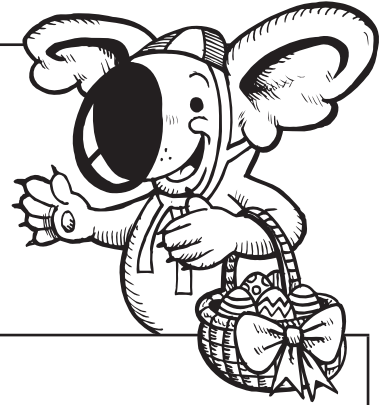


EASTER EMERGENCY!

The Australian rabbits are revolting, refusing to allow their image to be used for this year's Easter cards and chocolates. With only weeks to go before these items are needed in the shops, the card and confectionery manufacturers are desperate to find a bonzer Aussie replacement. Can you help?



1. Draw and name three possible candidates.

2. (a) Write some simple facts about each candidate in support of its application.
 (b) Take a vote to determine the winning candidate.
 (c) Highlight the winner.

Candidate	Supporting information	Number of votes

3. On a separate sheet of paper, design an Easter greeting card, using an image of the winning candidate.

THE GREAT EASTER EGG DEBATE

THE CURRAJONG CHRONICLE

January 2008

The battle still rages between the hens and the emu to determine which bird should be honoured with the 2008 Aussie Easter egg contract. The main argument being pursued by the hens is that their eggs and chicks have been traditional symbols of Easter for many years. In retaliation, the emus state that it is time for a change and, being a national Aussie symbol, they should be awarded the contract.



Mr Edward Emu QC will represent the Emu Union in their bid to be chosen as the national Aussie Easter egg symbol.

Both sides will be presenting their cases later this month. To fan the flames of this heated debate, we have just received a report that the platypus and the echidna have also put in tenders for the contract. Watch this space! As well as promoting chocolate Easter eggs, the image of the contract winner will be one that can be used on cards and for craft activities.

1. (a) Who do you think deserves to win the contract? _____
- (b) Explain the reasons for your choice.

Appeal of young

Craft activity ideas

2. (a) Take a vote in your class for the most popular animal to represent Easter.
3. Draw your image of the perfect Easter egg candidate.

Votes for hen	Votes for emu
Votges for platypus	Votes for echidna

- (b) Which animal is the most popular in your class?



THE REDUNDANT RABBIT

Read this letter from a rabbit to his bilby friend then answer the questions below.

How ya goin' Bill, me ole mate,

As I write this letter, I'm sitting at the mouth of my burrow, watching the sun go down on a balmy summer evening and gazing at the dry, rugged landscape that has been the home of my species since our ancestors first arrived from England with the First Fleet way back in 1788. We have been blessed with a fruitful land but, sadly, I realise we are not welcome here.

They say the problem really started when Thomas Austin brought 24 wild rabbits over from England in 1859. He released them so they would breed and provide prey for him and his friends on his shooting expeditions ... it seems my rabbit ancestors performed the task too well!

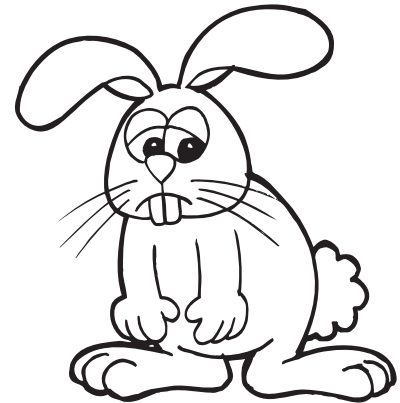
We have been accused of having had a devastating effect on the country's ecology, from erosion of the soil to wiping out many animal and plant species. They call us pests, but we're only doing what we need to stay alive. I mean, we didn't ask to be brought over here.

They did try fencing us out of one state by building a rabbit-proof fence, back in the early 1900s ... it wasn't very effective. Then fifty years later, they introduced the myxomatosis virus to kill us off, a long, lingering death so I've been told.

And now they want to remove us from the Easter images! They've got some native Aussie creature in mind to replace us. I don't know which one. Maybe you could find out for me, Bill. I'll give it a piece of my mind!

Well, time for me to go, mate. Keep in touch,

Bucky



1. What does the word 'redundant' mean? _____
2. For how long have there been rabbits in Australia? Circle the correct answer.
(a) 200 years (b) 210 years (c) 220 years
(d) 230 years (e) 240 years (f) 250 years
3. For what purpose did Thomas Austin introduce wild rabbits into Australia?

4. (a) Name two environmental problems that rabbits are blamed for.
• _____
• _____
(b) Name two actions that have been taken against rabbits in Australia.
• _____
• _____
5. (a) On a separate sheet of paper, write Bill's reply to Bucky, explaining that it is his own species, the bilby, that is tipped to replace the rabbit.
(b) How do you think Bucky might respond to the news? _____
