

Mainland Tassie Devils

Focus Questions

1. About how long has it been since Tasmanian devils lived in the wild on the mainland of Australia?
 - a. 300 years
 - b. 3,000 years
 - c. 30,000 years
2. Which celebrity is involved in the Tassie devil rewilding program?
3. Where in Australia is the rewilding program?
4. Why did Tassie devils die out on the mainland?
5. Which introduced species impacted on the Tassie devils?
6. What disease has reduced the devil's population by 90%?
7. What does rewilding mean?
8. Tassie devils are the world's biggest meat-eating marsupials. True or false?
9. Finish the following sentence: Tasmanian devils could help to control introduced species like...
10. What was surprising about this story?

Activity

Discussion

Before watching the BTN *Mainland Tassie Devils* story students will respond to the following...

- What do you already know about Tasmanian devils?
- Where can Tasmanian devils be found?
- What do you want to learn about Tasmanian devils?

What do you see, think and wonder?

After watching the BTN story, students will respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What was SURPRISING about this story?



Students will then:

- Think of a question they would like to ask the researchers featured in the story.
- Leave a message in the comments section on the BTN *Mainland Tassie Devils* story page.
- Finish one or more of the following sentences:

Key Learning

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the issues facing Tasmanian devil populations in Australia. Students will learn about solutions that scientists are finding to help protect Australian animals.

Curriculum

Science – Year 4

Living things have life cycles.

Living things 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

Classification helps organise the diverse group of organisms.

- Reintroducing Tassie Devils onto mainland Australia is important because...
- We can help keep animal's habitats safe by...

Activity

Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *Mainland Tassie Devils* 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
Behaviour	Threat	Introduced Species

Activity

Inquiry Questions

After watching and discussing the BTN *Mainland Tassie Devils* 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.

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

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.

- What is causing species loss of the Tasmanian devil? Explore issues such as habitat loss, introduced species, pollution and disease. Which of these factors are caused by humans?
- When did Tasmanian devils live on the mainland? Look at the history of Tasmanian devils and compare Tasmanian devil populations in Australia over time. Create a timeline showing your findings.
- How will the introduction of Tasmanian devils in Barrington Tops National Park help the species? How will the reintroduction of Tasmanian devils help the ecosystem?
- Where are Tasmanian devils in the food chain? Draw a diagram showing what animal feeds on what. Use illustrations or photos to demonstrate this food chain. On your diagram use words like predator, consumer, producer, decomposer, carnivore, herbivore, transfer of energy.
- What might happen if we don't look after Tasmanian devils? What would the Tasmanian devil populations look like in 30 years' time? Make some predictions. Imagine that Tasmanian devils have tragically become extinct and then write a news article telling people why they have become extinct.

Activity

Animal profile

Students will investigate the Tasmanian devil or choose another native animal that is a threatened or endangered species and create a profile of them. Ask students what they know about threatened species. Can they name any? What is the difference between a threatened or endangered species?

Using the Australian Government's [list of threatened fauna](#) students choose a threatened Australian species to research. They record their information on the [Research Project: Threatened Species template](#). Students will research the following and then share their research findings with the class or create a display in the classroom.

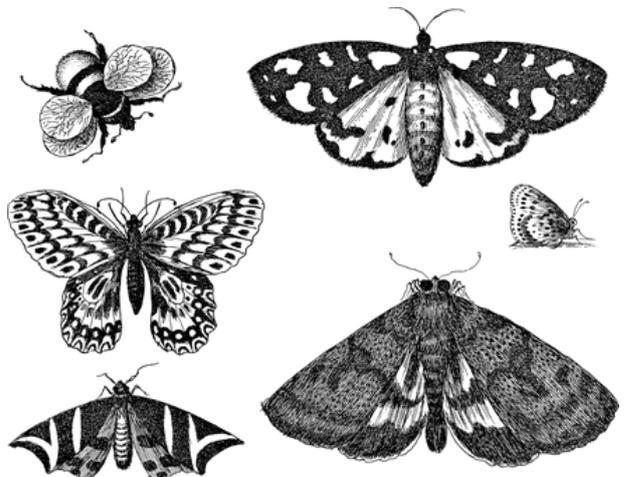
- Name (including scientific name)
- Classification (class, family, genus)
- Description
- Habitat
- Conservation status
- Threats
- What is being done to protect and save the species?

Activity

Improve the biodiversity in your local environment

Students will work together to help and introduce a native animal species into their school yard. Ask them to consider the following:

- What kind of animals could you reintroduce into your school yard? E.g. bees, butterflies, birds. Research the animals native to your local area. Contact a ranger at park near your school or the local council to learn more about the local animal species.
- Do you have the right type of habitat in your school yard for them to survive? Describe the climate and identify the plants in your school yard.
- What are some threats to the species that are caused by humans? How can you reduce these threats in your school yard?
- What materials and tools will you need to build the habitat? Consider writing a guide or procedure manual explaining how to build the new habitat.
- Build the habitat as a class and present the habitat to your school community. Teach students in other classes about the new habitat and involve them in caring for the new habitat.
- Prepare a map of the habitat which highlights key features. Include information labels in the habitat (for example, QR codes next to plants) for other students to learn more about the habitat and the biodiversity of your school yard. Include scientific information about the species. Include botanical names of any plants which are part of the habitat, when it was planted and some basic information.



Activity

Choose a project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Reporter for a day

Investigate the issues highlighted in the BTN *Mainland Tassie Devils* story and write a newspaper article or online news report for kids.

Haiku poetry

Write a haiku poem focusing on one or more of the themes explored in the BTN *Mainland Tassie Devils* story. Use this [graphic organiser](#) to help brainstorm a list of words about the topic.

Myths and Facts

Find some interesting facts about Tasmanian devils. Create your own myths and facts quiz to test the knowledge of students in your class.

Campaign

Design a public education campaign to raise awareness about Tasmanian devils. Think about your campaign's aim, your target audience, and the value of raising awareness. Create a poster using [Canva](#).

Useful Websites

Tassie Devils in Trouble – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/tassie-devils-in-trouble/10488650>

Devil Island – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/devil-island/10531576>

Tassie Devils – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/tassie-devils/10534130>

Tasmanian Devil – National Geographic

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/t/tasmanian-devil/>

Thor releases Tasmanian devils – BTN Newsbreak

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/newsbreak/btn-newsbreak-20201006/12736816>