different places where their basic needs, including food, water, and shelter, are met.

Living things grow, change, and have offspring similar to themselves.

Describe and explain where places and activities are located

Collect and record geographical data and information from the field and other sources

Learning objectives

- Koalas live in different parts of Australia.
- Koalas only eat eucalyptus.
- Koalas are marsupials and have a pouch for their babies.
- Koalas have features especially suited to their environment.

Success criteria

- I can demonstrate features of a koala (including their habitat, food, and physical features) using images.
- I can draw a koala (and joey) and demonstrate my knowledge of their biology, adaptations and environment.

Misconceptions

- Koalas are bears
- Koalas eat things other than eucalyptus
- Koalas are indigenous to Phillip Island (Milawul)



Lesson stage	Tasks	Monitoring student learning
Review of previous learning		
Activate prior knowledge by discussing what the group know about koalas.	Ask the students if they've ever seen a koala and if so, where were they? Ask the students what they know about koalas: focus on what they look like, their anatomy, what they eat, where they live and that females have a pouch. As a class, watch this video (duration 4:50) – Koala Facts for Kids Using the 'Koala Facts' information sheet to show the students the koala's physical features. Some topics for discussion are: - Thick fur - Two thumbs - Diet (only eucalyptus leaves) - Babies are called 'joeys'. - They are marsupials	Use the koala facts sheet in the pack and ask students to identify features
Explicit teaching of new learning ('I do') – Drawing a koala		
Give an overview of the learning objectives to the students	Show the students the fact sheet - Koalas and Conservation. Lesson 1 - Discover Koalas' Point out the 'key features' of the koala on the fact sheet. Have the class identify the features or have students point them out as you discuss them.	Ask questions to check for understanding as you discuss each 'key feature'.



An illustration of a grey koala with fluffy ears and a joey clinging to its chest, both in a tree with green eucalyptus leaves. A large red 'SAMPLE' watermark is diagonally across the center.

Fluffy ears. Koalas have large ears and a great sense of hearing, which they need to detect any predators or threats in the area.

Joey. Baby koalas are called joeys. Koalas are marsupials (not bears) so they have babies that climb into their pouch when they are born and stay there and drink their mother's milk until they are big enough to eat eucalyptus leaves (about 6 months).

Thick fur. Koalas have thick fur which acts like a warm jacket in cold weather and keeps them cool when it's hot. During winter they grow a thicker coat and huddle in a ball, with their back to the wind to stay warm. Koalas in Victoria have thicker, darker fur than Koalas in Queensland.

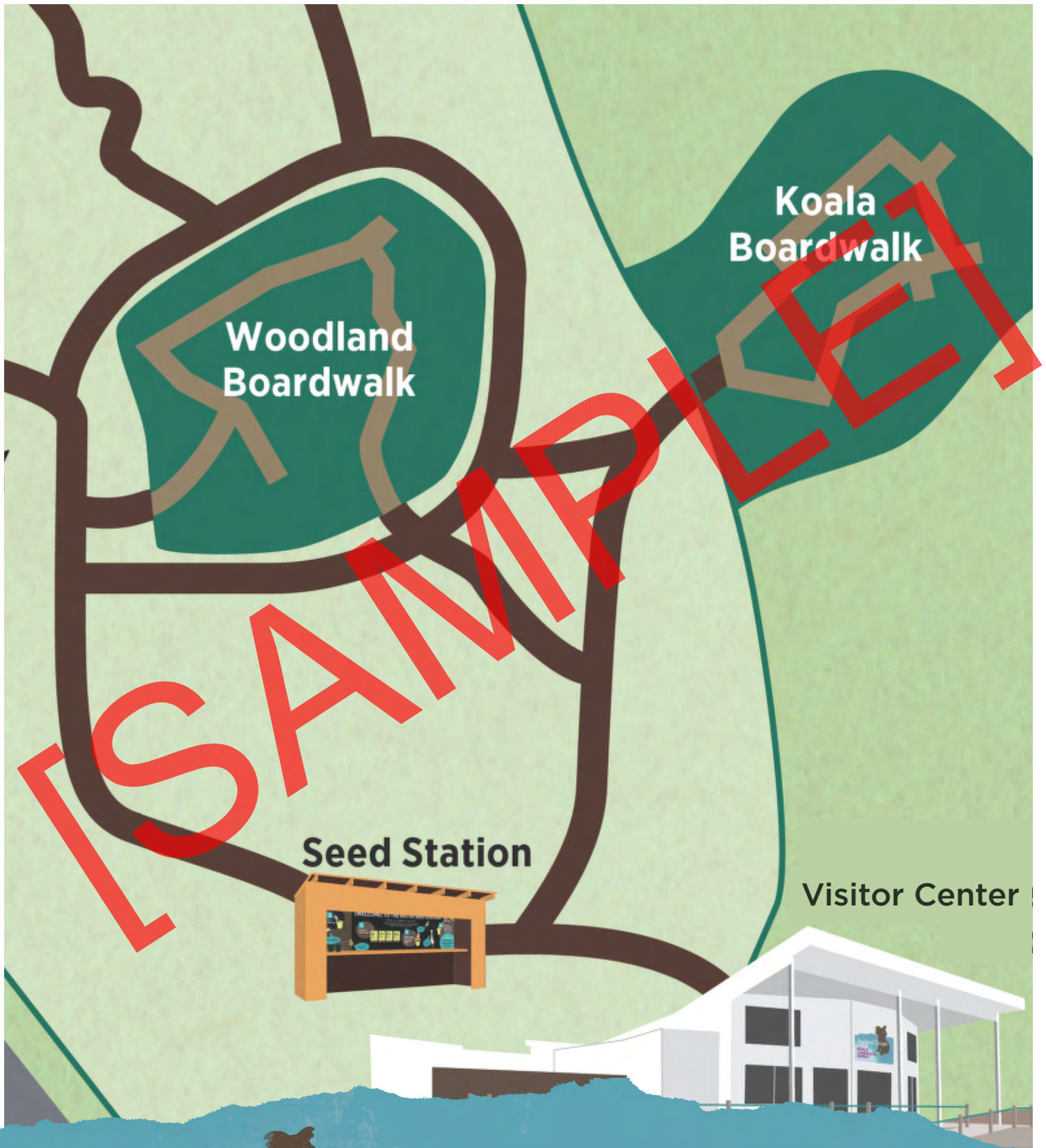
Two thumbs! On their front paws (forepaws), koalas have two thumbs and three fingers to help them grip tightly to the trees. They have long, sharp claws and strong arms to help them climb up tree trunks and along branches to find leaves to eat.

Padded bottom. Koalas have a pad on their bottom made from cartilage (like the tip of your nose) which acts like a built-in beanbag so they can sit comfortably in trees..

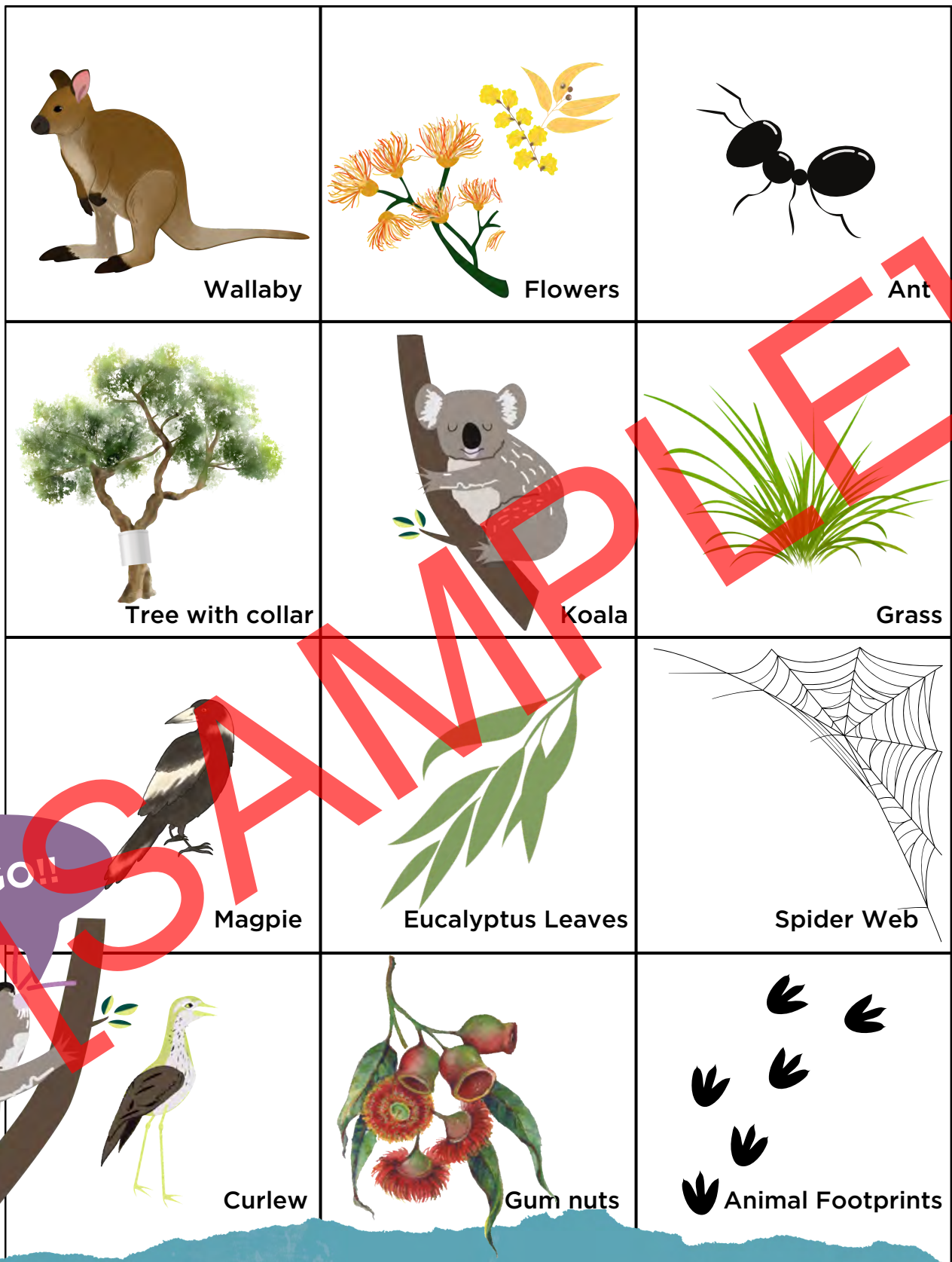
Eucalyptus leaves. Koalas only eat the leaves of eucalyptus trees! An adult koala eats about 1kg of leaves per day. There are about 800 types of eucalyptus trees, but koalas only eat around 12 of them.

Koalas and Conservation

LESSON 2 - MAPPING & FOREST BINGO



Bushland Bingo



Recycling for Koalas

LESSON 3 - DISCOVER KOALAS

WHY RECYCLE?

Koalas in NSW and QLD are predicted to become extinct in the wild within 10 years. Victorian koalas have been threatened by mass clearing of habitat, a warming climate and bushfires, they are diminishing in numbers.

HABITAT LOSS

"Australia clears native habitat faster than any developed country on earth. If we don't halt and reverse our reckless tree-clearing rate, koalas could be extinct by 2050"

- WWF-Australia Report

TIPS!

- Look for the recycling symbol on products we buy.
- We can recycle by carefully putting the right things into our recycling bins at home and at school. Paper or cardboard that has no staples and is clean all go in the recycling bin but dirty or greasy paper or cardboard like pizza boxes can go in the green waste bin to break down into soil.
- We can also choose to purchase 100% recycled paper.

STUDENT CHALLENGES

- Find out if your school books are made from recycled paper?
- Find out what can you write on instead of paper? E.g. reusable writeable surfaces.
- What are 3 things you can use or turn scrap paper into?

Australians are doing a great job buying and using recycled writing and printing paper but there is another type of paper where we could change our buying habits!

STUDENT QUESTIONS

Does your school use recycled toilet paper?

Does your family use recycled toilet paper?

A small change can make a big difference, so let's make this change for koalas!

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Reusing, recycling and reducing our impact on the koala's habitat by cutting down fewer native trees, planting more native habitat and helping fund conservation research are all ways to help.

Paper is made from trees, we can choose recycled paper or paper sourced from sustainably planted trees which are not koala habitat.

Trees are cut and made into a pulp to produce paper. A lot of water, energy and chemicals are used to dye the paper.



RECYCLING SYMBOL

Why do you think the symbol for recycling looks like this? What do these arrows mean?



Matching features activity

EXAMPLE



Matching features activity

KEY FEATURE LABELS

To print, cut out and stick on the activity page



EUCALYPTUS

FLUFFY EARS

JOEY

TWO THUMBS

THICK FUR

PADDED
BOTTOM

EUCALYPTUS

FLUFFY EARS

JOEY

TWO THUMBS

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Recycled paper collage activity

EXAMPLE



Questions for the expert

COLLECT YOUR KOALA QUESTIONS TO ASK OUR EXPERT

Q1. *Do koalas drink water?*.....

Q2.

Q3.

Q4.

Q5.

Q6.

Q7.

Q8.

Q9.

Q10.

Q11.

Q12.

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