

# Teacher Resource

## Koala Carer

Episode 22  
13th August 2019

### Focus Questions

1. What is the conservation status of koalas? Discuss as a class before watching the BTN story.
2. Explain the *Koala Carer* story to another student.
3. How old is Libby?
4. What are the main threats to koalas?
5. What is sarcoptic mange?
6. Why are koalas losing their habitat?
7. What is Libby doing to help look after koalas?
8. What message does Libby give about koalas?
9. The koala is an Australian icon. What do you think this means?
10. How did this story make you feel?

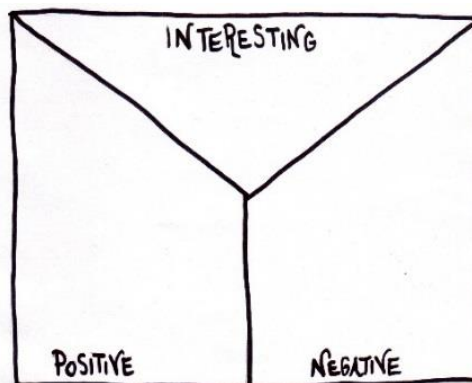
### Activity

#### Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN *Koala Carer* story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories.

What information in the story was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



#### Class Discussion

Hold a class discussion about the issues raised in the BTN *Koala Carer* story. Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What do you know about koalas?
- What are some threats to koalas?
- Why are koalas special?
- What can be done to protect koala populations?
- The koala is an Australian icon. What does this mean?

### Key Learning

Students will explore features of the koala, including habitat, behaviours and its conservation status.

### AC Curriculum

#### Science – Year 4

Living things have life cycles.

Living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive.

#### Science – Year 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.

#### Science – Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment.

#### Science – Year 7

Interactions between organisms, including the effects of human activities can be represented by food chains and food webs.

# Activity

## Creature feature – Koalas

Students will imagine they are a zoologist and study the world of koalas. Students will create a creature feature about koalas and use the following template to record the information they find.

Creature feature – Koalas	
Appearance – what are some of their physical characteristics (including size, weight)?	Common name
	Scientific name
	Habitat
Interesting facts and features	
Threats – How can they be protected?	What is their conservation status?
Illustration of a koala	

## Activity

### KWLH

The KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on the topic of koalas and wildlife conservation and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i><u>What do I know?</u></i>	<i><u>What do I want to know?</u></i>	<i><u>What have I learnt?</u></i>	<i><u>How will I find out?</u></i>

### Research questions for inquiry

Students will determine a focus for their inquiry and develop a key question to guide their inquiry (below are some examples). Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources (internet, books, newspaper and magazines). Students will respond to one or more of the following questions/topics.

- Research some specific adaptations koalas have made to survive in their habitat. Give an oral presentation explaining the adaptations.
- Where are koalas on the food chain? Predict what might happen if koalas are removed from the food chain.
- Why are koalas important? Think of creative ways to raise awareness about the issues raised in the BTN *Koala Carer* story.
- What are some of the main threats to the survival of koalas?
- What might happen if we don't look after koalas? What would the koala populations look like in 30 years' time? Make some predictions.
- Imagine that koalas have tragically become extinct and then write a news article telling people why they have become extinct.

## Activity

### Quiz

Students will create a quiz about koalas using [Kahoot!](#). Quizzes can be created to recap learning or test personal knowledge. There is also the option to connect with classrooms around the world and play kahoot in real time.



## Useful Websites

Koala Tracker – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/koala-tracker/10524818>

Koalas in Decline – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/koalas-in-decline/10522878>

10 facts about koalas – National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/au/discover/animals/general-animals/ten-facts-about-koalas/>

Koalas – Office of Environment and Heritage

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/koala>