



Teacher Resource

Bird Flu

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN High story as a class and record the main points of discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Can you name the strain of bird flu that's affecting Australia?
2. Why are authorities more worried about its discovery in seagulls than in migratory sea birds?
3. What impact could bird flu have on the poultry industry and native species?
4. How are chicken farmers like Max protecting their birds? Give two examples.
5. Why is it difficult to stop bird flu from spreading?
6. What is the government doing to control the bird flu outbreak?
7. What should you do if you notice a sick or dead bird?

Activities

- 1. Awareness Campaign:** Design a public awareness campaign for bird flu:
 - *Backyard Poultry Owners:* Create a flyer or infographic on farm biosecurity (e.g., keeping wild birds out of chicken coops, washing boots).
 - *The General Public/Hikers:* Create a poster or social media graphic explaining what to do if you see a sick bird. This of the audience you are trying to reach and how to best attract their attention.
- 2. Biosecurity Roleplay:** Hold a mock 'Town Hall' meeting. Divide the class into groups representing different sectors:
 - *Poultry Farmers* concerned about their livelihoods and livestock safety.
 - *Wildlife Conservationists* trying to protect threatened wild bird and marine mammal populations.
 - *Chief Veterinary Officers / Government Officials* managing emergency response budgets and public safety.

EPISODE 43

12th August 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the H5N1 virus (bird flu) and discuss its impact on the economy and the environment.

CURRICULUM

[Outdoor learning – Year 7](#)

[Outdoor learning – Year 8](#)

[Geography – Year 7](#)

Examples:

[Science – Year 7 \(v9.0\)](#)

[Science – Year 8 \(v9.0\)](#)

[Geography – Year 7 \(v9.0\)](#)

Each group must debate and co-write an emergency action plan. They must balance agricultural quarantine rules, wildlife surveillance strategies, and community warnings.

3. 'Protect the Coop' Challenge: Imagine you are an agricultural scientist. Design a biosecurity plan for a backyard chicken coop to prevent contact with wild birds. Consider the ways a virus could physically travel into the coop. Provide a sketch of your upgraded chicken coop and label at least three biosecurity features.

4. Write an essay: Research past panzootics (animal pandemics).

- *How did they affect the world?*
- *What lessons were learnt from them?*
- *Could those lessons be applied to the current outbreak of bird flu.*