

JUNIOR RANGERS



Adventures after dark!

Create a Night Sound Map

Sitting quietly and listening to the soothing sounds of nearby trees, birds and rustling grasses calms us and deepens our appreciation for the life around us. Making your own sound map is an excellent way to tune into nature and to help you record what you're hearing! Follow the instructions on the next page to create your sound map.

Once you finish your sound map, note down these observations:

What sounds did you recognise?

What sound had you never heard before?
Do you know what made the sound?

What sound did you like best? Why?



Nocturnal animals become active at night for many reasons such as to hunt, mate or avoid heat and predators! Others come out because they know their prey comes out at night or to avoid all of the competition during the day.

Some common night critters you may hear (depending on where you live) include possums, wombats, bats or even owls!



Eye shine

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

When using your torch, move the torch beam slowly across an area and be careful not to shine your torch directly into any animal's eyes.

Have you seen any eye shine? What colour was it?

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My Night Sound Map

Mark an 'X' to represent where you are sitting within the area you have chosen. When you hear a sound, make a mark on the paper to represent the sound. The location of the mark should indicate the direction and distance of the sound from your seat.

Do not draw a detailed picture for each sound, but make a simple mark. For example, a few wavy lines could represent a gust of wind, or a musical note could indicate a singing bird. Making simple marks keeps the focus on listening rather than on drawing.

Close your eyes while listening for sounds. To help increase your hearing ability, make "possum" ears by cupping your hands behind your ears. This hand position will create a greater surface area to capture sounds. Then cup your hands in front of the ears (palms facing backwards) to hear sounds behind you more easily.

You have one minute to find your special "listening place." Remain in your spot until the activity is over. Listening from 4 to 10 minutes is a good amount of time.
