



Australian Adventure Scavenger Hunt: Grades 7-8

1. Head into the Koala building. Although they are commonly referred to as koala “bears”, koalas are not related to bears. Observe the koala and read more about koalas in the koala building. How are bears and koalas different (think about diet, habitat, size, and behavior)?
2. Echidnas are mammals, but echidnas are a special type of mammal known as a monotreme, or an egg-laying mammal. Female echidnas lay a single egg and after 10 days, the baby hatches but remains in the pouch where it drink milk until it is old enough to survive outside the pouch. Despite the egg-laying, how are echidnas similar to other mammals?
3. Observe the Matschie’s Tree-Kangaroo. Trees are vital for the tree kangaroo’s survival. The Matschie’s Tree-Kangaroo is listed as endangered by the IUCN. Its major threats include hunting for food and habitat loss due to deforestation (the cutting down of trees). How can you and other individuals help the tree kangaroos?
4. Head across the road to Lorikeet Landing. Every animal at the zoo is provided with toys, treats, and other materials to keep them from getting bored. Look around the lorikeet exhibit. What kinds of enrichment materials do you see?
5. Head over to Wallaby Walkabout. Kangaroos and wallabies comfortably hop about 15mph (that’s almost comparable to a fast run for a human), but can reach up to 43 mph in short distances. Observe the kangaroos and wallabies, study their bodies and the way they move. How are their bodies adapted for speed?
6. Kangaroos are highly social animals. Observe the kangaroos. Are any of them engaging with each other? What social behaviors do you notice?
7. Head past the homestead and locate the kookaburra. Kookaburras are carnivorous birds. Observing the kookaburra, taking into account its size, what do you think kookaburras in the wild feed on?
8. Alpacas were domesticated in South America and 99% of the population is found there. Alpaca farming is an important part of the economy. Fleece sheered from the alpacas is waterproof, durable, very soft and flame resistant. What are some items that can be manufactured using this fleece?
9. Head over to the livestock barn. European rabbits were brought to Australia by colonizers for meat and commercial hunting. The rabbit population grew because the mild winters allowed them to breed all year and vast farms provided them with lots of food. How could an overpopulation of an invasive species, like the European rabbit, negatively affect the environment?
10. Head over to the dingo exhibit. Dingoes are considered an apex predator. This means that they are at the top of the food chain and they are not preyed upon by any other animal. Thinking back to all of the animals you have seen in Australian Adventure, what animals do you think a dingo might prey on in the wild? (Hint: keep in mind that dingoes mostly hunt on the ground).