



VISITOR CENTRE PRIMARY



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Acknowledgements

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For the Teacher

General Information

Welcome to Monarto Zoo!

Monarto Zoo is a fantastic educational resource. It is a 1450 hectare open range zoo located on former farming land. Large tracts of remnant mallee scrub exist in the areas between animal enclosures, and this natural scrub is being extended annually through an on-going revegetation program which involves many community and school groups. A huge variety of native fauna roams freely in the scrub areas.

Monarto Zoo is involved in many animal conservation programs and these include both native and exotic species, with a heavy focus on threatened species from desert and arid habitats.

Experiencing Monarto Zoo and learning about animals, ecosystems and conservation can be undertaken via

- Observing and handling the huge range of prepared skins, bones and other animal biofacts at the Visitor Centre.
- A safari bus tour of animal enclosures with a commentary provided by a trained host (for groups of 22 or more students in your own bus),
- Walking through the mallee scrub on signposted tracks,
- Taking as much time as you want to observe animals from viewing platforms around the Visitor Centre and at “Bus Stops”.

Activities and tasks in this resource relate only to the Visitor Centre and immediate surrounds. It includes activities inside the Centre focusing on bio-facts and Bilbies and at the Meerkat enclosure located at the base of the ramp outside the Centre.

In planning this excursion, please consider your schedule and how you would like to arrange the class' activities on the day. Discuss this with the Education Officer at the time of booking your visit.

Estimated time to complete the Visitor Centre Activities: 20-30 minutes

Key:



Observe carefully



Discuss and share ideas with your group



Write down your thoughts



Did you know?

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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J10	Addax		M11	Giraffe	
R4	African Lion		K13	Indian Antelope	
R2	African Painted Dog		E11	Meerkat	
K11	Barbary Sheep		J14	Mesopotamian Fallow Deer	
D17	Bison		G11	Ostrich	
H14	Black Rhinoceros		E13	Przewalski's Horse	
K13	Bongo		H11	Scimitar-horned Oryx	
L5	Cheetah		Q3	Spotted Hyaena	
G12	Chimpanzee		M6	White Rhinoceros	
J13	Chital Deer		F12	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby	
N9	Eland		I14	Zebra	

Legend

	Lookout
	Bus Stop
	Car Park
	Toilets
	First Aid
	Cafe
	Zu-loop route
	Walking Tracks
	Creek

Monarto Zoo is smoke free.

Inside the Visitor Centre

As you enter the Visitors' Centre you will see a lot of bio-facts (skins, bones, skulls, horns, hooves, etc).

Look at them and find out what they feel like by touching and handling them carefully.




Teeth can tell us a lot about what an animal eats. Find the skull of an animal that you think eats mainly meat (carnivore). What features make you think it is a carnivore?



Draw the skull and teeth below.



Name of animal: _____



Find the skull of an animal that eats mainly grass, leaves and other vegetation (herbivore).

What features make you think it is a herbivore?



Draw the skull and teeth below.



Name of animal: _____



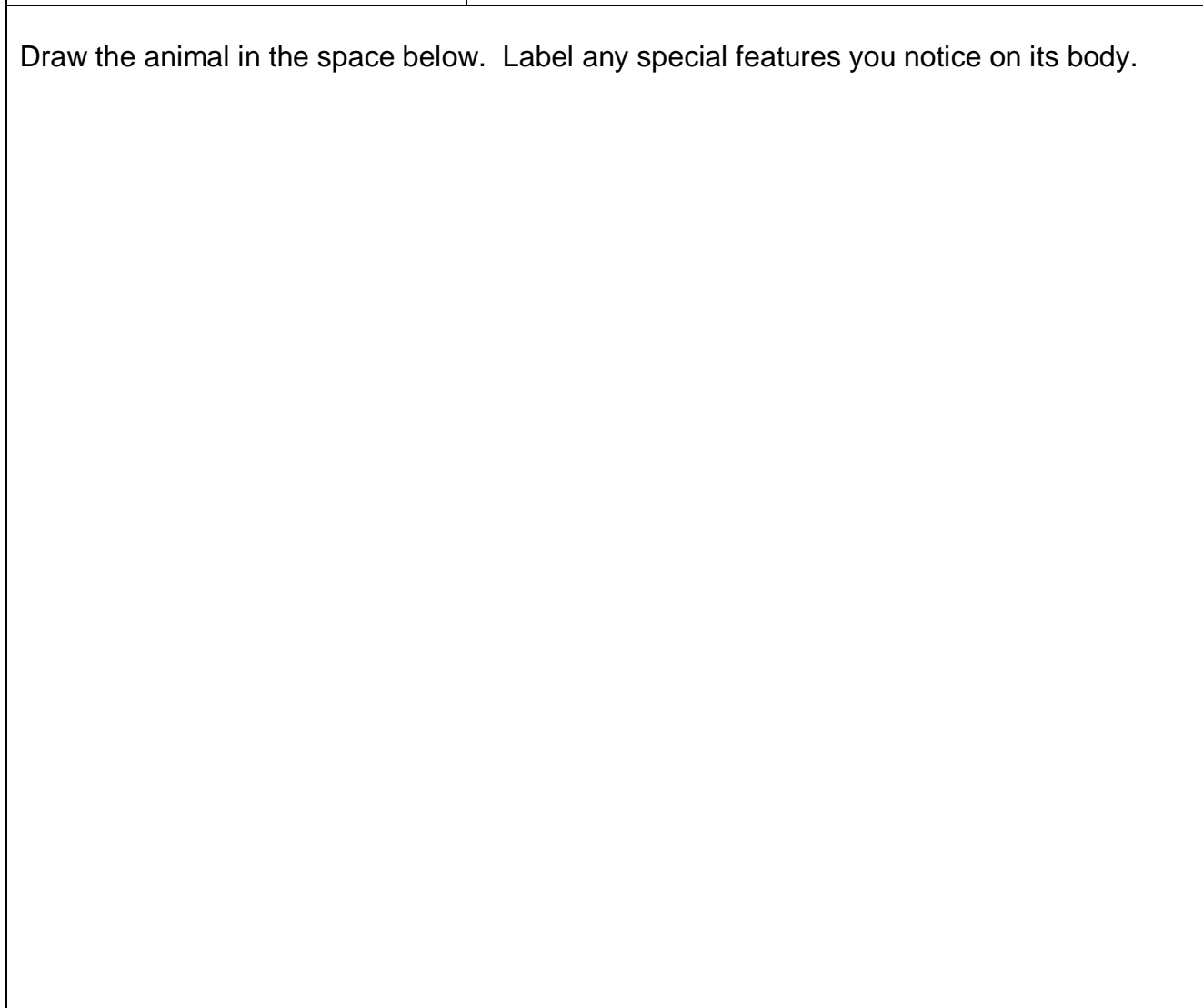
You will find some living Australian native animals in the Visitors Centre.

 Observe **one** of these carefully and read any information you can see about it.

Complete the table:


What is the species name?	
What is the natural habitat of the species?	
What things in the animal's enclosure would help it to feel "at home" and encourage it to behave naturally?	
What is something special you notice about this species of animal?	


Draw the animal in the space below. Label any special features you notice on its body.



Meerkats


As you exit the Visitor Centre at the southern end, walk down the ramp to the Meerkat enclosure.


 Observe the Meerkats for a while. In the wild, they live in large family groups. Discuss and list some of the advantages for animals that live this way. Perhaps some of the behaviours you observe will give you some clues!



Behaviour Enrichment happens when Keepers provide items for animals that influence their behaviour. These could encourage natural behaviour or simply provide an activity to keep them occupied, both mentally and physically.

Look for and draw any enrichment items you see in the Meerkat enclosure.



 Look for any other Behaviour Enrichment items around Monarto Zoo.

