

Overview – Students discover how Australia's position as the most isolated continent on Earth and our diverse range of environments has resulted in unique animals that are not found anywhere else in the world.

Lesson Logistics – There is a moderate amount of movement involved during this experience. Participants move from one of our outdoor education experience spaces and walk through our Australian Bushwalk. This education experience requires at least a 1:10 ratio of adult supervision. The experience can be modified if weather is inclement.

Duration – 50 minutes

Conservation Message – Australia's unique animals require unique solutions to ensure their long-term survival.



Numbat

Myrmecobius fasciatus

Links to the Australian Curriculum

Science:

	Science Understanding Biological Science	Science as a Human Endeavour
Year 5	Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043).	Scientific knowledge is used to inform personal and community decisions (ACSHE217).
Year 6	The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (ACSSU094).	

Geography:

	Geographical Knowledge and Understanding
Year 5	The importance of environments to animals and people, and different views on how they can be protected (ACHGK022). The natural resources provided by the environment, and different views on how they could be used sustainably (ACHGK024).

Cross Curriculum Priority – Sustainability:

	Organising ideas – Systems
OI.2	All life forms, including human life, are connected through ecosystems on which they depend for their wellbeing and survival.
OI.3	Sustainable patterns of living rely on the interdependence of healthy social, economic and ecological systems.



Before Your Zoo Visit

It would be very useful to consider the following topics prior to your *Aussie Walkabout* experience.

Adaptations – Special structures, behaviours and body functions that enable species to survive in their environment.

Habitats – Overview of the main habitat types in Australia and their position in relation to climate.



Tasmanian Devil

Sarcophilus harrisii

Be sure to visit the Perth Zoo website for the most up-to-date student activities to support your education experience. Follow the link to <https://perthzoo.wa.gov.au/schools/years-4-6>. Feel free to photocopy these for your visit to the Zoo. It is a great idea to bring along a camera for the day so you have images that you can use for activities when you return to school.

Back at School

The *Aussie Walkabout* experience explores the adaptations of Australian animal species and threats to their survival. To offer your students an opportunity to elaborate on their experience, you might like to explore the following with your class:

Immersion – Provide as many practical, hands-on experiences for your students as possible. Consider a 'Native Animals in the News' bulletin board, or a 'Discovery Table' for students to display artifacts such as feathers and bones. Why not create a 'forest' in your classroom?

Playground Planting – Planting native habitat in your school grounds is a rewarding and enjoyable experience for all ages. An outdoor classroom can be integrated into all learning areas and using local native plants will provide food and habitat for many local native animal species. Refer to the Reptile Garden downloadable resource sheet on the Perth Zoo web site. This is located at <https://perthzoo.wa.gov.au/schools/classroom-resources>.

Animal Fact File - Create information packs about Australian animals and maybe even adopt a Perth Zoo animal as a class!

Food Chains – Consider various food chains for native animals. Compare the effect of introduced species on these food chains.

Action! – Fundraise for a conservation project, volunteer to help a wildlife carer or develop a litter reduction strategy for your school.

