



## Australian Adventure Scavenger Hunt: Grades 9-12

1. Head into Lorikeet Landing. Lorikeets play a very important role in the wild because they are pollen vectors: when they drink nectar from a flower, they get pollen on their beaks and they carry that pollen all over as they travel flower to flower. How does this benefit the environment?
2. Head across the street to the koala building. Koalas are listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Climate change is significantly affecting koalas: increased temperatures and decreased rainfall contribute to more and worse bushfires which kill koalas and destroy their habitats and also contributes to droughts. Koalas are struggling to adapt to these new conditions. How can zoos help combat climate change? How can individuals help?
3. Echidnas are a special type of mammal known as a monotreme, or an egg-laying mammal. Female echidnas lay a single egg and after 10 days, the baby hatches but remains in the pouch where it drinks milk until it is old enough to survive outside the pouch. Despite the egg-laying, how are echidnas similar to other mammals?
4. The tree kangaroo in the koala building and the kangaroos and wallabies in the walkabout descended from a common ancestor thousands of years ago. Tree kangaroos have adapted to living in the trees, while kangaroos and wallabies have adapted to live terrestrially (on the ground). Observe these two types of animals and study their body shapes and movement. How are they adapted to living in their respective environments?
5. Kangaroos live in groups called mobs while wallaroos are solitary. What are the advantages and disadvantages to these two ways of life?
6. Walk over to the Wallaby Walkabout. Kangaroos have long, thick tails. Observe the kangaroos, particularly those that are standing or hopping. How do they use their tail?
7. Find the black swans, Portman and Sheila. Like many birds, black swans are typically monogamous (having a single mate) and mate for life. What might be the benefit of mating for life for these birds? Can you think of any negatives?
8. Head past the homestead and locate the kookaburra. Observing the kookaburra, taking into account its size and large beak, what do you think kookaburras in the wild feed on? Do you think they are carnivores or herbivores?
9. Head over to the homestead. In the late 1700's, Europeans began colonizing Australia and brought many domesticated animals with them including the animals you see on the homestead: camels, sheep, goats, and rabbits. How might introducing non-native species to Australia have had a negative effect on the unique ecosystems?
10. Head over to the dingo exhibit. Dingoes are considered an apex predator. This means that they are at the top of the food chain and they are not preyed upon by any other animal. Thinking back to all of the animals you have seen in Australian Adventure, what animals do you think a dingo might prey on in the wild? (Hint: keep in mind that dingoes mostly hunt on the ground).