

dingoes

U P C L O S E



TEACHERS' NOTES

BLURB

Dingoes are an apex predator essential to Australia's ecosystems. Take an up-close look at Australia's iconic wild dog.

SYNOPSIS

Accompanied by stunning images from some of the world's best photographers, *Dingoes Up Close* offers an in-depth look at one of Australia's most iconic animals. Suitable for a wide range of ages and reading levels, *Dingoes Up Close* is a great entry point for discussions about introduced species and their effect on the ecosystem. *Dingoes Up Close* also includes information about First Nations' cultural and historical relationship with dingoes, and information about the threats posed to dingo conservation.

WRITING STYLE

Dingoes Up Close addresses the student reader, inviting them into the unique world of dingoes. The text takes complicated facts about dingoes and simplifies them as much as possible to suit the upper primary reading level. Each spread is dedicated to a particular theme, such as history, habitat, characteristics, and introduces larger topics such as ecosystems and conservation. Each theme is covered in a paragraph or two, aiming to inform but not overwhelm the reader.

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

With high-quality photographs, students will get to study dingoes in detail. The images on each spread link directly to the information in the text and are designed to offer engaging visual insight into the fascinating lives of dingoes.

CURRICULUM LINKS

Australian Curriculum
AC9SFU01
AC9S1U01
AC9S3U01
AC9S4U01

Victorian Curriculum
VC2S2U01
VC2S2U02
VC2S2U03
VC2S4U01
VC2S4U02

LEARNING AREAS

English/Literacy
Science
Biology
Evolution
Geography
Conservation and Sustainability
Australian History
Indigenous Studies

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before reading *Dingoes Up Close*

- Have students discuss their opinions on dingoes. Do they think dingoes should be integrated into the wider Australian environment? Or, do you consider dingoes to be pests? Why/why not?
- Ask the students if they can think of any movies, books or other media in which dingoes have been depicted. How are they typically depicted in these media?
- Where do students think dingoes live? Can you find dingos all around the world? Why/why not?
- Have the students seen a dingo before?

While reading *Dingoes Up Close*

- Ask students to highlight or notice important words, captions or descriptions that stand out to them while reading the text.
- Ask students to make a list of the words they do not understand, and to prepare questions.
- Ask students what the book does well in helping them to navigate the text.
- Draw the students' attention to the glossary and the key terms that are mentioned in the book.
- Encourage students to ask clarifying questions throughout.



After reading ***Dingoes Up Close***

- When did dingoes first come to Australia and from where?
- Dingoes are apex predators. Can you think of any reasons why apex predators are important to the ecosystem? Can you think of any other apex predators?
- Can you remember any of the ways that dingoes are/have been important to First Nations groups throughout history?
- How are dingoes similar to dogs? How are they dissimilar?
- What does crepuscular mean?
- How many puppies does a dingo mother typically have?
- How far can a dingo travel in one day?
- What is the widest part of a dingo's body?
- What are the biggest threats to the dingo population?
- What is a carnivorous animal? Can you think of any other carnivorous animals?
- What kind of environments have dingoes adapted to live in?
- Where in Australia can you find dingoes?
- How long is Australia's dingo fence? Where does it begin and end?
- What are some of the main threats facing dingoes today?
- What are some of the effects removing dingoes has had on local environments?
- What is the key problem posed by introducing new species into a particular environment?
- In what ways do dingoes exhibit playfulness with one another?

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Ask students to select something they have learnt about dingoes that they want to research more of. Think of interesting or original ways to present this research – in a factfile, an info report, a multimedia presentation, etc.
- ***Dingoes Up Close*** mentions some of the cultural relationships with dingoes and First Nations people. Invite students to research these connections more deeply, documenting their findings in a PowerPoint, or via a poster to teach their peers.
- There are varieties of dingoes not talked about in this book, including from the northeast (tropical), southeast (alpine), and western/central parts of Australia (desert). Research each type, making sure to highlight the similarities and differences of each (e.g. variations in coat colour, thicker fur, etc).
- For Upper Levels: Research the dingo fence. Are there any similar measures that other countries have implemented to control their native wildlife? What are the positive/negative impacts of these measures? Why are protections important (i.e., how can they help ecosystems and species recover)?

- For Upper Levels: Some sustainable alternatives to the dingo fence include using livestock guardian dogs as well as non-lethal sound and light-based deterrents. Can you think of some advantages as well as some disadvantages that may arise from the use of these methods?

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

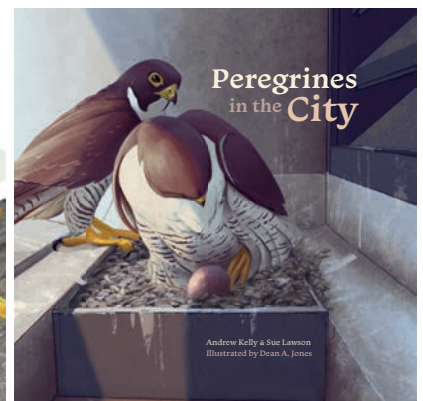
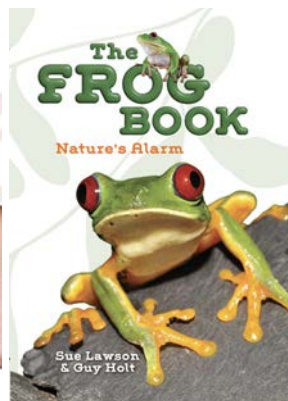
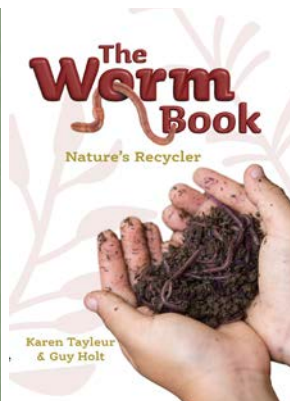
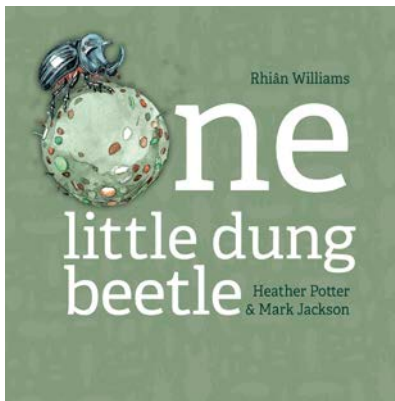
- Write a story about a dingo – perhaps a ‘day in the life of a dingo’: What time would you wake up? What would you eat? What would you do with your dingo friends?
- Did you enjoy Dingoes Up Close? What did/didn’t you like about it? Write a review of the book, making sure to include suggestions for what you would have liked to have seen included.
- Save the dingoes! In groups, design a poster advocating for the conservation and preservation of the dingo species. What should you make sure to include in order to raise awareness?
- The dingo fence is considered to be very controversial. In groups, come up with some sustainable ways to conserve dingo habitats while also protecting livestock for farmers. What are the advantages and disadvantages to your suggestions?

ONLINE RESOURCES

- <https://dingofoundation.org/>
- <https://australian.museum/learn/animals/mammals/dingo/>
- <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/tag/dingo/>
- <https://www.hellodingo.com.au/>

OTHER WILD DOG TITLES

Wild Dog Books has an impressive range of books to answer questions and stimulate young minds. From fact-filled non-fiction series through to individual titles, the Wild Dog non-fiction range is the ideal complement to our selection of fiction books and award-winning picture books by Australian writers and illustrators.



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