

UNIT 4

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

The delicate little animal that you see here is a bilby — our largest bandicoot. It is about the size of a cat, has a very long tail, and three toes with long claws on each forepaw. These are used for digging burrows, which are sometimes as deep as 2 metres.

Bilbies were once found in most of Southern Australia, but now they live only in desert areas of Central Australia.

Rabbits have taken over their burrows, cattle have eaten the vegetation and destroyed their homes, and they are hunted by foxes.

These three animals, all introduced from other countries, have put our native bilby on the endangered list.



Spelling Check List

they	heard	valleys
digging	nocturnal	endangered
claws	destroy	sanctuary
native	termites	extinct
burrow	bandicoot	vegetation
forepaw	bilbies	introduced
herd	countries	foraging

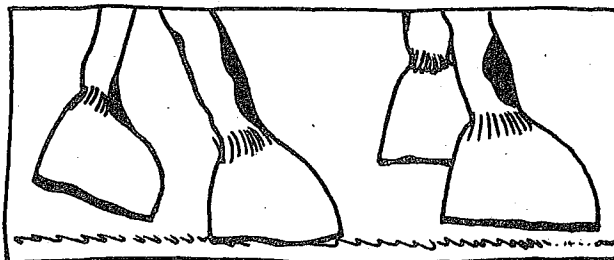
ANIMAL HOMES

A bilby lives in a burrow.

1. A bird lives in a _____.
2. A spider lives in a _____.
3. A pig lives in a _____.
4. A fox lives in a _____.
5. A snail lives in a _____.

HOMOPHONES

- **hole - whole**
1. A bilby will dig a small _____ to find roots and bulbs.
 2. It will eat _____ fruits from native trees, and insects.
- **herd - heard**
3. The bilbies _____ the thud of the hooves as the _____ of cattle moved over the grasslands.



USING YOUR DICTIONARY

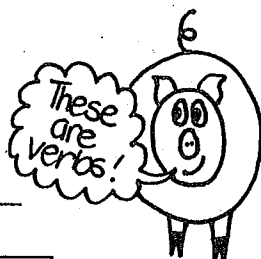
1. Bilbies are nocturnal.
What does this mean?

2. Some bilbies live in a sanctuary in Central Australia.
What is a sanctuary?

ANIMAL NOISES

Frogs croak

1. Cats _____
2. Dogs _____
3. Horses _____
4. Monkeys _____
5. Rabbits _____



PLURALS

To make the plural of the word *bilby*, change the *y* to *i* and add *es*.

bilby becomes *bilbies*

Try these.

Singular	Plural
fairy	
pony	
lady	
country	
territory	

Some words would look silly if you followed this rule to make plurals. Can you imagine changing *valley* to *valleies*? Or *monkey* to *monkeies*? They look wrong, don't they? How would you write the plurals of these words?

1. donkey _____
2. jockey _____
3. valley _____
4. monkey _____



ANIMAL GROUPS

1. a _____ of sheep
2. a _____ of puppies
3. a _____ of bees
4. a _____ of chickens
5. a _____ of geese

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 19th century, 24 rabbits were introduced into Australia for hunting purposes. Now millions of them destroy the environment of our native animals.

ABBREVIATIONS

What do the following abbreviations stand for?

1. NT _____
2. NSW _____
3. WA _____
4. Qld _____
5. Vic. _____

PUNCTUATION

Read the following story aloud to find how many sentences there are and then put in the full stops, question marks and capital letters.

there are many endangered animals in Australia koalas are now on this list because we are cutting down the trees they need for food many birds are being forced out of their homes how can we help these animals so that they don't become extinct

When we are writing lists of things we put a comma after each one. We don't put a comma after the second last item in the list, which is followed by *and*. Look at this example:

The book I was reading had stories about possums, wallabies, kangaroos and emus.

Did you notice how the commas were used? Put the commas in these sentences.

1. Bilbies eat native fruit seeds termites and other insects.
2. Humans cattle foxes and rabbits have destroyed the bilby's habitat.
3. Certain types of parrots honeyeaters dragonflies frogs and bats are in danger of becoming extinct.



MORE ABOUT VERBS

Do you remember that verbs are doing words?

The bilby *gobbled* up the insects. *Gobbled* tells you what the bilby did, so it is a verb. Write verbs in the spaces so that these sentences make sense.

1. Antonio and Alfredo _____ to Central Australia with their parents.
2. They _____ in a motel near Uluru.
3. During the day they _____ the country and _____ many kilometres.

Write three verbs telling what each noun does. The first one has been done for you.

1. Bilbies *dig, eat and breed*.
2. Cockatoos _____
3. Wombats _____
4. Possums _____
5. Water Rats _____

PUZZLE TIME

How many words of four or more letters can you make from these letters?

D	I	P
L	A	Y
L	I	T