

Fantastic Beasts and How to Name Them

Year 7

Overview – The *Fantastic Beasts* education experience explores the concept of taxonomic classification and how other types of classification such as diet and conservation status are essential in organising and caring for animals.

Lesson Logistics – This lesson will take place in one of our indoor education experience spaces. Unless individual students require support you are most welcome to use this time to give your adult leaders a break as long as you have at least one member of staff with the group. If adult leaders would like to stay for the session and we have the room, they are most welcome.



Asian Small-clawed Otter
Aonyx cinerea

Duration – 50 minutes

Conservation Message – To save wildlife we need to understand how to classify animals by their biology.

Links to the Australian Curriculum

	Science Understanding Biological Sciences	Science as a Human Endeavour	Science Inquiry Skills
Year 7	Classification helps organise the diverse group of organisms (ACSSU111)	Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available (ACSHE119)	Communicate ideas, findings and evidence based solutions to problems using scientific language, and representations, using digital technologies as appropriate (AC SIS133)



Before Your Zoo Visit

It would be very useful to consider the following topics prior to your *Fantastic Beasts* zoo education experience.

Classification – familiarisation with the five main vertebrate groups (Aves, Mammalia, Reptilia, Amphibia, Pisces – note there are 3 classes of fish) and the basic features of each.

Conservation Classification – familiarisation with the IUCN conservation status' and animals at Perth Zoo that are placed into each group.



Komodo Dragon

Varanus komodoensis

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 www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/schools/years-7-10

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 *Fantastic Beasts* experience explores the basic classification of species using hierarchical systems, with particular focus on class. To offer your students an opportunity to elaborate on their experience, you might like to explore the following with your class:

Create – Children can design a mythical animal based on a particular environment choosing features that enable the animal to be best adapted to it.

Scat Attack – Make a matrix-style puzzle based on pictures of different animals' mouths or dentition, their diet and their scats. Get students to research each component and design the puzzle pieces.

Go Global – brainstorm a variety of different habitats in different countries and then get students to research the animals that live within it. Ask the students to list 10 animals from each of the vertebrate groups.

Same but Different – Using a Venn diagram choose two animals from two different vertebrate groups (e.g. Reptilia and Aves). Ask students to list features that are the same and different. Do this for all of the vertebrate groups to compare similarities and differences.

