

MONARTO  
ZOO



## WALKING TRACK ACTIVITIES SECONDARY



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

## Acknowledgements

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Updated Nov 2011

This Education program for schools is a partnership between the Monarto Zoo and the Department for Education and Child Development, South Australia.

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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 are fairly general in nature and should be applicable to any of the walking tracks at Monarto. For a more specialised study, designed for senior secondary students, see the “Boma Track Activities” resource, also available online.

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 this activity: 30 min to 1 hour - depending on the track chosen.**

**An Education Officer will be able to help you with this if you are new to the Park.**

### Key



Observe carefully



Discuss and share ideas with your group

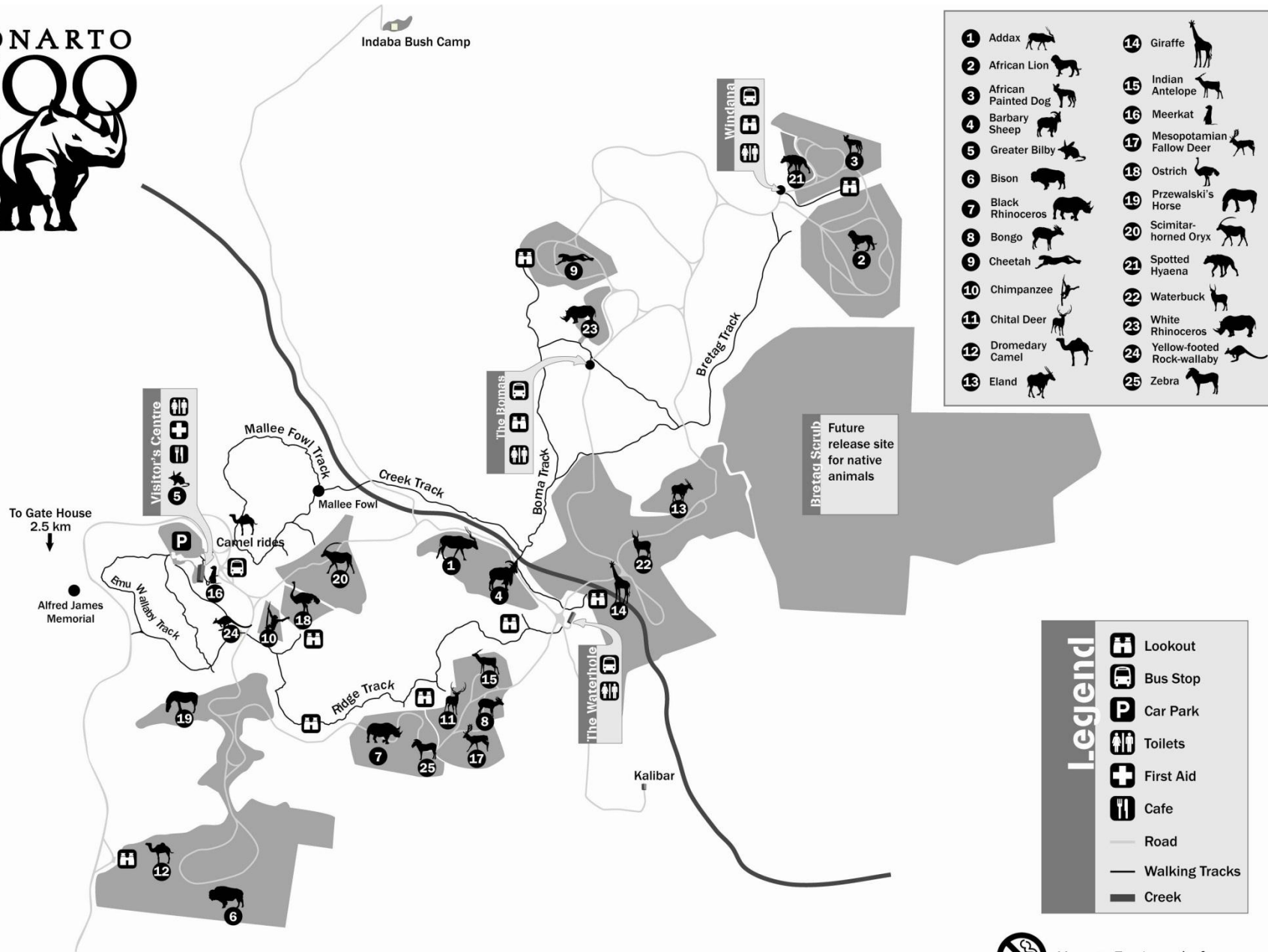


Write down your thoughts



Did you know?

# MONARTO ZOO

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Addax               | 14 Giraffe                    |
| 2 African Lion        | 15 Indian Antelope            |
| 3 African Painted Dog | 16 Meerkat                    |
| 4 Barbary Sheep       | 17 Mesopotamian Fallow Deer   |
| 5 Greater Bilby       | 18 Ostrich                    |
| 6 Bison               | 19 Przewalski's Horse         |
| 7 Black Rhinoceros    | 20 Scimitar-horned Oryx       |
| 8 Bongo               | 21 Spotted Hyaena             |
| 9 Cheetah             | 22 Waterbuck                  |
| 10 Chimpanzee         | 23 White Rhinoceros           |
| 11 Chital Deer        | 24 Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby |
| 12 Dromedary Camel    | 25 Zebra                      |

- ### Legend
- Lookout
  - Bus Stop
  - Car Park
  - Toilets
  - First Aid
  - Cafe
  - Road
  - Walking Tracks
  - Creek

 Monarto Zoo is smoke free.

## WALKING TRACK ACTIVITIES - SECONDARY



The climate at Monarto is “semi-arid.” The average annual rainfall is a little over half that of Adelaide due to the “rain shadow” effect of the Adelaide Hills.

The soil is very saline (salty) in the lower areas of the Zoo near the creek beds.

The presence of thick limestone near the surface of much of the Zoo leads to good drainage and little surface water, even after rains.

Walkers are asked to stay on the tracks at Monarto, rather than walking through the bush. What are the reasons for this request?



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Whilst on a walking track, notice the plants growing at different levels in the scrub. Hundreds of species of native plants are found in the Park, as well as some introduced, pest plant species.



Tick the boxes if you notice the following along the walking track:

- **Mistletoe** plants growing on the braches of some of the eucalyptus trees.
- Bushes or ground cover plants with **succulent**, water-storing leaves.
- **Moss** covering much of the surface (green in wet times, brown and dried out in dry times.)
- **Lichen** (various colours) growing on some of the rocks and older trees and bushes eg. on native pines
- Plants with **shiny, tough leaves** which reflect sunlight and slow down water loss from leaves.
- Plants with **spiky leaves or thorns**.
- Tiny **flowering plants** near the ground.
- Birds' **nests** – how many ? \_\_\_\_\_
- Diggings with a distinct pointed or conical hole (**Echidna diggings**) in areas near ant nests.



 For one of the plants you have seen, describe what it looks like, and the adaptations it has to help it to survive in this habitat.



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Many species of native animals live at Monarto, and are ultimately dependent on the plant species to survive.

Try to find and identify scats (poo) of animals on the track. Use a stick to investigate what sort of food the animals have been eating.

Animal	Scat description	Items seen in scat
Kangaroo	Looks like a dark brown Fruchoc	
Emu	Splat! Looks like a runny mixture dropped from a 1m height	
Possum	Capsule shaped, apx 2cm long, dark green to black	
Other		

 Suggest food chains, including native plants and animals found in the Park, that would include the following.

Eg: Animal: red kangaroo

Food Chain: grass → red kangaroo <sup>(dead)</sup> → crow <sup>(dead)</sup> → blowfly (maggots)

Animal: termite


Food Chain: \_\_\_\_\_


Animal: possum

Food Chain: \_\_\_\_\_


Animal: echidna


Food Chain: \_\_\_\_\_

 Find a shaded area where you can sit down, listen very quietly and look around carefully **for 5 minutes**. Write down what you have noticed or what your thoughts are about the mallee ecosystem around you.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? An **ecosystem** includes all the **living and non-living** things in an area, and the relationships between them all.

 How would the following **non-living** parts of the mallee ecosystem effect one of the plant or animal species that are found there?

 Light \_\_\_\_\_

Water \_\_\_\_\_

Limestone \_\_\_\_\_

Soil \_\_\_\_\_

In the mallee ecosystem, the different mallee species of Eucalyptus provide food, shelter, shade, nesting sites etc. for many other species of organisms. Draw arrows to the tree below, indicating organisms that may be located there. A few examples are given

