

Threatened or Thriving Facilitated Program

Overview : *Why are some of our native species under threat?* Participate in interactive challenges to investigate the environmental impacts of fire, disease, habitat loss and other threatening processes.

Duration : One hour facilitated experience with a Museum Education Officer.
Please allow approximately 45 minutes additional time for self-guided gallery exploration through the Museum.

Cost: \$5 per student.

What your class will experience:

- Explore various threats for Western Australia's flora and fauna.
- Discover the 'helping hands' that keep our flora and fauna from extinction.

Excursion Booking and Enquiries:

For enquiries and bookings please contact:

Western Australian Museum – Perth
Education

Phone: 9427 2792

Fax: 9427 2883

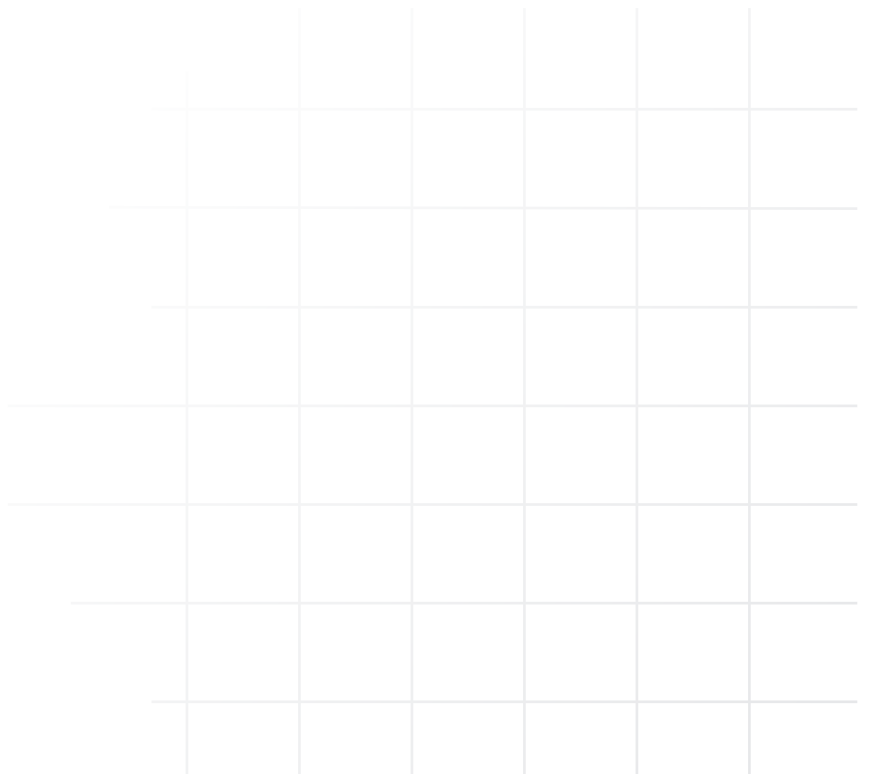
Email: education@museum.wa.gov.au



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Curriculum

Science

Science

Life and Living: Students understand their own biology and that of other living things, and recognise the interdependence of life.

Key Messages

1. The south-west of Western Australia has many unique flora and fauna species.
2. Many of these species are under threat due to human factors such as habitat loss, and introduced species.
3. People can modify their behaviour to help to protect native species. They can manage threats and rehabilitate populations, for example, through breeding programs.

Galleries



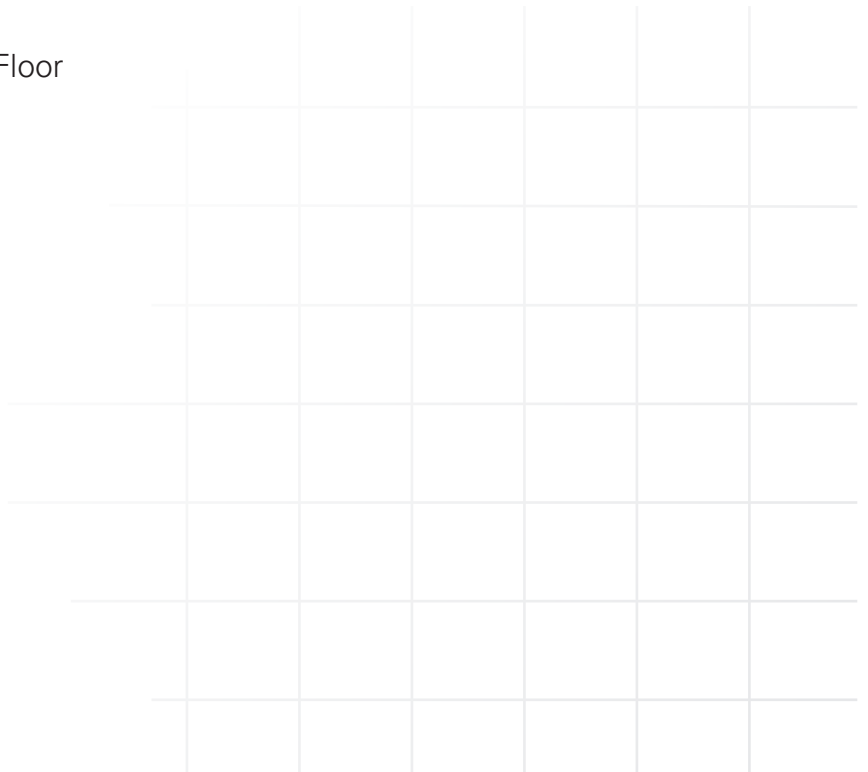
Western Australia: Land and People
Hackett Hall, Level 1



Mammal Gallery
Jubilee Wing, Level 1



Discovery Centre
Hackett Hall, Ground Floor



At the Museum

Facilitated Program

One hour

The facilitated component of *Threatened or Thriving* takes place in one of the Museum's learning spaces. An Education Officer will guide students in completing challenges to learn about the unique flora and fauna species of Western Australia.

Please have your students split into five groups for this experience (depending on the number of students and adults). Each group will require one adult supervisor to assist them with the activities.

Self-guided Experience

Approximately 45 minutes

The self-guided component of *Threatened or Thriving* takes place in the Museum's galleries.

Please allow for time to explore the galleries before or after your facilitated experience. Maps are available at the Front Desk to assist you in locating these galleries, or please ask a staff member for directions.

Related Museum Resources

Planning Your Excursion

- Excursion Management Plan
- Excursion Essentials



Available online at www.museum.wa.gov.au/education

Classroom Activities

From this list, please select some activities that are suitable for the age and ability of your students.

- **Who says it's threatened?:** Conduct an internet search on the IUCN. Find out who they are and what they have to do with threatened species.
- **Wildlife wall:** Create a banner outlining the different levels of conservation status. Place pictures of WA plant and animal species under their appropriate categories. Include the current number of that species left in the wild.
- **What does it all mean?:** Students can graph and interpret data about the threatened species in WA based on information from the IUCN Red List website such as:
 - A line graph plotting population trends.
 - A pie graph of numbat numbers in captivity and in the wild.
 - A bar graph of animals that are of *least concern* through to *extinct in the wild*.
- **Beauty rich and rare:** Sketch some of our threatened native flora and fauna species focusing on what features make them unique.
- **How did it get here?:** Research some common introduced plant and animal species in WA such as the fox, rabbit, cat, Blackberry bush, Arum Lily, Pine tree, Flame tree or introduced grass. Find out how they came to be living in our state and the impacts they have on our natural ecosystems.
- **Hot topic:** Stage a debate about the need to clear land for farming / other development (roads, housing estates etc) versus the need to protect the natural habitat of our native flora and fauna.
- **Supporting species:** Design a poster or pamphlet promoting a WA threatened species and list ways to help it.
- **Deep impact:** Research the ways Aboriginal people lived in balance with the environment, and discover how and why the arrival of European settlers impacted on the state's flora and fauna species.
- **Creative conservation:** Research a conservation group protecting a local species e.g. Project Numbat, Mallefowl Preservation Group, Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise. Write a story / newspaper article / interview about the group and focus on the obstacles that the conservationists might face.
- **Happy habitats:** Research the size of the average home range for a chuditch. Discuss the reasons why they need an area of that size eg food sources, territories etc. Work out how many chuditch could live in a defined area of Jarrah forest and discuss the implications of land clearing for this species. Don't forget to factor in whether or not their territories overlap.

- **Animal architecture:** Build a habitat suitable for a native species at school or in a local nature reserve eg frogs, birds, lizards.
- **Fundraising frenzy:** Research organisations that study and monitor or breed WA's threatened species eg Perth Zoo and what they are doing to help species survive in the wild. Discuss ways to raise funds and awareness for these types of organisations.
- **Disguised as locals:** Many native Australian animals living in WA eg the Kookaburra and Rainbow Lorikeet do not belong on this side of the continent. Research some of these home-grown invaders and discover the impact they have on truly Western Australian species.
- **Secret species:** Research the ecology of a variety of WA species. When students have enough background information, they can play a celebrity-head style game in which players must guess what threatened species they are by asking a number of yes / no questions.