

The Bilby Question

Are bilbies the same as bunnies?

In this episode we discover that bilbies and bunnies are both furry mammals with long ears that live in burrows. Bilbies are small Australian native marsupials that raise their babies in pouches. They've lived in Australia for thousands of years. Bilbies are sometimes called rabbit eared bandicoots. They use their long tongues to eat insects. When bilbies dig their burrow they help make the soil soft and healthy. Bunnies are also called rabbits. They're mammals that haven't been in Australia very long. They're not marsupials like bilbies. Bilbies may look a bit like bunnies, but they're definitely not the same.

Wonder some more ...

- 1. What is a native animal?
- **2.** What is a mammal?
- 3. Where do bilbies live?
- **4.** Are they nocturnal?
- **5.** Do bilbies have a pouch?
- **6.** What are baby bilbies called?



Time to explore...

- MAKE AN ANIMAL INFOGRAPHIC POSTER:
 Compare the characteristics of a bilbies and bunnies by looking at photos and videos of these mammals online together. Make a poster to visually identify their similarities and differences, by pasting collage materials and/or printed photographs of their distinctive features (e.g. Bilbies have a long tails... whereas rabbits have round, fluffy tails).
- BUILD A 3D NATURE MODEL: Extend children's
 understandings about the unique features of bilbies by
 creating a model using natural, dried materials and craft
 glue use a large pinecone for the body, a sheoak pod for
 the head, dried seed or chestnut pods for ears, a wooden
 peg for the pointy nose, goggly eyes and a piece of thick
 twine for the tail.

Read and wonder...

- A Home for Bilby (2004) by Joanne Crawford & Grace Fielding
- Bluey: Bob Bilby (2020) by Bluey
- Jumping Joeys (2021) by Sarah Allen
 Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes including 4.2, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5.



