



WALLABY GORGE & EMU TRACK SECONDARY



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 walk through Wallaby Gorge and on the Emu Track. The track commences at the Meerkat enclosure and is a circuit which ends at the Car Park near the Visitors Centre. There is a shorter or longer version of the track from Wallaby Gorge to the Visitors 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 Wallaby Gorge & Emu Track Activities: 30 - 40 mins

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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To Gate House
2.5 km

Alfred James
Memorial



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

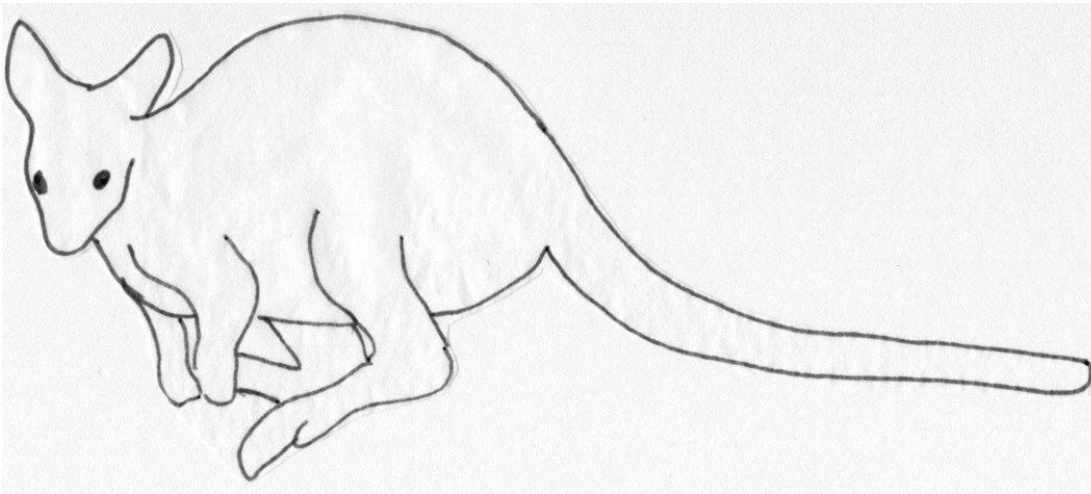
Monarto Zoo is smoke free.


ACTIVITIES AT WALLABY GORGE


Walk from the Meerkat enclosure, down the walking track to Wallaby Gorge.
In Wallaby Gorge, move quietly, stay on the track, and look out for Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies.

Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies have fairly simple markings, yet are often very hard to see at first glance.


-  On the Wallaby outline below, draw the markings and label each differently coloured area, or colour it in back at school.





-   Can you explain why the camouflage of the Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies works so well.


 _____

What other features of the Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies are adaptations?

 _____

-  For an animal species which is so well adapted to its arid, rocky environment, why has it become a threatened species? (Read information in the enclosure.)

 _____

 Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies are, by nature, very alert and easily alarmed. The animals living in this enclosure are all hand-raised by keepers, or are the off-spring of hand-raised animals.


Why do you think it is important that these exhibit animals are familiar with humans?





ACTIVITIES ON THE EMU TRACK

? 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?

 _____

 Whilst on a walking track, notice the plants growing at different levels in the scrub. Hundreds of species of native plants are found at Monarto, 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.

Many species of native animals live at Monarto, and are 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 ^(dead) → crow ^(dead) → 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 is found there?

 Light _____
Water _____
Limestone _____
Soil _____

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

