

### **Teacher Resource**

Episode 27 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### **Koala Threat**

### **Q** Focus Questions

- Before you watch the BTN Koala Threat story, record what you know about koalas
- 2. Discuss the BTN *Koala Threat* story in pairs. Record the main points of the discussion.
- 3. What happened to the koalas on Kangaroo Island this year?
- 4. What did a recent World Wildlife Fund study find about koala populations?
- 5. What do koalas do when they are feeling threatened?
- 6. What happened to the koala's food source during the bushfires?
- 7. Even before the fires, habitat loss was a problem for koalas. What were the causes of habitat loss?
- 8. Complete the following sentence. Some are worried that koalas could be extinct in some areas by \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. What did you learn watching the BTN story?
- 10. How did this story make you feel?

# Activity

### **Note Taking**

Students take notes while watching the BTN *Koalas Threat* story. After watching the story, students reflect on and organise the information into three categories.

What information about koalas was ...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting

# Activity

#### **Glossary**

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *Koala Threat* story. Students will then use the words to write their own sentences about the topic. Students may want to use pictures and diagrams to illustrate the meaning and create their own glossary. Here are some words to get you started.

Ecosystem	Habitat	Native	
Species	Conservation Population		
Vulnerable	Threat	Marsupial	

### **Key Learning**

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the issues facing koala populations in Australia.

### @ Curriculum

#### Science - Year 5

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

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

#### Science - Year 6

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

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

#### Science - Year 7

Classification helps organise the diverse group of organisms.

Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available.





### **Inquiry Questions**

After watching and discussing the BTN *Koala Threat* story, what questions do students have and what are the gaps in their knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one of the questions below.

- Where can koalas be found? Use a map of Australia to highlight where koalas live in the wild. Why don't koalas live in Western Australia?
- Is there just one species of koala? Explore the physical features of koalas and how these vary depending on their environmental conditions.
- What is the difference between a vulnerable and an endangered species? Explore the status of koala populations around Australia.
- What threats do koala populations face?
- How are koala populations measured? Think of all the reasons why finding and counting koalas might be hard. Investigate what citizen science projects are happening to help count koalas.
- How many koalas are there left in the wild? Look at numbers of koalas before and after the 2019-2020 Australian bushfires. What would the numbers look like if we had another bushfire? Predict the numbers.

## Activity

#### **Literacy activity – Koala habitat**

This literacy activity demonstrates students active listening and interpreting skills. Students will listen to a description of a koala's habitat and create a simple black and white artwork illustrating its habitat. Teachers will use the following as a guide for this activity.

- Find a description of a <u>koala habitat</u> to read aloud to your students. Alternatively, choose another Australian native animal that is a vulnerable or endangered species. Visit the <u>Australian Museum</u> to explore a range of Australian animal habitats.
- Read the description of the koala habitat aloud to your class as a whole, reading the description 2 or 3 times.
- Students will take notes and write down key words as they listen.
- Students will illustrate the habitat using only a black felt—tip pen (0.4 or 0.6) on a piece of A4 art paper. Students will include as much detail as they can.
- Display the student's artwork in a school exhibition.
- We would love to see your students' artwork! Send your artwork to us at <a href="mailto:btn@abc.net.au">btn@abc.net.au</a>
- Challenge students by asking them to recreate the habitat as a diorama or a virtual reality experience using Minecraft.





### Who am I?

Students will make their own *Who am I?* game to learn more about native Australian animals.

- Students will research and write 5 clues to correspond with each animal in the Who am I? worksheet at the end of this activity, with the first clue being the hardest and the last clue being the easiest.
- Include clues about the animal's special features, its predators and how it adapts to its environment.
- Students will test their game on a partner.



## **⇔** Activity

Quiz Q	Questions	Your Answer
Koalas are a type of		
	a. Monotreme	
	b. Marsupial	
	c. Reptile	
2. What is the scientific name for a koala?		
	a. Macropus rufus	
	b. Tachyglossus aculeatus	
	c. Phascolarctos cinereus	
3. Ko	3. Koalas are herbivores	
	a. True	
	b. False	
4. Where do koalas get most of their water from?		
	a. Eucalyptus leaves	
	b. Digging underground	
	c. Lakes and ponds	



5.	What is	s the status of koalas?
	a.	Endangered
	b.	Vulnerable
	C.	Critically endangered
6.	6. What is a baby koala called?	
	a.	Joey
	b.	Puggle
	C.	Pup
7.	7. What is a threat to koalas?	
	a.	Tree clearing
	b.	Global warming
	C.	Bushfires
	d.	All of the above
8.	Koalas need very little sleep	
	a.	True
	b.	False
How many digits do koalas have on each of their front paws?		
	a.	3
	b.	4
	c.	5
10. What habitat do koalas live in?		
	a.	Rainforest
	b.	Desert
	C.	Eucalypt forest
	d.	All of the above

Answers: 1b, 2c, 3a, 4a, 5b, 6a, 7d, 8b, 9c, 10c

### **Useful Websites**

WWF report finds 71pc decline in koala numbers across norther NSW bushfire-affected areas – ABC News <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-06/wwf-koala-loss-report-finds-71pc-decline-after-fires/12624938">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-06/wwf-koala-loss-report-finds-71pc-decline-after-fires/12624938</a>

Bushfires and Wildlife - BTN

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/bushfires-and-wildlife/11910468

Koala Carer - BTN

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/koala-carer/11391692

Koalas in Decline - BTN

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

Koala - NSW Government

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





# Who am I?

Choose 5 unique native Australian animals or use the five animals below. Write 5 clues to correspond with each animal. Include clues about the animal's appearance, diet and adaptations. Cut up the cards and test a partner to see if they can match the animal to the clues.



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### Who am I?

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Images: 1. Koala 2. Wombat 3. Platypus 4. Echidna 5. Kangaroo

