



wild dog

**Wild Dog Books
Teachers' Notes**

Going To The Outback

Synopsis

Australia is a vast country of varied climates and environments. Much of the interior of Australia is dry, hot and arid. The term Outback usually refers to the remote areas of central Australia, but can also colloquially refer to any part of the country beyond the populated urban areas of the coasts. The Outback is home to some remarkable creatures, unique species and wildlife that have evolved and adapted to this harsh environments. Kangaroos, emus, dingos, and a plethora of birds and reptiles call this part of the country home. The Outback has also been explored and populated by various peoples throughout the Australia's history, including Indigenous Australians, European settlers and explorers, and 'Afghan' cameleers from countries such as Afghanistan, Egypt and Turkey.

Writing style

The *Going To* series has been designed for very early readers and reluctant readers. Text is succinct and simple, with no more than a few sentences on a page. The large format images relate directly to the text, so young readers have multiple entry points to engaging with the information.

Study notes

Students should make a list of all of the animals features in *Going To The Outback*. Next to each animal, write one adaptation that helps the animal survive in the Outback environment. Students may need to research the meaning of the word 'adaptation'. They may also need to extend your research beyond the text of the book. This can be done as a visual poster or chart, and can be displayed or discussed with the class.

Camels are one of the animals featured in *Going To The Outback* that are not native to Australia. Students should research the meaning of the following words:

- Native
- Introduced
- Feral
- Pest

Students should make a list of other animals that have been introduced into the Australian environment. What are some of the problems that these introduced animals can cause? What effect do these introduced animals have on Australia's native wildlife?

Many of the animals featured in *Going To The Outback* are only found in a desert environment. Students should choose one other desert from another country or continent, and research four animals that are found in this environment. What adaptations do these animals have that help them survive in their own desert environment? Are they similar or different to the animals found in *Going To The Outback*? This can be presented as a chart or visual poster.

Develop a crossword puzzle with the names of the Australian outback animals featured in the book. Use the facts about them as clues.

Play a game of 'celebrity head', labeling students as the outback animals without their knowledge. They need to try and guess which animal they are by asking questions, for example, can I fly?

Design some posters for the classroom with illustrations of the animals and the facts about them.

The dingo is considered an apex predator. Students should research the meaning of the word 'apex predator.' Students should research and write a report on how the dingo came to Australia.

Marketing and promotion

Going To The Outback is part of the *GoingTo* series. Other titles include *Going To The Rainforest*, *Going To The Ocean*, *Going To The Poles*, *Going to Antarctica* and *Going To The Grassland*.