

SAVE OUR SPECIES

LEVEL

Level 7 – Level 8

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Students develop an understanding of conservation by researching a threatened mammal, found in the Dandenong Ranges. They learn about biodiversity, classification, food webs and changes to ecosystems. Using their knowledge, they write a report and present their research to their peers.

THEME

- Biodiversity
- Classification and food webs

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Access to computer and the internet
- Access to the Library
- Poster Paper
- Workbooks
- Pens and Pencils
- “Save our Species” worksheet

INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTORY TASK

Ask students the following question;

WHAT IS CLASSIFICATION?

ACTIVITY:

As a whole class get students to classify a group, object or their peers. *Examples:* Music albums, books, peer hair colour or length, students’ names, etc.

Discuss their classification methods or techniques. Why and how did they group their objects or peers this way? How do we classify different species?

THE TASK:

Students conduct a research project on a threatened species from the Yarra Ranges Shire list. Using a variety of print and electronic resources, students focus on the following questions:

1. What is classification and how is your species classified?
2. What kind of habitat is your animal found in and what are the major threats?
3. What is being done to protect your animal and how can you help?
4. What is a food web and where does your animal fit into the web?
5. Is the ecosystem under threat and how is this impacting on your animals conservation status?
6. Where in the world can your animal be found?
7. What are some interesting facts about your animal?
8. Is your species endangered? Which organisations are responsible for threatened species classification?

Using the “Save our Species” worksheet to guide their research and record their findings, students write an information report on their chosen animal. They can choose to present their findings in a power point presentation, poster, gallery walk or report format. Students are required to assemble a bibliography of their resources, include a picture of their species.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Create a campaign to protect this species. Who would you approach? What would be your call to action?

✔ **SUGGESTIONS FOR ASSESSMENT**

Completed “Save our Species” worksheet.
Information report and peer presentation.

▶ **CURRICULUM LINKS**

SCIENCE

Interactions between organisms can be described in terms of food chains and food webs and can be affected by human activity ([VCSSU093](#))

Identify questions, problems and claims that can be investigated scientifically and make predictions based on scientific knowledge ([VCSIS107](#))

Use scientific knowledge and findings from investigations to identify relationships, evaluate claims and draw conclusions ([VCSIS111](#))

Q BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THREATENED FAUNA YARRA RANGES SHIRE



Note: This page is intended to provide an overview of all known (including historic) records of fauna in Yarra Ranges Shire which are considered threatened, poorly known, near threatened or extinct in Victoria.

- 52 species of threatened birds
- 17 species of threatened mammals
- 7 species of threatened fish
- 4 species of threatened reptiles
- 4 species of threatened amphibians
- 6 species of threatened invertebrates

For the purpose of this activity a list of the 17 species of threatened mammals is listed on the following page.

VICTORIAN CONSERVATION STATUS

- EW Extinct in the Wild
- RX Regionally Extinct
- CR Critically Endangered
- EN Endangered
- VU Vulnerable
- NT Near Threatened
- DD Data Deficient

YARRA RANGES SHIRE – THREATENED MAMMALS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
Broad-toothed Rat	<i>Mastacomys fuscus mordicus</i>	EN listed
Brush-tailed Phascogale	<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	VU listed
Common Bent-wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i> (GROUP)	VU listed
Common Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis murina murina</i>	VU
Dingo	<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>	DD listed
Eastern Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus megaphyllus megaphyllus</i>	VU listed
Eastern Pygmy-possum	<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	NT
Eastern Quoll	<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>	RX listed
Greater Glider	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	VU
Grey-headed Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	VU listed
Leadbeater's Possum	<i>Gymnobelideus leadbeateri</i>	EN listed
Smoky Mouse	<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i>	NT listed
Southern Bettong	<i>Bettongia gaimardi</i>	EX listed
Southern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i>	NT listed
Southern Myotis	<i>Myotis macropus</i>	NT
Spot-tailed Quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	EN listed
White-footed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis leucopus</i>	NT listed

DATA SOURCE: Information in this table has been derived from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Victoria, January 2016. Advisory List of Threatened Invertebrate Fauna in Victoria (2009)-pdf, Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria (2013)-pdf and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, Threatened List, May 2015 pdf (129).

SAVE OUR SPECIES – DANDENONG RANGES – RESEARCH WORKSHEET

NAME:

Research one animal on the Yarra Rangers Shire Threatened Species list. Use the spaces below to help guide your research and record your findings.

NAME OF ANIMAL	
SCIENTIFIC NAME	
CLASSIFICATION	
DIET	
HABITAT	
LOCATION/ DISTRIBUTION	

<p>INTERESTING FACTS</p>	
<p>BEHAVIOUR</p>	
<p>CONSERVATION STATUS</p>	
<p>THREATS</p>	

**FOOD WEB
DIAGRAM**

“who eats who”.
Show the feeding
relationships in the
ecosystem.

**HOW CAN YOU
HELP**