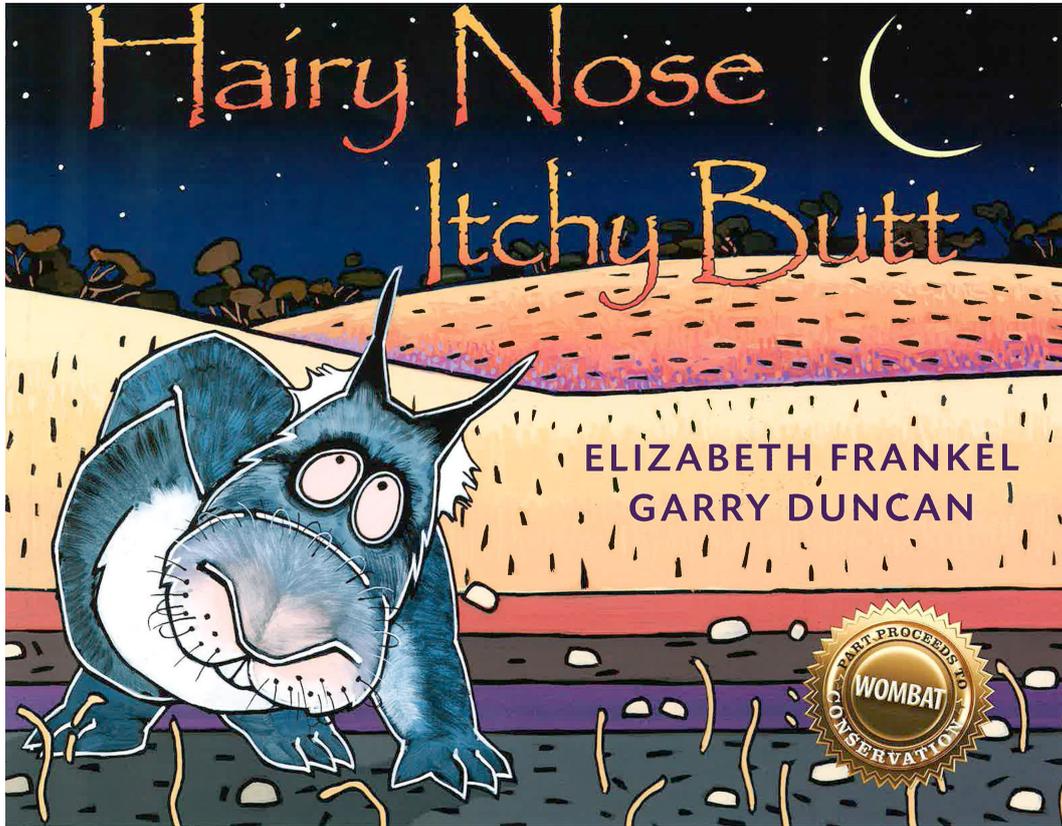




Hairy Nose Itchy Butt - Teaching Notes & Classroom Based Activities



Ever had an itch you couldn't scratch? The Hairy-nosed wombat has one, and somebody has chopped down his scratching tree. Join our marsupial hero on an itchy, scratchy adventure as he tries to find the perfect place to scratch his butt.

This story is a great example of how human and other impacts can affect the habitat of one of our native animals.

The Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat is found in South Australia around Sedan, Cambrai, Blanchetown, Morgan and Burra – this animal is currently listed as Near Threatened and in decline in South Australia.

The Bare Nose (Common Wombat) which is Endangered in South Australia is found only in the Coorong and South East around Kingston and Robe.

This resource offers several activities your class could undertake to raise awareness and develop knowledge about animal conservation. Once your class has explored the wonderful story, lead them in some of the extension activities.



Hairy Nose Itchy Butt - Classroom Based Activities

- Construct a wonderword, crossword or jumbled words puzzle using words related to the Hairy Nose Itchy Butt story.
- Draw, design or make both a healthy and unhealthy Hairy-nosed Wombat habitat.
- Imagine you are a Hairy-nosed Wombat – write a story about one day in your life – describe the place where you live, your daily activities and the dangers you face.
- Perform a role play of the Hairy Nose Itchy Butt story.
- Many people in the community are unaware of the problems Hairy-nosed wombats face. Read the book to them, display posters or pictures of them to tell the community about what you have learned.
- Construct a model of a Hairy-nosed Wombat burrow.
- Construct a board game or puzzle to communicate the plight of Hairy-nosed Wombats and the actions people could take to assist them.
- Describe how learning about Hairy-nosed Wombats has changed your thinking about them. What can you do locally to help them.
- Investigate what it is Hairy-nosed Wombats need to survive. Does your local environment have those things?
- Imagine you are running a restaurant for Hairy-nosed Wombats and design a menu for them.
- Use an appropriate form of visual media to make a presentation about Hairy-nosed Wombats and their issues.
- Research an animal and report on how it uses its habitat. What does this say about its requirements for survival? What does it need to survive and how does it use its needs?
- Design an experiment to test how different soil types affect Hairy-nosed Wombats ability to dig burrows.
- Compare life today with that of Aboriginals and first settlers. What has changed? Has anything stayed the same? How has this affected Hairy-nosed Wombats? What do you think it will be like in the future for Hairy-nosed Wombats.
- Write a letter to your local politicians highlighting the issues Hairy-nosed Wombats face and suggest things they could do to assist Hairy-nosed Wombats.
- Examine the decision to list Hairy-nosed Wombats as an Endangered species in South Australia. Why was this decision made?
- Interview someone about their knowledge of Hairy-nosed Wombats, their plight and what they could do to assist them.
- Discuss and then report on how our ancestor's occupations have affected Hairy-nosed Wombat's habitat. Describe how learning about Hairy-nosed Wombats has changed your thinking about them. What can you do locally to help them?



Working Together

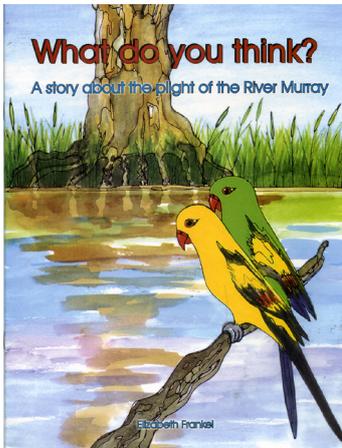
- Investigate what it is Hairy-nosed Wombats need to survive. Does your local environment have those things?
- How do people use Hairy-nosed Wombat habitat? How do different people see and value this habitat?
- Choose an animal and think of its characteristics. Using the lines from the book:
“Itchity, scratchity, grumble and groan
A shudder and shake, a snort and a moan.
A grunt and a huff, and a spitterly splut”
Create your own poem for the animal.
- Look at the levels of ‘endangeredness’ – extinct, extinct in the wild, critically endangered etc and assign some animals you know of to each category.
- List the emotions Hairy-nosed Wombat experiences on each page of the story. List the emotions you feel on each page.
- Research South Australia’s and Australia’s emblems.
- Hairy-nosed Wombat was compared to a bulldozer. Choose other animals and compare them to something man made. (A platypus – submarine.)



Further information:

For further information about Wombat and animal conservation you could utilise the following websites and resources:

Animal Conservation Awareness Activity Resource - SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board NRM Education Program - this resource explores animal conservation and endangered species and provides options for students to develop their own story or poem about endangered animals.



“What do you think?” - A story about the plight of the River Murray written by Liz Frankel, is aimed at preschool and junior primary aged children, and tells the story of a pair of Regent Parrots who realize that the River Red Gums look sick, and they embark on a search to discover why. They talk with their friends, including Frog, Catfish, Python and Yabbie and learn that the river is dying of thirst. But what can be done about this? What do you think?

Zoos SA / Conservation Ark - For more information about their wonderful work in Wombat Conservation - Wombat surveys and the Wombat Muster!

<http://www.adelaidezoo.com.au/conservation-ark>

Other resources and conservation information:

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/ausanimallinks/index.html#wombats>

<http://www.wombania.com/>

<http://www.australiazoo.com.au/our-animals/amazing-animals/mammals/?mammal=wombats&animal=southern%20hairy-nosed%20wombat>

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/ausanimallinks/index.html#wombats>

http://www.google.com/Top/Kids_and_Teens/School_Time/Science/Living_Things/Animals/Mammals/Wombats/

<http://www.kidcyber.com.au/topics/austendangered.htm>

<http://www.endangered-animals.com.au/>