

Biodiversity Trail

Australian Animals

Self-guided program ***Surviving Australia* exhibition**

Student Activities

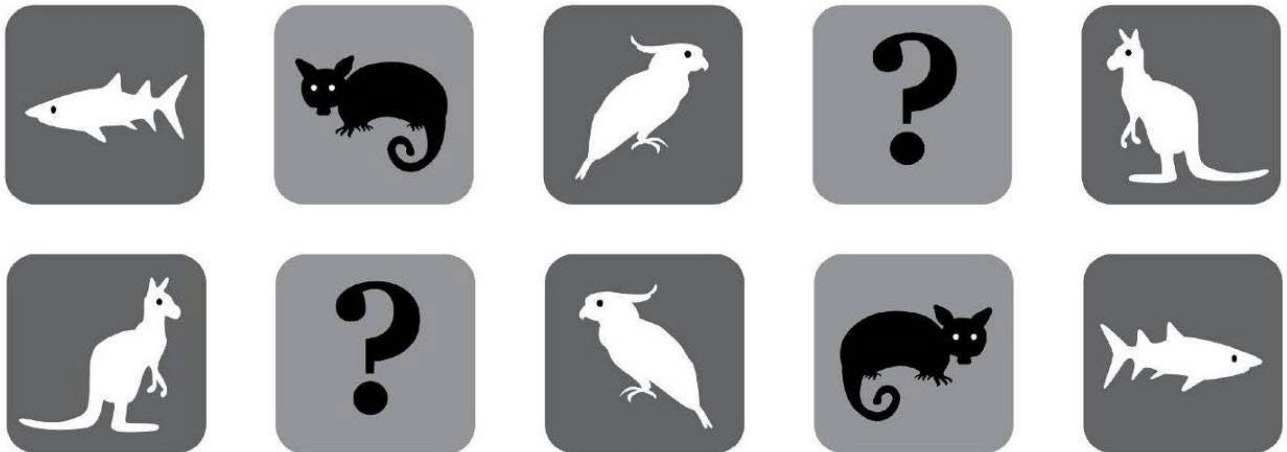


Illustration: Sara Estrada-Arevalo,
Australian Museum.

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www.australianmuseum.net.au



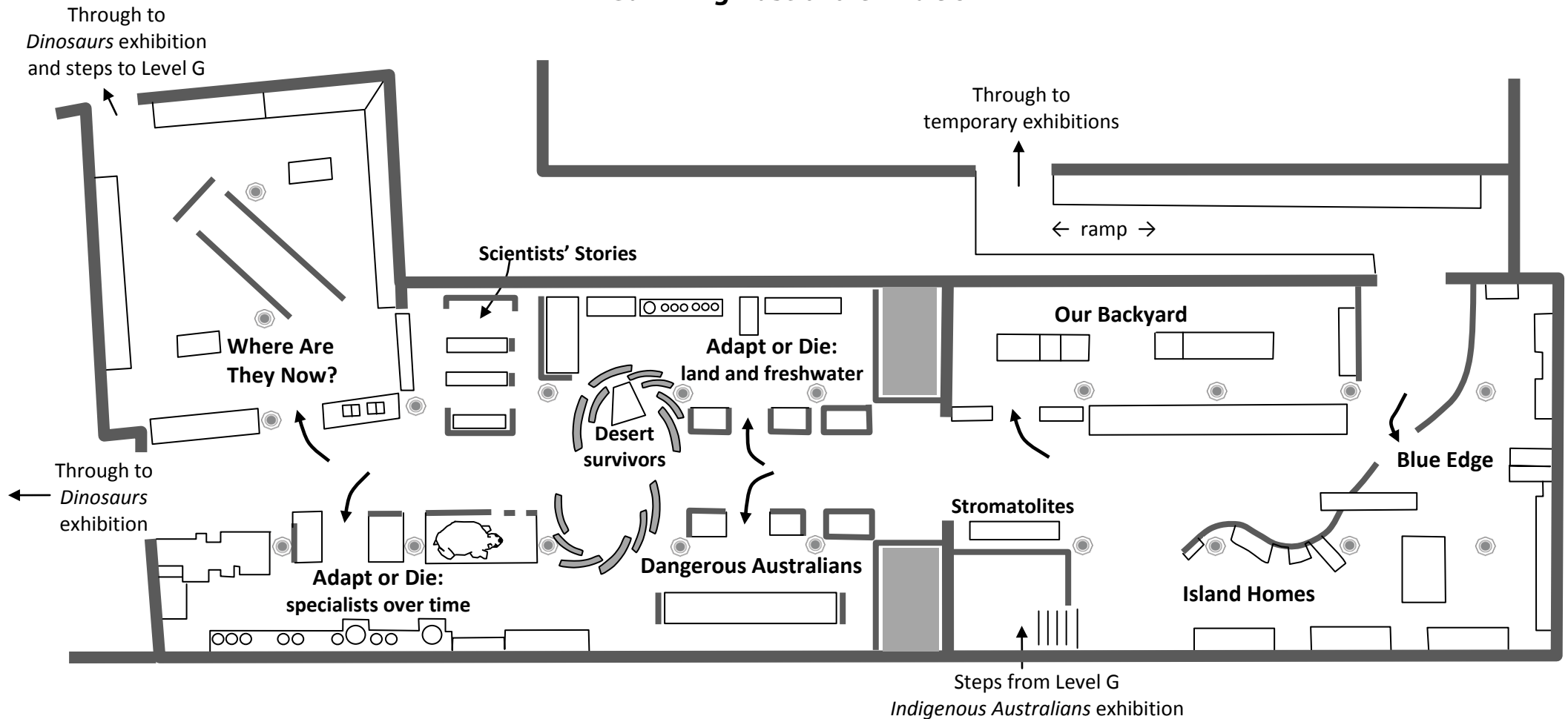


Instructions:

To find the answers to these Clue Cards explore the *Surviving Australia* exhibition located Level 2 of the Australian Museum. Use the *Surviving Australia* exhibition floorplan shown below to find the section you need for each clue.

Discover the names of the animals or other living things by matching the Clue Card facts with information in the displays.

Surviving Australia exhibition



You may think living in a desert is hazardous, but some creatures have adapted to live there and are doing very well!



Use the *Surviving Australia* exhibition floorplan to find the section, **Adapt or die: land and freshwater** to find the answers to these clues.

Animal A – an amphibian

- It **lives underground**.
- It can **absorb water through its skin!**
- To survive when there is not enough water it **makes a waterproof cocoon** with dead skin.
- Indigenous Australians used it as a source of water.

It is a _____

Animal B – a small mammal

- It stays in a burrow during the day.
- It looks for food at night.
- It lives in the **desert**.
- It **doesn't** have to **drink**.
- It **can't sweat**.

It is a _____

Can you imagine our land inhabited by giant creatures? The ancestors of many Australian animals used to be much larger than their relatives today.



Use the *Surviving Australia* exhibition floorplan to find the section, **Adapt or die: adapt or die** to find the answers to these clues.

Animal A – a small **giant** animal

- It is a relative of today's wombats and koalas.
- It was a **marsupial with a pouch**.
- It is the **largest known marsupial** of all time!
- It could weigh up to **2700 kilograms**!
- It is now extinct.

It is a _____

Animal B – the world's best carnivore?

- It was a cat-like **marsupial**.
- It is now extinct.
- It is the **most specialised meat-eating marsupial** of all time.
- It had enormous **meat-slicing teeth**.
- It was at the top of the food chain

It is a _____

Biodiversity provides us with many of the things we need to stay alive such as oxygen and food. Sometimes unusual living things supply us with these important things.



Use the *Surviving Australia* exhibition floorplan to find the section, **Stromatolites** to find the answer to this clue.

Living thing – the oldest direct evidence of life

- They look like **rocks** but are made by living things.
- They contain layers of microscopic organisms called blue-green algae or cyanobacteria.
- Some are ancient and lived **3,400 million years ago**.
- Some **living** ones are found in Shark Bay in Western Australia.
- Some live in saltwater pools isolated from the open sea.

They are _____

You may have seen them and be very familiar with them, but did you know they only can be found in the Southern Hemisphere?



Use the *Surviving Australia* exhibition floorplan to find the section, **Island Homes** to find the answer to this clue.

Animal – is it a fish or a bird?

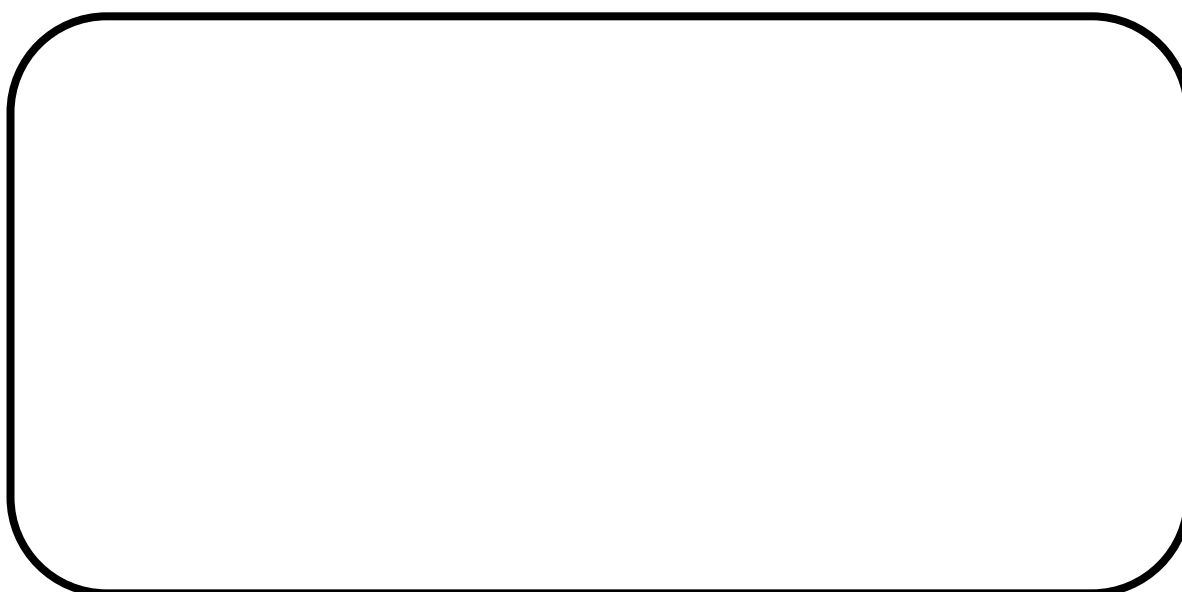
- There are 17 species of them.
- Some of them are adapted to live in **cold** climates and some live right on the **equator**.
- The bigger they are, the further south they live.
- They can travel as much as 100 km per day!
- They **dive** under water and can be underwater for 18 minutes.

They are _____

- The smallest species is just 40 centimetres tall and it can be found in Sydney.

It is called: _____

Draw one below.



They were once part of the Australian fauna, but now they are extinct. We can learn about them by seeing them in museums.



Use the *Surviving Australia* exhibition floorplan to find the section, **Island Homes** to find the answer to this clue.

Animal A – a bird

- It used to live on **Macquarie Island**.
- It became extinct after **people introduced** the New Zealand Weka into its environment.
- The introduced Weka ate this bird's eggs and young.
- It became extinct in 1891.

It is a _____



Use the *Surviving Australia* exhibition floorplan to find the section, **Where are they now?** to find the answer to this clue.

Animal B – a marsupial

- It was last seen in 1936.
- It had stripes that made it look a bit like a tiger.
- It is one of Australia's best known extinct animals.
- It was **hunted by humans**.
- It was blamed for **killing** farmer's sheep.

It is a _____

Much of Australia's flora and fauna are threatened and many species are endangered.



Use the *Surviving Australia* exhibition floorplan to find the section, **Where are they now?** to find the answer to this clue.

Animal – a marsupial

- It lives in **woodlands**.
- It is Australia's largest marsupial carnivore.
- It is '**vulnerable**' to extinction.
- It used to live on mainland Australia but is now only found in Tasmania.
- Its populations are getting smaller because of a facial cancer epidemic and loss of habitat.

It is a _____

