



# Native Animal Research

## LESSON PLAN

### What Can Be Learned?

Tasmanian wildlife stands out as unique, with many of its animals occurring nowhere else on earth.

Many species which flourish in Tasmania lived on mainland Australia until relatively recently. Tasmania acts as a last refuge for many animals that have become extinct, or close to it, on the mainland - these include the pademelon, bettong, Tasmanian devil, thylacine, eastern barred bandicoot, eastern quoll and ground parrot. Largely because Tasmania has not suffered the same degree of habitat loss from land clearance, or until recently the number of introduced species. The introduction of foxes to Tasmania has potentially devastating consequences for native wildlife.

### Materials Required

Reference books, pamphlets, websites  
Tasmanian native animal pictures  
A3 paper  
Cardboard for backing  
Rulers, pencils, pastels  
Native animal specimens (stuffed or freeze dried animal specimens are available for hire from the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart).

### The Activity

Investigate which animals use the school grounds. Look for tracks, droppings. Can any trees that birds or other animals use be seen? Are any of the animals found in the school grounds unique or 'endemic' to Tasmania.

The students then choose a native animal that lives within the national park they are to visit. Research the chosen animal. Find out about its habitat, habits, description, size, life cycle and status. Students should research relevant information and then put it in their own words to create a display sign.

Students should take note of the size and appearance of the animal, and with the aid of pictures from reference books, draw the animal onto paper. Taking care to be as precise as possible with details such as colour, markings, eye position, nose position and claw position. Students then cut the drawings of animals out and stick them onto a cardboard backing. The cardboard could also be cut to the animal shape.

Create a wildlife display for other students in the school with native animal specimens, the researched information, and the animal illustrations as part of the display.



Precious Parks E-Set suited to lower secondary students.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

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Internet: [www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au) August 2007 © State of Tasmania

Precious Parks E-Set - Lesson Plan

E-Sets are an Electronic Environmental and Educational set of notes for teachers