

**What's happening**  
**in the news this week?**



**Let's have a look at this week's poster!**

**28th Feb - 6th March 2022**





**Whose responsibility is  
it to help endangered  
animals?**



# Let's look at this week's story



Australia has announced that koalas are now listed as an endangered species across most of its east coast, after a huge drop in numbers. The country's environment minister, Sussan Ley, said that koalas, which had been listed as being vulnerable, would now be listed as endangered in the states of New South Wales, Queensland, and the Australian Capital Territory. Scientists have been warning for many years that the native marsupial's habitats were being hit by drought, bushfires, and land development.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).  
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).  
This week's Virtual Assembly [here](#).

# This week's story looks at events in ...





# How does it make me feel?



<b>sad</b>	<b>angry</b>	<b>happy</b>	<b>confused</b>	<b>excited</b>	<b>worried</b>	<b>shocked</b>	<b>afraid</b>
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified



## Read through the information found below about the situation with koalas in Australia

Australia has lost about 30% of its koala population over the past three years, according to the Australian Koala Foundation, with the worst figures seen in New South Wales, where numbers have dropped by 41%.

### Why have koalas become endangered?

Australia has listed koalas as an endangered species across most of its east coast.

The country's environment minister said that koalas, which had been listed as being vulnerable, would now be listed as endangered. Australia's biggest koala conservation group says that there may now be as few as 50,000 of the animals left in the wild.

Recent droughts, heatwaves and bushfires have all been blamed for the declining wild koala population in Australia, as have disease and habitat loss.



### What is being done to help?

To help protect koalas, the Australian government has announced that it will be spending \$50m (£26m) to improve the protection and recovery of the koala.

Also, this change in status means greater priority will be given to their conservation. Australia's environment minister, Sussan Ley, said that efforts were already underway to preserve koalas' habitats. She said officials were designing a recovery plan, and land development applications would now be assessed for impacts on the species.

### Will it be enough?

Conservationists believe that more needs to be done to protect the animals. Stuart Blanch from WWF Australia said, "Koalas have gone from no-listing to vulnerable to endangered within a decade. Today's decision is welcome, but it won't stop koalas from sliding towards extinction unless it's accompanied by stronger laws."



**Pictured:** A koala at an enclosure in Australia  
**Source:** Goran Has

**Do you think that the plans to help koalas go far enough or do you think more should be done?**





Look at the resource below, which shares more information about koalas.

## Koalas

Koalas are mostly found in eucalyptus forests of eastern Australia. Their strong, clawed feet are perfect for living in the branches of trees. They eat the eucalyptus leaves from the trees and can devour up to 1kg of leaves per day! When koalas are not feasting on leaves, they don't have much energy so spend up to 22 hours per day dozing in the branches.



Baby koalas are called joeys. As soon as they are born, they crawl into their mother's pouch and stay there for about six months.

### Did you know?

The name "koala" is derived from the Dharug word "gula" or "gulamany" meaning "no drink". It is believed that this is because koalas get almost all of their moisture from the leaves they eat and rarely drink.



### Fact box

Appearance	Grey fur with a cream-coloured chest
Length	60 – 85cm
Weight	About 14kg
Lifespan	13 – 17 years



What else would you like to find out about koalas?





Look at the resource below, which shares some of the things people do to help endangered animals.

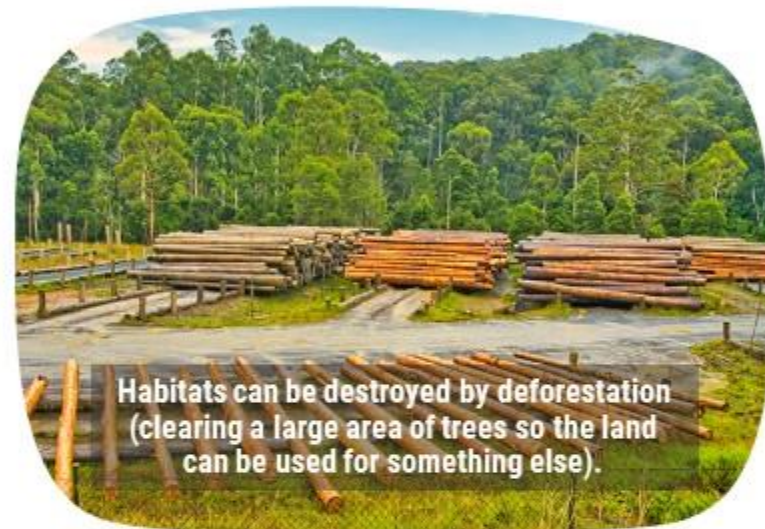
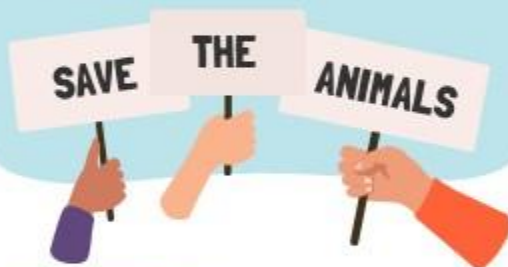
### Laws

Introduce laws to protect animals from being hunted or from having their habitats destroyed.



### Raise awareness

Many people do not know certain animals are facing extinction and why. Raise awareness so more people know about the problem.



Habitats can be destroyed by deforestation (clearing a large area of trees so the land can be used for something else).

### Be environmentally aware

Learn how our behaviour impacts on the environment. For example, the green sea turtle is endangered because they are affected by climate change and pollution.



### Raise funds

Raising money to support organisations that fight to save endangered species.



### Conservation programmes

People are involved in conservation programmes, which is the act of protecting ecosystems and environments to protect the animals that live there. Many endangered animals have had their habitats destroyed.

**Can you think of any other ways? Is there anything you could do?  
Have you or anyone you know ever done anything to help in the past?**





# Reflection



Our world is so diverse, full of incredible wildlife and nature. As citizens of the world, we all have a part to play in protecting it and all within it.







## Democracy

We all have a voice and the right to express our opinions. Some people choose to use their voice to help protect animals facing extinction.







# UN Rights of a Child



We have the right to share our opinions about animals facing extinction. Adults should listen and take us seriously.





# Useful vocabulary



## Diverse

Showing a great deal of variety; very different.

Our world is so **diverse**, full of incredible wildlife and nature.

## Endangered

Seriously at risk of extinction.

Australia has announced that koalas are now listed as an **endangered** species across most of its east coast.

## Extinction

A situation in which something no longer exists.

Australia has announced that the koala is now at risk of **extinction** across much of the country.

## Marsupial

A mammal that is not completely developed when it is born so is carried around in a pouch on the mother's body.

Scientists have been warning for many years that the native **marsupial**'s habitats were being hit by drought, bushfires, and land development.

## Species

A set of animals or plants who have similar characteristics to each other and can breed with each other.

Are you aware of any other **species** that are currently classified as endangered?

## Vulnerable

Likely to become endangered.

Sussan Ley, said that koalas, which had been listed as being **vulnerable**, would now be listed as endangered...

**Can you use them in your writing this week?**





## Frog found in primary school banana

A frog from Africa has been found in a bunch of snack time bananas at a Wirral primary school. The tiny amphibian was spotted by a teacher at Heswall Primary School in Merseyside as she was organising the pupils' morning fruit. Members of staff at the school were able to catch the frog, which is the size of



**Pictured:** The tiny frog found in a bunch of bananas at Heswall Primary School.

**Source:** Anthony Joynes@joynes85 Twitter page.

“ This sort of thing happens from time-to-time ”

a fingernail, and kept it safe in a damp container until it was collected. RSPCA inspector, Anthony Joynes said, "This sort of things happens from time-to-time nationwide but this is the first one I have known in Wirral. Providing a small enclosure, with moisture, warmth and a hiding place was spot on." He added that the school had done exactly the right thing

by not touching the amphibian but keeping it safe so he could collect it. Deputy head teacher, Nicky Bolton, said, "We knew the frog had travelled from West Africa because wrapping was stamped with Ivory Coast. The children were so excited to learn about the frog's journey and how it has travelled almost 5,000 miles to arrive in Wirral. The children are now very excited to find out what species he is."

## Cousins forge blacksmith business

Ollie and Harvey Roberts, who are aged 14 and 13, are Britain's youngest blacksmiths! They set up their own metal work business, O&H Metalwork Designs, during lockdown. They and their relatives are very proud that they are the 7th generation of welders in their family. "A long, long time ago, 1804, our family bought the Wrexham smithy and started doing blacksmithing," Harvey said. "Our grandad did it and we found it really interesting. We had a go, and then we thought we've come this far, and we may as well try to make a business out of it. We had to have help at the start - it's really dangerous and there are lots of sparks." Their design ideas, which include flowers and birds, have been purchased by people in countries as far away as Indonesia, raised money for Nightingale House hospice, and a dolphin sculpture made from old spoons is set to go on display at the British Ironwork Centre. The cousins have even received letters from Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street congratulating them on opening their decorative metal designs business and raising money for charity.



**Pictured:** Ollie and Harvey with one of their recent projects, a dolphin sculpture made from old spoons!  
**Source:** O&H Metalwork Designs@h\_metalwork Twitter page.



# Make ice cream in two minutes



**Pictured:** Salted caramel and vanilla ice cream sundae.  
**Source:** Canva

**A** new countertop machine has been invented that can use pods to make ice cream in four easy, mess-free steps. The appliance aims to overhaul the frozen treats industry, making changes to how these types of products are made and stored, therefore significantly reducing emissions. The ColdSnap machine can take pods and turn them into soft-serve ice cream in 60-90 seconds. ColdSnap's single-serve aluminium pods are each roughly the size of a drinks can and deliver a variety of frozen treats; including dairy and non-dairy ice cream, frozen yogurt, frozen coffees, frozen smoothies, frozen shakes, and slushies. The frozen confections machine uses a camera, which scans the QR code on each pod as they are inserted, this gives the machine all the information it requires to make each frozen delight. Matthew Fonte was inspired to come up with the idea during a conversation with his daughters, Sierra and Fiona, who were disappointed at how time consuming and messy it was to make ice cream with a traditional at-home ice cream machine.

Last week's topic:

## What does a city of the future need?



A city of the future needs residents to live in it and everything else that is important to make it good to live and work in.

Miti - age 9


I think that a school from the future needs hi-tech equipment, helpful robots and a futuristic, smooth look. Also, it needs people that are used to the great technology.

Aleks - age 10

My sustainable city would have: •renewable energy, e.g., solar panels, wind turbines •less petrol and diesel cars-more electric charging points, free parking for electric cars, more bike lanes, better public transport •more glass and less plastic buildings, drinks.

Ethan - age 10

## Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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# TAKEHOME



**Whose responsibility is it to help endangered animals?**



## In the news this week

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### Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you know any other animals that are at risk of extinction?
- > Can you think of ways that we can help animals that are endangered? E.g., raising awareness or giving donations to charity.
- > Currently, do you think enough is being done to help, when a species becomes at risk of extinction?

**Please note any interesting thoughts or comments**

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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