



Teacher Resource

Threatened Species Day

Focus Questions

1. Discuss the Threatened Species Day story in pairs. Record the main points of the discussion.
2. Australia has the world's second biggest collection of species of plants and animals that are found no-where else in the world. True or false?
3. About how many native plant and animal species in Australia are threatened?
 - a. 19
 - b. 190
 - c. 1,900
4. What are some threats to native species?
5. What is the conservation status of the Orange-bellied parrot?
6. What are the threats to the Orange-bellied parrot?
7. How many of the species are left in the wild?
8. When did the Tasmanian tiger become extinct?
9. What can people do to help protect threatened species and their habitats?
10. What questions do you have about this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN story as a class, respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What does this video make your WONDER?
- What did you LEARN from this story?

Hold a class discussion about the information in the BTN Threatened Species Day story. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- 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 questions do you have about this story?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the importance of preserving threatened species of plants and animals.

CURRICULUM

Science – Year 4

Living things have life cycles.

Living things, including plants and animals, 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 inform personal and community decisions.

Science – Year 6

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

Activity: Match these terms to their definitions

Term	Definition
Threatened species	This species is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term
Extinct	There is no immediate threat to the survival of this species
Least concern	This species is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future
Vulnerable species	This species may be considered threatened in the near future
Endangered	This species is no longer in existence
Near threatened	Species that only grow or live in captivity or they are no longer living in their normal habitat
Extinct in the Wild	A species that may be considered threatened with extinction in the near future



Activity: Threatened Species Research

After watching and discussing the BTN Threatened Species Day story, what questions do students have and what are the gaps in their knowledge? They can develop their own question/s to research or select one of the questions below.

- 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.
- 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.

Activity: Threatened Species Research Project

Students will choose a threatened Australian species (plant or animal) to learn more about (they may want to choose one that is local to their area). Use the template below to help guide their research.

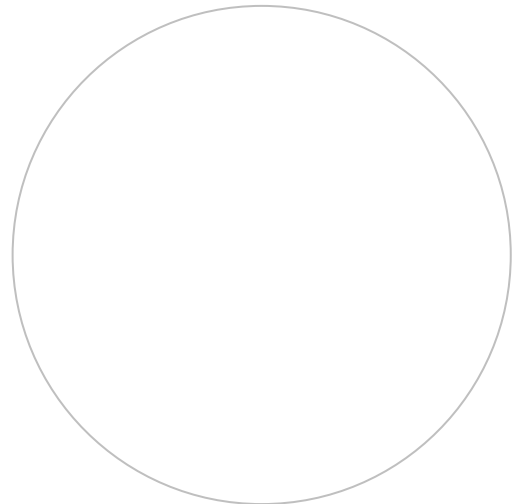
COMMON NAME:

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

APPEARANCE:

POPULATION:

THREATS TO SPECIES:



Illustration/photo

CONSERVATION STATUS (highlight):

Least concern	Near threatened	Vulnerable	Endangered	Critically endangered	Extinct in the wild	Extinct
LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

RECOVERY ACTION (WHAT IS BEING DONE TO PROTECT THE SPECIES)

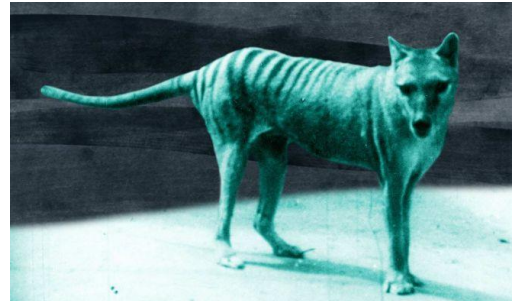
INTERESTING FEATURES OR FACTS:

Activity: Threatened Species Day

Threatened Species Day was declared in 1996 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of the last remaining Tasmanian tiger (thylacine). Threatened Species Day is a time to think about what happened in the past and how we can prevent other native plants and animals from becoming extinct.

Watch the [BTN Tassie Tiger story](#) then respond to the following questions:

- What evidence is there that the thylacine is extinct?
- What impact did European settlers have on the thylacine?
- What can we learn from the extinction of the thylacine?
- How will our knowledge of the thylacine help us make informed decisions about species preservation?








Activity: Who am I?

Students will make their own *Who am I?* game to learn more about endangered Australian animals or plants. There is an example at the end of this activity.

- Students will research and write 5 clues to correspond with each animal/plant 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 their appearance, conservation status etc.
- Students will test their game on a partner.

Who am I?

Choose 5 endangered Australian animals or plants or use the five animals below. Write 5 clues to correspond with each animal/plant. Include clues about their appearance, conservation status etc. Get up the cards and test a partner to see if they can match the animal to the clues.

	Who am I? • • • • •
	Who am I? • • • • •
	Who am I? • • • • •
	Who am I? • • • • •
	Who am I? • • • • •

Images: 1. Australia conservation; 2. Orange bellied parrot; 3. Tasmanian devil; 4. Eastern quoll; 5. Gilbert's parakeet

Activity – Citizen Science

Become the greatest bio-adventurer of all time! Download the [QuestaGame](#) app then discover and help preserve species by taking photos and submitting them. They'll score gold for every sighting and extra gold if they can find something rare or interesting. The information is shared with [CSIRO's Atlas of Living Australia](#) and the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) which helps researchers understand how we can protect biodiversity.



Useful Websites

- [Threatened Species Day](#) – NSW Department of Environment
- [National Threatened Species Day](#) – WWF

Activity: Threatened Species stories

Students can watch one or more of the BTN stories below to learn more about threatened species.



[Endangered Seeds](#)



[Threatened Flora](#)



[Frog spotting](#)



[Koala Threat](#)



[Species List](#)



[Plant Bank](#)



[Extinction Report](#)



[Insect Extinction](#)

Who am I?

Choose 5 endangered Australian animals or plants or use the five animals below. Write 5 clues to correspond with each animal/plant. Include clues about their appearance, conservation status etc. Cut up the cards and test a partner to see if they can match the animal to the clues.



Who am I?

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Who am I?

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Who am I?

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Who am I?

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Who am I?

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Images: 1 Southern corroboree frog 2. Orange-bellied Parrot 3. Northern hairy-nosed wombat 4. Speartooth shark 5. Gilbert's potoroo