

Protecting Habitats



Geography

Lesson Focus: Protecting Habitats

Learning Intentions:

WALT - Understand what makes places around the world special.

WALT - Understand how places have changed over time.

WALT - Develop our research skills to answer specific questions.

Instructions

1. Watch the video about the Protecting Habitats
2. Visit the website and watch the videos to learn more about Australian Wildlife Conservancy
3. Answer the questions in the assignment

Expanding Vocabulary:

- **Extinct** - no longer existing
- **Endangered** - threatened or close to extinction
- **Habitat** - an area of land in which something lives
- **Relocate** - Move to another place

Protecting Habitats

The types of animals and plants living in Australia has changed greatly over the past 200 years. Some native animals that were common when European people arrived are now extinct, and others are in danger of dying out. An example of this is the Tasmanian Tiger which went extinct in 1936.



The biggest danger to native animals is a change to their habitat. When bushland is cleared for farmland, many animals lose their food sources and shelter. This makes it hard for them to survive. Other threats come from the introduction of non-native species such as rabbits, foxes and cats, which compete with them for food or prey on native animals. Pollution of waterways from chemicals used on farms and in factories is another threat.



Strategies to Protect Habitats and Native Species

There are a number of ways in which we can protect native plants and animals and their habitats.

- **Declaring National Parks and Conservation areas**
 - This preserves large areas of natural vegetation, giving native animals a secure habitat in which to live.
- **Planting insect and bird attracting plants**
 - This is one way of encouraging the survival of threatened insect and bird species. Some birds have a very narrow diet, and clearing of large of native forest can wipe out their food supply.
- **Relocating threatened populations**
 - Relocating threatened populations of animals to an area in which they are more likely to survive. A new area may provide shelter or a food source.

Case Study: The Green and Golden Bell Frog

Green and Golden Bell frogs were once common in south-eastern Australia. As farmers cleared land and drained wetlands to develop farms in the 1800s, the population started to decline.

The frog is now declared an endangered species in New South Wales. Small populations survive in places such as old quarries and abandoned factory sites.



Case Study: The Green and Golden Bell Frog

When construction of the Sydney Olympic Games Park began for the 2000 Olympic Games, a population of Green and Golden Frogs was discovered in an old flooded brickpit (quarry) where the tennis complex was meant to be built. The position of the tennis complex was moved, and the brickpit turned into a conservation area to preserve the frog population.

An elevated walkway called the Brickpit Ring Walk was built around the pit. People can walk around the ring, which is nearly 20 metres above the surface of the pond. Displays provide information about the frog, as well as the history of the site.



The Australian Wildlife Conservancy

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy is an organisation that is dedicated to protecting habitats of Australian wildlife across the country.

They have many sites around Australia. One of these sites is at Mallee Cliffs National Park. Here they have build a large predator proof fence and have recolcated many species of native animals that once lived in this area, including: numbats, bilbies and stick nest rats.

You can see their amazing work on their Website.



