

Bindi Wildlife Adventures: series one



TEACHING SUPPORT KIT

Bindi Wildlife Adventures Teaching Support Kit

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1. INTRODUCTION

Bindi Wildlife Adventures is a fun, action-filled series, co-created by Bindi Irwin and professional authors. With positive and courageous storylines, these books recognise that when children are confident and knowledgeable they can really make a difference, encouraging kid empowerment. The stories are fast-paced adventures with subject matter relevant to children's lives and critical to the future of this wonderful planet.

2. INSPIRATION FOR THE SERIES

Bindi says: 'I love to read - so I thought that these books might be another way to share with kids my love for wildlife! Every kid can make a difference, and I hope that these books get all kids excited about changing our world!'

As the daughter of Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter, Bindi has been involved with caring for wildlife and promoting conservation since she was tiny. She has hosted the Emmy-award-winning TV program Bindi: The Jungle Girl series, she sings, she dances, she acts in movies, all while helping her mum and brother run the very popular Australia Zoo on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia.

3. A GLOBAL OUTLOOK

TRAVELLING THE WORLD

In the first series of Bindi Wildlife Adventures, Bindi and her family travel to South Africa, Singapore, USA, Madagascar, Cambodia and Finland, as well as having adventures closer to home on the Sunshine Coast, in Kakadu National Park in Darwin and on the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve in Cape York.

All of these countries have their own native species, and many of the animals highlighted in the books are at risk from a wide range of threats, both in their local area, and sometimes because of a global demand.

Research/Reflect

Choose five animals which are not native to Australia.

- Where do these animals come from?
- Find out one or two particular habitats that are common in these countries.
- Are these animals endangered? The International Union for Conservation of Nature website may help you with this information: www.iucn.org

Evaluate

Look at pictures of the animals you've chosen (or better still, visit a zoo and see them in the flesh!).

- Can you tell what habitat they are most likely to live in?
- Does the animal prefer living in a rainforest or a desert?

- Does it swing from trees or burrow underground?
- Does it have thick fur or a tough hide?

Activities

- Draw one of the animals from your list and a map of the country in which it lives.
- Describe its perfect habitat.
- Research some of the threats to its survival this animal faces in its home country.

4. FACT OR FICTION?

The Bindi Wildlife Adventures series is a fiction series, but it's based on the Irwin family, who exist in real life. The rest of the characters in the book, apart from Bindi's best friend, are made up. The adventures she has are made up, but they involve real life wildlife and conservation issues around the world.

In the back of each Bindi Wildlife Adventure is a fact file or two, describing the animal that features in the book.

Bindi loves reading books by Lauren St John because they are fictional stories based around endangered wildlife. Titles in that series include *The White Giraffe* and *The Last Leopard*.

George's Secret Key to the Universe and *George's Cosmic Treasure Hunt* by Lucy and Stephen Hawking are fictional stories that help explain the universe, physics and the solar system.

- What other books have you read that combine both fact and fiction?

5. THEMES

THEME ONE: The role of a zoo

Research/reflect

Why do you think zoos exist? What purpose do they serve?

Apart from tourism and education, some of the larger zoos in Australia are also involved in a wide range of breeding programs, scientific research, and some, like Australia Zoo and Taronga Zoo in Sydney, even have their own wildlife hospitals.

Check out the fact file in the back of *Bindi Wildlife Adventures 6: Roar!* These three gorgeous Sumatran tiger cubs were brought to Australia Zoo in 2008, with the hope that they may grow up and breed, helping to prevent the extinction of the species.

In book 2, the action takes place at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital after a bushfire.

Evaluate

Do some research into your local zoo.

- How long ago did the zoo open?
- How many different species does it have?
- Is it involved in any special research or breeding programs?

Activities

Imagine you are a zoo curator (this is a person who decide which animals are going to be a part of the zoo).

- What animals would you like to see in your zoo? Think about the size of the animal, and how much space it will need.
- Think about the climate where you live. A wolverine (an animal featured in *Bindi book 12: Mission Climate Change*) lives in a cold, snowy environment. Is this the sort of animal you could have in your zoo?
- Think about the animals' diets. A panda eats an awful lot of bamboo in a day. Koalas like chewing fresh young eucalypt shoots.
- If you wanted crocodiles at your zoo, what sort of enclosure would be best for them?

THEME TWO: Human/animal conflict

In many parts of the world, animals and humans come into conflict over land. In less developed countries, it isn't always easy to find a solution that suits both humans and animals.

Habitat loss is a big problem for animals such as the Sumatran tiger and the Asian elephant, which need large areas to forage and flourish. The local people need to grow food to survive, or plant trees that can be felled for wood to provide a living for their families.

- What solutions are found in *A Giant Rescue* that help keep animals and humans living harmoniously in Cambodia?
- What are people doing in Sumatra to help the endangered Sumatran tiger survive?

THEME THREE: Climate change and wildlife

In *Bindi book 12: Mission Climate Change*, Bindi, Robert and some of their friends have been invited to an international climate change conference.

Research/reflect

What is climate change and how is it affecting our natural environment.

What impact does global warming have on species such as the Polar bear?

What can you do to reduce your carbon footprint?

Further resources on wildlife and environment conservation:

www.iucn.org

www.climatechange.org.au

www.australiazoo.com.au

www.wwf.org.au

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Find dictionary definitions for the following terms:

Biodiversity:

Climate change:

Conservation:

Deforestation:

Carbon footprint:

Endangered: