

# **Threatened Species App**

#### **Focus Questions**

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

- 1. Why was the Threatened Australians app created?
- 2. What are some threats to native species?
- 3. How can people take action to help save native species?
- 4. Why is it important to protect and conserve species?
- 5. What questions do you have about the BTN story?

## **Activity: Note taking**

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{BTN}}$ 

Threatened Species App 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

## **Activity: Class Discussion**

Discuss the BTN story as a class. Ask students what they know about threatened species, recording their responses on a mind map. Use the Threatened Australians website to find out what species are threatened in your area. In small groups, ask students to brainstorm responses to the following questions:

- What did you learn?
- What was surprising about the results?
- What do you wonder?
- Why is it important to protect native species?



#### **EPISODE 14**

24th May 2022

#### **KEY LEARNING**

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

#### **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.

### **Activity: Research inquiry**

The KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on the topic of threatened species 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 learnt?	How will I find out?

#### **Questions to research**

Students will develop their own question/s to research about threatened species. Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one of the questions below.

- What are some threats to native species?
- Why is it important to protect and conserve living things?
- What is biodiversity and why is it important?
- What is causing species loss? Explore issues such as habitat loss, introduced species, pollution, population growth and overharvesting/hunting.
- Which species have become extinct in modern times? Choose a species to investigate in depth and create a news report explaining how the species became extinct.
- How are animal populations measured? Think of all the reasons why finding and counting animal species might be hard. Investigate what citizen science projects are happening to help count animal populations.
- Who do you think should be responsible for addressing the problem of species loss? List some of the responsibilities of individuals, communities and the government.
- What is citizen science and what are the benefits? Explore one of the following citizen science projects to learn more.



**FrogID** 



**Threatened Australians** 



Virtual Reef Diver



QuestaGame

## Activity: Species profile

Students will choose an endangered species that is native to their local area. Use the <u>Threatened</u> Australians website to find a species to research in more detail.

#### Research

Students will research the following and then share their research findings with the class or create a display in the classroom. Students can use the Animal Profile at the end of this activity.

- Illustration or photo
- Name (common and scientific name)
- Conservation status why is this animal facing extinction in this area?
- Appearance
- Adaptations
- Habitat
- Threats
- Unique features



#### Share

- Share and compare your findings with your classmates.
- Present your research in an interesting way.
- Think of ways to raise awareness about threatened species in your area.

#### **Action**

- What steps can you take to help threatened species?
- Email your local MP to voice your concern. Find out what is being done to protect the species.
- Become a citizen scientist!

## **Activity: Biodiversity**

#### 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., birds, bees, frogs, butterflies. Research the species native to your local area. Contact a ranger at a park near your school or the local council to learn more about the local species.
- Do you have the right type of habitat in your school yard for the native animal species 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 or introduce new species to your area?
   Consider writing a guide or procedure manual.
- 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) for other students to learn more about the habitat and the biodiversity of your school yard. Include scientific information about the species.

Watch these BTN stories to find out how kids are helping protect Australian species – <u>Kangaroo Island</u> Dunnarts, Threatened Flora, Koala Carer, Endangered Seeds & World Bee Day.

## 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.

#### **Children's Book**

Write and illustrate a children's book or comic which tells the story of a threatened Australian species.

# What can your MP do about it?

Write a class email to your local MP voicing your concern. How can you persuade them to help threatened species?

#### 3D Model

Create a model of a threatened animal using recycled materials.

Display your model in the classroom. Find a sound recording online to illustrate the sound that the animal makes.

#### **Citizen Science**

As a class choose a citizen science project to get involved in and make a difference in your community.

#### **Useful Websites**

- Which threatened species are found near me? Threatened Australians
- Can this app for Australia's biodiversity 'crisis' on the election agenda? ABC News
- Atlas of Living Australia
- Threatened and Endangered Species stories BTN
- Goldilocks Bird BTN

