

JUNIOR RANGERS



NIGHT STUFF

If you're not used to being in the bush at night, it can seem a bit scary at first. There are different sounds, no street or house lights, and lots of rustling in the bushes. Discovering who or what all these noises belong to can be quite an adventure and can change scary into exciting. Animals that come out to move around and feed at night are called "nocturnal". It's not always possible to see these animals, but you can hear them moving around in the trees or on the ground, and sometimes hear them calling, or even eating. You're not likely to see nocturnal animals during the day as they are tucked up safe in bed.

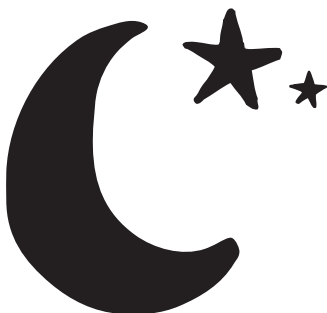
THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF TRACKING DOWN THESE ANIMALS OF THE NIGHT. LET'S EXPLORE SOME:

ANIMAL CALLS:

Listen carefully and work out where you think the animal calls are coming from. Grab a torch and go for a little night walk. It is a good idea to take an adult with you, and make sure you know the way back to your camp! If you stand away from your friend, point your torches in the direction where the sound is coming from. Where the torches meet up, this is likely to be where the animal is!

WRITE DOWN THE SOUNDS YOU CAN HEAR:

e.g. **eeek ak ak ak eeek**



DRAW PICTURES OF WHAT CREATURES YOU THINK MIGHT BE MAKING PARTICULAR SOUNDS:

Try and discover what animals are making the noises. These pictures can look quite different to the actual animal, e.g. koalas make a noise that doesn't sound like it belongs to them at all!

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EYE SHINE:

Nocturnal animals often have large eyes to help them see in the dark. Use your torch to look out for eye shine of these animals. Even spider eyes can be seen at night! Different animals have different colour eye shine. Possums have red eyes, spiders have yellow or green.

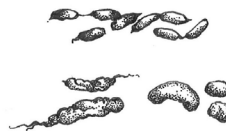
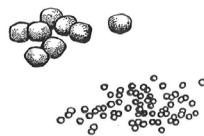
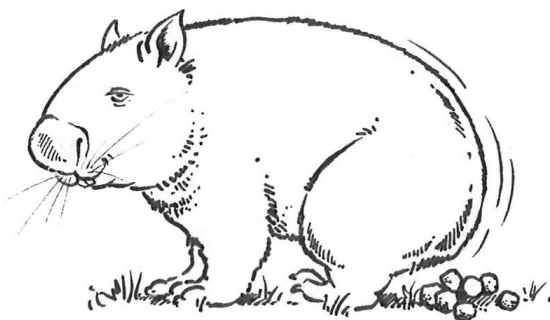
HAVE YOU SEEN ANY EYE SHINE? WHAT COLOUR WAS IT?



TRACKS AND TRACES:

During daylight, we can look for clues of tracks and traces of nocturnal animals. Clues may include tunnels through grassy or bushy areas, animal houses such as burrows, nests, spider webs and tree hollows, or animal footprints on the ground.

Another way to detect if animals are in an area is the scats or poo left behind by an animal in prominent places marking territories. A territory is the area that a particular animal calls its home. Animals often mark out the edges of their territory to warn other animals off.



WRITE DOWN THE TRACKS OR TRACES OF ANIMALS THAT YOU HAVE DISCOVERED
