



EDUCATION PROGRAM



MERLIN
education

Wild Kids

Food Webs Worksheet

STAGE 4 - YEAR 7 & 8

CURRICULUM LINKS: ACSSU149, ACSSU150, ACSHE135, ACSIS144

SECTION 1

Match It!

Draw a line to match the term to the correct definition.

Omnivore

Carnivore

Herbivore

Scavenger

Decomposer

Breaks down
the bodies
of dead
organisms

Eats
meat

Eats
plant
matter

Eats plants
and meat

Eats dead
or dying
organisms

SECTION 2

How we eat!

Butterflies have long tongues which they use to collect nectar and pollen from flowers, as they only can eat food in liquid form.

What other animals can you see in the zoo that use their tongue to capture their food? Fill in the table below, when you come across them in the zoo.

Rolled
Tongue
(Proboscis)

Mouth

Tongue
(Proboscis)

Pollen



Photo: Ray Cannon

Animal	Uses tongue to capture food	Type of food they eat
Butterfly	Yes	Nectar and pollen from plants & flowers

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SECTION 3

Plants in the ecosystem

Plants play a vital role in any ecosystem, just like the Daintree Rainforest there are hundreds of different varieties that call this tropical rainforest home.

Match the name of the plant to the adaptations it uses to survive this environment. Also circle any plants that you can spot in the Daintree exhibit at the zoo.

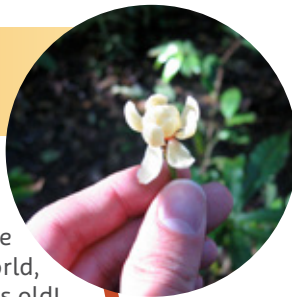
Idiot Fruit

(*Idiospermum australiense*)

The Ribbonwood, commonly known as Idiot Fruit, is one of the rarest and most primitive of the flowering plants in the world, dating back to over 110 million years old!

These huge trees hold large brown fruits and the seed is highly poisonous, making this one of the few fruits that no rainforest bird or animal can tolerate.

The tree's only seed dispersal method is gravity. Therefore, distribution is limited.



EPIPHYTES

Epiphytes are fascinating Daintree Rainforest plants that survive without roots in the ground.

They also have the ability to trap nutrients and store their own water.

Epiphytes are often supported by host plants. They can even grow so large they can no longer support their own weight, causing them to crash down to the forest floor.

They come in various forms including *Drynaria Rigidula*, Bird's Nest Fern, Basket Fern and Northern Elkhorn Fern.

One of the most important epiphytes in this rainforest is the mighty Basket Fern. Ferns such as these can create their own ecosystems with many life forms using them as a home. Some frogs will even spend much of their life in the canopy, never reaching the ground.



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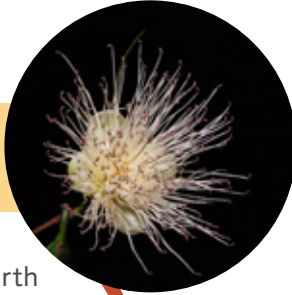
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SECTION 3 CONTINUED

NOAH'S SATINASH

(*Syzygium maraca*)



There are dozens of Ginger species found in North East Queensland and they are endemic to the region. These Daintree Rainforest plants are prized as ornamental plants and can be used in flower arrangements. Species such as the Native or Common Ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*) and the Snow Ginger (*Alpinia arctiflora*) also bear fruits that are favoured by the Cassowary.

Photo: G. Sankowsky

STINGING TREE

(*Dendrocnide moroide*)

This is a tree to be avoided at all costs. The large oval or heart-shaped leaves may look harmless but they are covered with thick microscopic hairs made of mineral silica – the chief constituent of glass. If you brush against these hair-like tips, they penetrate the skin, break off and release a poison irritant. The sting's effect is severe and lasts for months.



FAN PALM

(*Licuala Ramsayi*)



These spectacular palms are endemic to the lowland rainforests of Far North Queensland. They are slow growing and have strict requirements; a warm, shady position, with plenty of moisture. Swampy areas often become dominated by Fan Palm Gallery Forests, which shade out other light-loving species.



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SECTION 4

Apex predators

After completing your tour answer the following questions about crocodiles.

1. What does the term Apex Predator mean?

2. Why is a saltwater crocodile considered to be an apex predator?

3. What does a crocodile eat?

4. List 2 physical and 2 behavioural adaptations that help crocodiles capture their prey.

5. Why doesn't the crocodile in this exhibit eat the other animals that also live in this enclosure?

6. What are some threats that are impacting saltwater crocodiles?



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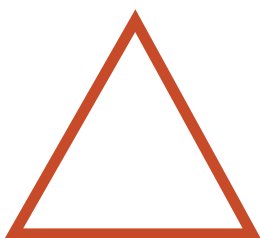
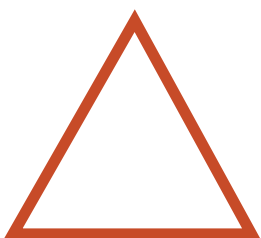
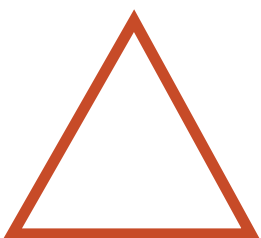
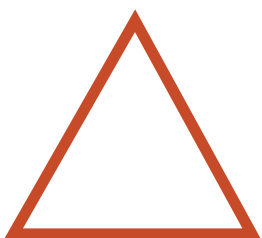




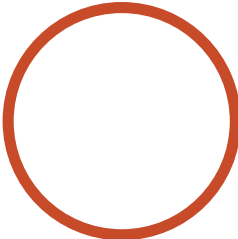
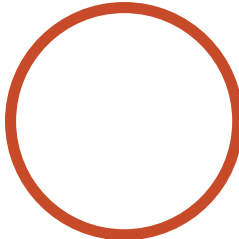
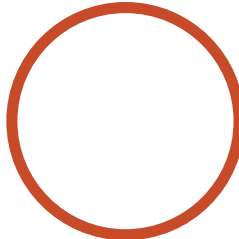
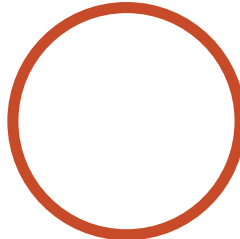






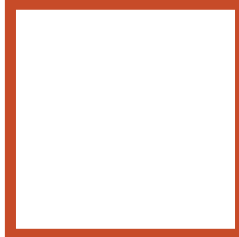
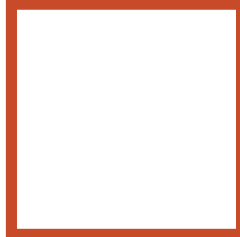
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SECTION 5

Food chain

Based on your journey throughout the zoo, create a food chain representing some of the animals and plants you have seen today. Draw in the space provided pictures of animals and plants that show the order of who eats who.

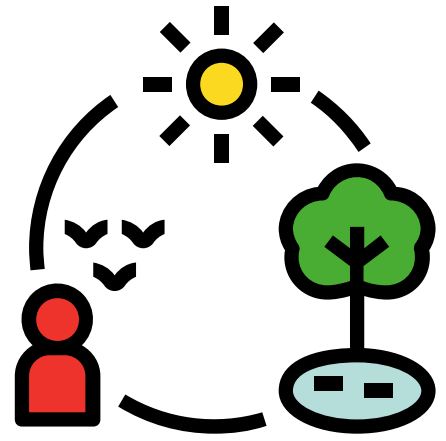


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SECTION 6

Impacts

There are many impacts that place a large amount of stress on many ecosystems. Drought and deforestation are just some examples of both natural and human impacts which can lead to animals and plants becoming endangered or extinct.

1. List 3 other impacts that can effect the food chain?

2. What are some things we can do to help prevent or minimise the effect on our wildlife?

3. What does WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo do to help protect Australian wildlife?

