

## ENVIRONMENT

## Environment Theme Ideas

### **Activity: Answer the Questions**

Each group gets an identical newspaper. Questions are then asked. The answers are to be found in the newspaper. Example: What was the weather forecast for October 3rd?, Who was married or was buried on March 13th?, On which page can you find ...? How many words does the article with the title "XXX" have?, Find an article that has exactly 55 words in it., Which article did the editor write? Who won the game in which X played Y?, etc.

### **Game: Australian Animals**

All the players sit in a circle, they are given the name of an Australian animal, e.g.; wombat, wallaby, gecko, emu, magpie etc (make sure there are more than two of each animal). One player sits in the middle of the circle. When an animal is called, all players with that name change places with another player of the same name. The middle player tries to gain a place in the circle by getting to a vacant spot first. If the centre player succeeds the player left sits in the middle of the circle, waiting to get a vacant spot.

### **Game: Bat and the Moth**

One player is a bat with a blindfold and a shaker. Another is a moth with a blindfold and a shaker. Bat and moth go inside circle of players standing around to protect the bat and moth from going too far. The bat shakes shaker and the moth returns shake (to represent echo location or the way bats see). Once bat touches moth, new players are chosen to represent bat and moth.

***The Greater Bilby is an iconic threatened marsupial that used to live in much of mainland Australia. These days it is restricted to drier desert areas in the Northern Territory (NT) and Western Australia (WA) and to a small corner of south-western Queensland. Bilbies do most of their foraging at night. They like to eat a mix of plant food (bulbs and seeds) and insects (termites, witchetty grubs and spiders), most of which they dig up with their strong front legs. One of the bilby's favourite foods is the bush onion that grows in desert sand plains after fires.***

### **Game: The Bilby is Hungry**

Divide the players into two or three teams. One team at a time uses their nose to move as many bush onions (balls) into the burrow (cardboard box – front flap is cut out – this is the entrance to the burrow) in a given time frame. Record the number of bush onions each team is able to get to their burrow in a set time period.

### **Activity: Build a Bridge**

Each team has 10 minutes to build a self-supporting paper bridge using the materials provided. They can only use the materials provided.

Things You Need: A stack of newspapers, one roll of sticky tapes for each team, measuring tape. Feel free to use additional materials, or change the materials listed. Be creative!

Setup: Split the group into teams of three people. Each team has access to unlimited amount of newspapers and one sticky tape. Each team has 10 minutes to build a bridge. Facilitator can measure the length of each bridge using measuring tape. The team which makes the longer bridge in the allocated time is the winner.

Rules of the game: Cannot use the sticky tape to attach the bridge to the ground or table. Sticky tape can only be used in the structure of the bridge. The bridge can have a maximum of two support columns.

**Activity: Build a Tabletop Hovercraft**

Use some recycled materials to build a hovercraft and explain the science behind how it works.

**Game: Can Relay**

Players in relay formation. Each player has to hit a can (or some other recycled item) around an obstacle course (chairs).

**Activity: Carbon Footprint**

Divide up into groups and give each group paper and a pen. Challenge each group to come up with as many ways as possible to reduce their carbon footprint.

**Discussion: Endangered Animals**

Discuss why some animals are becoming endangered.

When the numbers of a species, or kind, of animals become very low, they are facing a risk of becoming extinct.

**Extinct** means there are no more left.

**Critically Endangered** indicates that the species is facing an extremely high risk of becoming extinct very soon.

**Endangered** means a species is in danger of becoming extinct.

**Vulnerable** means that the species is not yet classified as endangered, but numbers are continuing to drop.

In the past 200 years about 17 different Australian mammals have become extinct. Many more mammals and other animals are in danger of dying out. Australia has more endangered species than any other continent.

**Some Reasons for Animals Becoming Endangered**

- Some Australian animals depend on a specific food or habitat, and if these disappear, the animals will not survive.
- Many native animals are killed by introduced predators such as cats, dogs and foxes.
- Other introduced animals such as cattle, rabbit and deer eat the food needed by native animals and this has also reduced the numbers.
- Hoofed grazing animals such as cattle and sheep often crush the burrows of small native animals. Hoofed animals are introduced, not native to Australia.
- Loss of habitat as land is mined or cleared for houses or farms, or forests logged for timber, is also another major cause of the reduction of native animal numbers.

**Game: Get Acquainted Game**

Everyone sits in a circle on chairs with one less chair than the group needs. One person stands in the middle with a rolled newspaper in his hand. The game begins: the person in the middle says a name, that person must quickly say another name. If he is too slow, the person in the middle hits him with the newspaper and he must then take his place in the middle.

**Variation:** no names are allowed to be repeated so that every name is called.

**Activity: I Can Make A...**

The challenge is to make a hat, a plane or a boat out of a newspaper page. Whose plane flies the farthest? Whose boat floats the best?

**Activity: Marble Run**

Devise a way of transporting a marble from A to B using cardboard tubes.

**Activity: Newspaper Mummy**

Each group must totally wrap up one person in newspapers. The mummy is packed using adhesive tape or package twine. Then the mummy must be transported from point A to point B. Who is the fastest? Which mummy is best preserved?

**Game: Newspaper Relay Race**

Each group gets 2 newspaper pages. The first page is put on the ground in front of the first player. He stands on it and places the second page in front of him on the ground. He then stands on it. This continues until the player reaches the goal where he then runs back to the start and the next player on his team takes his turn and so on.

**Activity: Newspaper Snake**

The longest snake is made by tearing a strip of newspaper. Use a ruler to measure the strips.

**Game: Ocean Wave**

Chairs are placed in a circle, and everyone has one except one player who stands in the centre. The player in the centre calls "shift right" or "shift left" and each player in the circle must move to the respective chair one place away. The centre player changes the call fast and often, but he must be careful not to call faster than the players can move, or there will be a mix-up. He can call several of the one move in succession. Every once in a while the centre player tries to get a chair for himself, and the one displaced then goes into the centre.

**Game: Paper Salad**

Small pieces of newspaper are sucked up with a straw from bowl A to bowl B. Variation: the snippets of paper can be moved using chopsticks.

**Game: Possum Run**

Draw circle with chalk on the floor, or use hula hoops. Select one or two players to be dogs. The rest of the players are possums. The dogs try to chase the possums. The possums are safe if in a tree (chalk circle or hula hoop). Only one possum can be in a tree at a time. If a second possum enters a tree, the first possum must leave the tree. Any possums that are caught can become dogs and chase the possums.

### **Game: Recycle Run**

Players sit in a circle. Give each player the name of a recycled item. There needs to be at least 2 players with the same name.

- a) Aluminium can
- b) Steel can
- c) PET plastic
- d) Newspaper
- e) Cardboard

Place a small bean bag or other suitable item in the centre of the circle.

Leader calls out an item, all those players named that item get up, run around the outside of the circle in a clockwise direction. When they get back to their position they run into the centre of the circle and pick up the beanbag.

Once the beanbag has been retrieved the players sit down in their original places. Leader calls another name etc.

### **Game: Recycling King**

This is based on Rob the Nest. Divide the players into teams and number off. Near each team is a recycling bin (small hoop or chalk circle). In the middle of the hall are items that can be recycled - tins, plastic bottles etc. Call a number – the player from each team with that number runs and retrieves an item. They continue to collect items until another number is called. When there are no more items in the middle of the hall they can steal from other teams. Players can only retrieve one item at a time.

### **Activity: Re-use**

Divide up into groups and give each a piece of paper and a pen. Show various items - can etc - each group tries to come up with as many re-use possibilities for that item. Repeat with different items.

### **Activity: Re-use Craft**

Make something out of recycled items - use your imagination - could make a musical instrument.

### **Game: Reuse Hockey**

Divide the players into two teams and number off. Place a box with a hole in one side at each end of the hall – this is the goal. A tin can and two newspaper sticks are placed in the middle of the hall. When their number is called – each player with that number runs out – grabs a stick and tries to score a goal with the tin.

### **Activity: Re-use Newspaper**

Use newspaper to make a hat, boat, plane, cup etc. Use it for a papier-mâché project. Make a newspaper pot for seedlings. Weave it for a craft project. Use it as part of a collage project.

### **Activity: Shooting Gallery**

Make a triangle tower using tin cans. Standing some distance away players try and knock the cans down using tennis balls - or could use some other recycled item.

**Game: Shrinking Islands**

Scatter the newspaper around the room to form “islands”. Tell the players that they are all animals looking for food and water, while the music is playing. When the music stops, they must find shelter for themselves and all of their fellow animals by making sure that everyone gets onto an “island”. If there are no empty islands, players must share with each other. Each round gradually take away portions of islands (by ripping newspaper) or taking away whole islands. Tell the players that it is for one of the following reasons:

- Land is being cleared for houses.
- A drought has affected a habitat.
- An oil spill has left a habitat unable to support life.
- A fire has razed a forest to the ground.
- Water pollution has affected the water supply.
- A forest is being logged for timber.
- The land is being mined for resources.
- Etc.

Continue removing islands until everyone is piled onto just a few islands and it’s not possible to fit all the players on what is left!

**Game: The Watchman**

One player is blind-folded, sits on a chair or table and holds a rolled-up newspaper in his hand. The other players try to crawl as quietly as possible under the chair or table without getting hit. Instead of crawling, a set of keys can be placed under the chair or table and the players must get them without getting hit. It can be agreed upon that each player can only be hit 3 times before he is out. The last player becomes the watchman.