

RATIONALE

You can be a herpetologist

Category: Self-guided activity

- **a Self-Guide taking you to six herpetological habitats between the Education Centre and the Car Park**
- **Borrow: laminated sheets for teacher/support persons to use at each station**
- **supported by teacher notes containing extra information and suggestions for pre- and post-visit activities**
- **have fun while discovering for yourself the necessary components of a successful habitat**

What is it?

This is a Self-Guide that encourages visitors to observe, question and discover for themselves the necessary components of a successful habitat. The program takes about one hour and is supported by teacher notes.

The borrowable component consists of laminated sheets, one for each of the habitats under investigation. These sheets are collected from the Education Centre on arrival and returned at the end of the program. Each sheet contains a distribution map, habitat photograph and image of the animal under investigation. **(This material is identical to the downloads, but in colour)**. Written clues are provided, followed by open-ended questions that require close observation skills and a questioning of the evidence. No written responses are necessary, although this is an option.

The program is supported by teacher notes that include extra information about the herpetofauna under investigation as well as suggestions for pre- and post-visit activities that can be completed in class.

Who's it for?

- Years 5-8
- for groups interested in what makes a habitat and the importance of biodiversity
- also suitable as School Holiday Program in conjunction with ACT Herpetological Association annual display (mid-January)

Why do it?

- to investigate potential habitats for some reptiles and amphibians
- to gain practice in observation, discovery and developing attitudes and values
- curriculum links: the following Across Curriculum Perspectives are addressed in this program – environmental education, Australian education, information access and language for understanding

What do you get?

- a Self-Guide consisting of value-add laminated sheets for use during your visit to the Gardens
- each sheet contains a distribution map, images, information, clues and open-ended questions
- supported by A4 booklet of teacher notes that provide extra information and pre- and post-visit activities
- on our Web site:
 - a brief description of the program
 - a taster: interactive – find a habitat for an Eastern Water Dragon

When?

- 45-60 minutes
- Self-Guide material can be borrowed for one hour sessions: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm (weekdays only) from the Education Centre. Please phone to arrange.

Where?

- Various habitats between the Education Centre and the Car Park

How Much?

- teacher notes free
- loan of laminated sheets (5 sets)

***You can be a
herpetologist!***

WHAT TO DO ON THE DAY

- The Teacher Notes provide extra information and suggestions for pre- and post-visit activities.
- Please spend a little time introducing the activity to your students.
- Allow up to one hour for this activity.
- This activity takes you to six different habitats between the Education Centre and the Car Park. A map is provided with each of the laminated sheets.
- You have a variety of options in organising your program:
- You can take the students to each of the six habitats in turn, following the route marked on the laminated sheets. It is suggested that you take the six habitats in the following order:
 - Education/Cafe Ponds
 - Rainforest Gully
 - Tasmanian Garden Rock Pond
 - Tasmanian Garden Highland Pond
 - Grassland Island
 - Main Path Ramp Pond
- Or you can divide your students into six smaller groups and provide them with one laminated sheet each. You will need to remain at a central point in order to oversee the swapping of the sheets. The Tasmanian Garden Rock Pond would be a good location for this.
- Written answers are not necessary to the success of this activity. The questions are intended to encourage close observation and discussion rather than the recording of a 'correct' answer.
- Please return these laminated sheets to the Education Centre at the end of your visit.

