



Teacher Resource

Threatened Species Day

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. What has happened to the population of the gang-gang cockatoo?
2. About how many native plant and animal species in Australia are threatened?
3. Name at least two threats to species.
4. How many species have become extinct since colonisation?
5. Why is it important to protect and conserve native species?

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN Threatened Species Day story hold a class discussion, using the following questions to start the discussion:

- What are some threats to native species?
- Why is it important to protect and conserve living things?
- What does Threatened Species Day mark the anniversary of?
- What can people do to help protect threatened species and their habitats?



What
questions do
you have?

What surprised
you about this
story?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the importance of protecting threatened species.

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.

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

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

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Threatened Species Day story. Here are some words to get them started.

THYLACINE	EXTINCT	SPECIES
CONSERVATION	THREATENED	HABITAT

Activity: Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Threatened Species Day story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

Threatened species research questions

- What is causing species loss? Explore issues such as habitat loss, introduced species, pollution, population growth and overharvesting/hunting.
- Why is it important to protect and conserve living things?
- 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.
- What happens when an animal becomes extinct? If one species in the food chain becomes extinct, how would it affect the rest of the chain? Choose an endangered species and explore its role in the food chain.
- 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.

Thylacine research questions

- Why did the Thylacine become extinct?
- What is the closest living animal to the Thylacine? What are the similarities?
- Can we bring Thylacine back from extinction? Explain.
- What impact did European settlers have on the thylacine?
- What can we learn from the extinction of the thylacine? Why is it important to learn about Australia's extinct fauna?

Citizen science projects to explore



[FrogID](https://frogid.net.au)



[Threatened Australians](#)



[Virtual Reef Diver](#)



[QuestaGame](#)

Activity: Threatened Species Profile

Students will choose an endangered species that is native to their local area and create a profile of the species. Use the [Threatened 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!

Useful Websites

- [Protecting Native Wildlife](#) – BTN
- [Threatened Species App](#) – BTN
- [Threatened Species Day](#) – BTN
- [Thylacine Extinction](#) – BTN
- [Tassie Tiger Return](#) – BTN
- [Thylacine](#) – Australian Museum

ANIMAL PROFILE

Scientific
Name

APPEARANCE

Common Name

ADAPTATIONS

Unique Features
or Interesting Facts

HABITAT

THREATS