



# In The Australian Bush

## Teacher Resource Guide

### What's included in this resource:

- Introduction to Eucalyptus Forest Habitat classroom poster
- 3 worksheets on learning activities about Australian Bush Habitats
- Koala Keeper Talk
- Suggested guide on how to use the resources in classroom activities
- Craft Activity - Make your own Australian Bush scene!

#### Curriculum Links:

- ST2-4LW-S → Examines how the environment affects the growth, survival and adaptations of living things
- ST2-IWS-S → Observes, questions and collects data to investigate scientific ideas
- ST2-2DP-T → Selects and uses materials, tools and processes to design and produce solutions
- ST2-5LW-T (optional – if using habitat/conservation discussions) → Describes how living things interact with each other and the environment

## Introduction to Eucalyptus Forests

Australia is unique in the vast range of diverse habitats you can find within the Australian landscape.

The Australian bush is just one environment that can be different from state to state.

The Australian bush is home to so many of Australia's native animals and is often enjoyed by nature lovers, who love to either hike, walk or camp within the bush.

## Suggested Learning Activities

During Group time, ask students if they have ever been to the bush before. Ask students to list things they might come across in the bush. With these words, create a word wall to test students' prior knowledge on the topic. Suggest items if students have forgotten any obvious ones.

Explain to students that there are many different habitats within a bush environment and that one you are going to look at most closely is a Eucalyptus Forest habitat and find out about certain creatures that like to call this habitat home!

## Eucalyptus Forest Classroom Poster

Use the poster to introduce a eucalyptus forest to students so they can see what they look like.

Either read to the class or choose students to read out facts about the eucalyptus forest from the poster.

Once finished, ask students to think of or research how the weather affects this habitat.

Ask students to think of animals that they will find living in a eucalyptus forest. Get students to write one animal down on a piece of paper. Collect all students' thoughts and place them in a bag or hat, and have students create a tally and record the animals to see which animal is the most popular one that they think lives in an eucalyptus forest.

Students complete the In the Australian Bush Worksheet.



## **Koalas**

Koalas are the most common species you will find living in the Australian bush, particularly in eucalyptus forests because eucalyptus leaves are its main food source. Koalas are an iconic animal in the Australian landscape. It will be interesting to see if it's the number one animal the students think of in their animal poll!

Koalas are such fascinating creatures that have learned to adapt extremely well to their ever-changing environment. Use the suggested activities and worksheet to get your students learning about them!

## **Suggested Learning Activities**

Have a group class discussion to see what students already know about koalas. Ask students if they have seen one before- in the bush or in a zoo! Ask students to describe what a koala looks like.

Create a word wall with the words the students have used to describe the koala.

Ask students to write a sentence describing the koala to a friend who perhaps can't see what they look like. Ask students to be very clear in their description.

Ask students if anyone used the word "bear" to describe the koala? Ask students to listen carefully to our Koala keeper talk and find a reason why they are not bears!

Get students to watch the Koala Keeper Video on WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo YouTube page.

After watching the video, students are to complete the In the Australian Bush Koala Worksheet!

## **Research**

Ask students to research and find out 3 more features about Koalas that help them to survive living in a bush environment.

Koalas are very good at sleeping; they can sleep up to 20 hours a day. This is due to a lack of nutrients found in eucalyptus leaves. Ask students how long they sleep for. Do they dream when they are sleeping?

Ask students to pretend they are a koala that is sleeping, and get them to write a story about what a koala might dream about!

## **Excursion Time**

Bring students to WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo on an excursion to bring classroom learning to life! They will experience the Australian bush firsthand in a safe learning environment.

Head to our website to view rates and information on booking your next excursion.



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## Craft Time - Suggested Learning Activity

Now that the students are familiar with Eucalyptus Forests and the Australian Bush habitats and have an understanding of what they look like, as well as their key features, they can design and create their own Australian Bush environment!

Use the In the Australian Bush & Make Your Own Habitat worksheet for templates and instructions!

## Conservation

Eucalyptus Forest and the Australian Bush are important environments for all to enjoy and should be protected for all future generations to experience. However, many human impacts such as changes in climate, bushfires and pollution are placing these environments under threat!

## Suggested Learning Activity

In pairs, ask students to brainstorm ways they think they can protect these environments.

Students are to create a poster that they can place around the school to educate other students about what they can do to protect the Australian Bush and provide them with easy-to-follow tips the next time they are walking, hiking, playing or camping in this environment!

