

Bush Explorers

Pre-visit activity

Captain Cook was a famous explorer. He took Sir Joseph Banks, a special scientist called a botanist, with him to collect and name the different types of plants they found. The Banksia tree is named after him.

Areas of bush are important places where many animals live. Leaves and twigs fall to the ground and become plant litter which covers the soil. When plant litter breaks down into smaller bits, it goes back into the soil, making it better for plants to grow. Plant litter also protects the soil and stops it from being washed and blown away (soil erosion).

Bush litter is the home (habitat) for many small animals including worms, beetles, cockroaches and many insects. Many birds, reptiles and mammals such as native mice and bandicoots search through the plant litter to find and eat the worms and beetles and other small animals living there.

Trees in the bush are home to many birds, bats and possums. They use trees for food. They may eat the trees flowers and seeds or insects living there. Trees make good nesting spots where baby animals can be brought up safely away from animals on the ground that might eat them.

1. Name the botanist who went with Captain Cook. _____

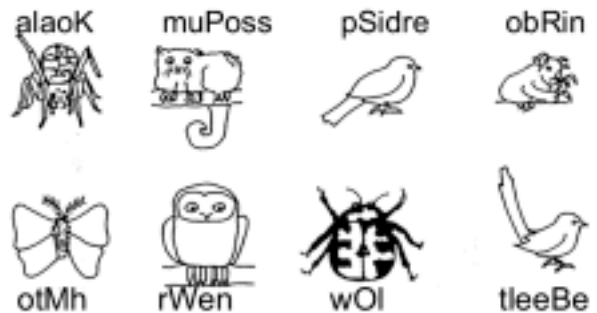
2. What does a botanist do?

3. What is plant litter?

4. Where does plant litter go when it breaks down? _____

5. Why is plant litter good for plants?

6. Why is plant litter good for the soil?



7. What word describes the home or place where an animal lives?
h _ _ _ _ _

8. Why do bandicoots search through the plant litter?

9. What would happen to the animals if we killed all of the plants in the bush?

11. Why is the bush important?

12. How can we look after the bush?

Animals of the Bush

Pre-visit activity

Areas of bush are the home or habitat of many animals.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. frog | 8. mouse |
| 2. fish | 9. possum |
| 3. tadpole | 10. snake |
| 4. dragonfly | 11. echidna |
| 5. grasshopper | 12. swift (bird) |
| 6. quail | 13. skink (lizard) |
| 7. lady beetle | |

Write the number of the animal where it is in the drawing then colour in the animal.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 14. water dragon (lizard) | 19. ant |
| 15. ringtail possum | 20. dragonfly |
| 16. bee | 21. wren with chicks |
| 17. water beetle | See if you can find some more. |
| 18. worm | |



Picture: Nature's field hands by Anne Breckwoldt

