



Enhancing the News

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Biodiversity in crisis

Humans are dependent on biodiversity for life, yet many environmental threats are a result of human activity. Currently, the rate of mammal extinctions in Australia is the highest in the world.

Are we doing enough to protect our biodiversity from dangers such as land clearing, habitat loss, salinity and global warming? A balance between human development and conservation is vital for future quality of life and economic prosperity.

Help students understand the importance of Australia's biodiversity and encourage them to be passionate about conservation and sustainability. The free [Wild Australasia feature article](#) examines Australia's diverse landscape. [The Web study guide](#) expresses concern about animals facing extinction, and the [Shark Tracker study guide](#) looks at food chains, binomial nomenclature, ecological issues, destruction of habitat and over fishing.

[Ttn](#) contains a story on the Orangutan Funding project that aims to save the wild orangutan species from extinction. [Science Clips: Habitats](#) presents a range of habitats and explains the importance of conservation, and [Behind the News Special: People and the Environment](#) looks at the ways people influence the environment in positive and negative ways. [Scope: Rainforests](#) explores the science behind rainforests and asks what is an ecosystem?

Episodes from the Wild Australasia series: [Wild Down Under](#), [Desert Heart](#), [Southern Seas](#), [Gum Tree Country](#), [Island Arks](#), and [New Worlds](#), showcase the natural history of our country and the surrounding islands. ([Study guide](#) available) [Ten Million Wildcats](#) offers an informative view on the exploits of feral cats and their position in the Australian environment. ([Study guide](#) available) [Muddy Waters: Life and Death on the Great Barrier Reef](#) discovers what's killing the reef and what can be done to save it. ([Study guide](#) available)

[Totally Australia: A Long Life](#) highlights the importance of research, conservation and protection of marine creatures in Australia, and [Totally Australia: Facing Extinction](#) looks at what a team of scientists, researchers and nature lovers are doing to save our endangered mammals. The [Wildness study guide](#) accompanies the

[Wildness](#) documentary that tells the story of two men whose passion for nature became a crusade to save an environment under threat.

Episodes from the Salinity series: [Australia's Silent Menace](#), [Australia's Rural Menace](#), and [Australia's Urban Menace](#), reveals one of our country's biggest environmental threats and looks at every state affected by salt. [Difference of Opinion: Power to the People](#) discusses the energy alternatives to deal with global warming. The [Eco House Challenge complete series](#) stresses the importance of reducing our consumption of energy, water, transport and waste, and can be used to explore environmental sustainability. ([Study guide](#) available)

