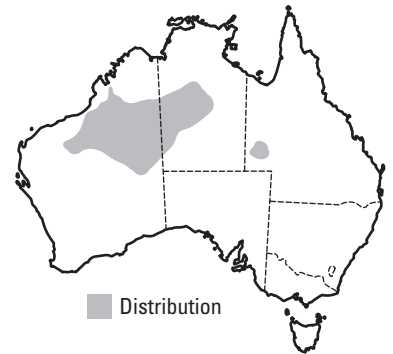


# THE GREATER BILBY – 1

*The greater bilby is the largest member of the bandicoot family. This marsupial once populated around 70 per cent of the Australian mainland and was a valuable food source for Australia's Indigenous population.*

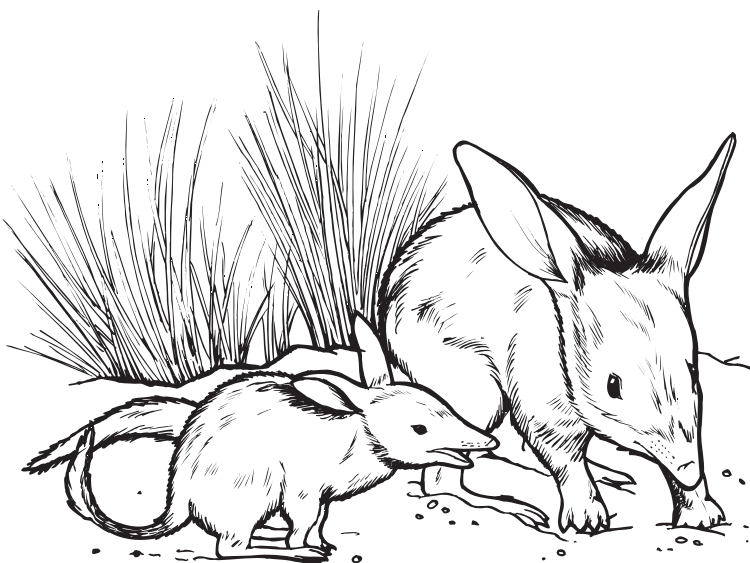
Today, the greater bilby can be found only in isolated pockets of spinifex or grassy tussocks in the Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory; the Mitchell Grasslands in south-west Queensland; and the Great Sandy Desert, Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia. The bilby doesn't have to fight for real estate in these hot, dry areas of Australia.



The greater bilby is a small nocturnal animal, spending hot days in a burrow to keep cool and surfacing at night to feed on insects, preferably termites, fruit, seeds and fungi. This omnivore is able to survive the harsh desert conditions, even through a drought, as it has the ability to obtain its water requirements from its food. Its keen senses of hearing and smell enable this mammal to find its prey with ease and also evade possible predators, such as foxes and feral cats.

The first thing you might notice about the greater bilby is the size of its ears. They are particularly long in relation to the rest of the animal and are almost bare. It is believed this helps the bilby to regulate its body temperature. Its body is roughly 40 cm long from nose to bottom with an additional 25 cm of tail which is grey at the base, black in the middle and white on the tip. The bilby's long silky fur is silver-grey in colour, while its stomach is white. Adult bilbies can weigh anywhere between one and two and a half kilograms, while joeys weigh around 200 grams when they leave the mother's pouch. The greater bilby has strong forelegs and claws adapted for digging for food and excavating burrows, which may be as deep as two metres.

The greater bilby has adapted well to its environment and only mates when the conditions are suitable. After good rainfall, there is plenty of water and food, and this is the prime time for the bilbies to mate and reproduce. Gestation is very short and babies are tiny and underdeveloped when born. They make their way into their mother's rear-facing pouch where they will spend the next few weeks developing and drinking mother's milk. Once the joey leaves the pouch, it rarely returns but still feeds from its mother.



The greater bilby is considered vulnerable as a result of habitat loss due to farming and land clearing; competition for food and land with introduced animals, such as rabbits, cattle and sheep; and being preyed upon by introduced species such as foxes and feral cats. There was once a second, smaller species of bilby called the lesser bilby. This species is considered extinct as it has not been seen since 1931. To ensure the greater bilby doesn't suffer the same fate, conservationists are developing protective and breeding programs to increase the chances of long-term survival of the species.

# THE GREATER BILBY - 2

1. Write the meaning of each word.

- (a) omnivore \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) nocturnal \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) extinct \_\_\_\_\_

2. (a) The words in the list are synonyms for words used in the text. Find the appropriate word from the text in the wordsearch.

- moderate      secluded
- important      observe
- in jeopardy      escape
- well-suited      digging
- rivalry      pregnancy
- wild      group

C	T	E	L	B	A	R	E	N	L	U	V
O	H	V	E	B	I	L	B	Y	O	I	A
M	F	A	T	E	N	R	G	E	P	S	L
P	L	D	A	C	E	S	N	T	H	O	U
E	G	E	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	L	A
T	E	B	U	N	N	Y	T	I	N	A	B
I	A	R	E	G	U	L	A	T	E	T	L
T	U	S	T	R	A	L	V	I	A	E	E
I	N	E	D	E	T	P	A	D	A	D	A
O	S	T	E	S	P	E	C	I	E	S	R
N	O	T	I	C	E	C	X	E	L	E	B
R	A	T	I	O	N	F	E	R	A	L	S

(b) The unused letters of the wordsearch, when read from left to right and top to bottom, form a sentence. Write the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Quick quiz.

- (a) What is a baby bilby called? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) When are bilbies most active? \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Which people are trying to 'save' the bilby? \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) What is the approximate length of a bilby from nose to tail tip? \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) How deep can a bilby dig? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Give your opinion of the following statement.

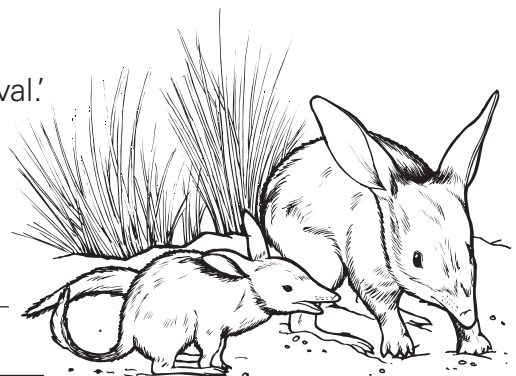
'It is important to protect the bilby and ensure its survival.'

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

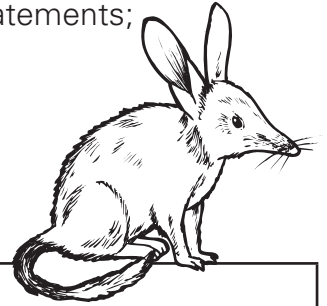


# SAVE THE BILBY

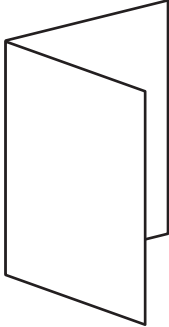
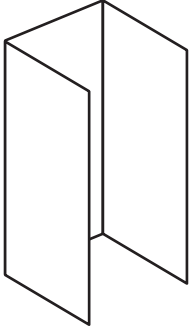
Design a brochure which brings attention to the plight of the bilby.

You will need to:

- provide accurate and interesting information in brief, easy-to-read statements;
- include clear diagrams and illustrations;
- make it eye-catching and easy-to-follow; and
- ensure it inspires the reader to act on behalf of the bilby.



Use the table below to plan your brochure.

<p><b>Format</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>A4 single text <input type="checkbox"/></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>A4 double fold <input type="checkbox"/></p> </div> </div>	<p><b>Cover design</b></p>
<p><b>Information to include</b></p>	<p><b>Diagrams to include</b></p>
<p><b>How I aim to inspire the reader</b></p>	
<p><b>How I intend to make it eye-catching</b></p>	