

Hiss-teria: Psychology in Action

Years 11 and 12

Overview – This education experience provides a brief overview of historical leaders within the behaviourist approach of psychology. Students explore how learning theories are applied to the care and management of Zoo animals, including examples of classical conditioning, operant conditioning and social learning theory. *Hiss-teria: Psychology in Action* explores the Zoo's role in addressing phobias through an investigation of systematic desensitisation utilising live animals.

Lesson Logistics – Students take part in a formal presentation, including a live animal encounter, PowerPoint slides and audio-visual experiences. This session takes place in one of our indoor education experience areas. Groups are encouraged to use our Student Activity Sheets before or after the *Hiss-teria: Psychology in Action* presentation to complete quantitative and qualitative data collection activities focusing on the social structure of a group of non-human primates.

Duration – 60 minutes.

Conservation Message – The Zoo harnesses the power of learning theories to benefit wildlife conservation and care.



South-west Carpet Python
Morelia spilota imbricata

Links to the Australian Curriculum

Unit 3 (ATAR and General)

Theories and processes of learning including:

- * Classical conditioning
- * Operant conditioning
- * Observational learning

Techniques for modifying behaviour including:

- * Systematic desensitisation
- * Positive and negative reinforcement, including rewards and punishment

Unit 4 (ATAR)

Features of Social Learning Theory

- * The role of observational learning and modelling

