

# Teacher's Notes



*Windy Hollow Books*



*Nightlife* takes readers on a journey across Australia's landscapes to discover the vibrancy and diversity of nocturnal animals that roam in the night.



## Author's Notes

My inspiration for "Nightlife" came one night while camping in the bush sitting quietly, listening to the night rustlings. So many animals are active in the evening or in the darkness, over 80% of our native wildlife in fact!

I started wondering how many of our native species are disregarded by most people because they are nocturnal, after all It's very hard to get humans to care about what they can't see. I wanted to represent some of these hidden animals in their varying habitats to bring to light the diversity of not only our native animals but also our beautiful landscapes.

I have visited and camped in many different natural environments across Australia and drew upon personal experience to illustrate some of those places in a stylized form.

I also made good use of my large collection of nature guidebooks, had interesting conversations with researchers and ecologists and spent hours browsing nature websites to gather information to capture the character each focus animal and the plants and other animals that share each respective habitat.

All of the animals represented occupy a special role within the larger ecology and I have included just a fraction of interesting information on each page to compliment the prose piece that comprises the main narrative. I hope this book inspires the reader to develop and nurture their own fascination for the nocturnal world.

*Sandra Kendall*



## Activities

### Before Reading

Looking at the title and the cover can you guess what the book might be about?

There are three nocturnal animals on the cover, can you guess what other nocturnal animals might be in the book?

What do you already know about nocturnal animals?

### After Reading

What did you learn about nocturnal animals that you didn't know?

What animals were in the book that you were surprised about or didn't know about?

What new words did you learn in the book?

At the back of the book there is a glossary of some of the more unfamiliar terms in the book. Can you find other words or terms that are new or unfamiliar and make a class glossary for the book?

Can you make a list of all the animals shown in the book and find out more about them?

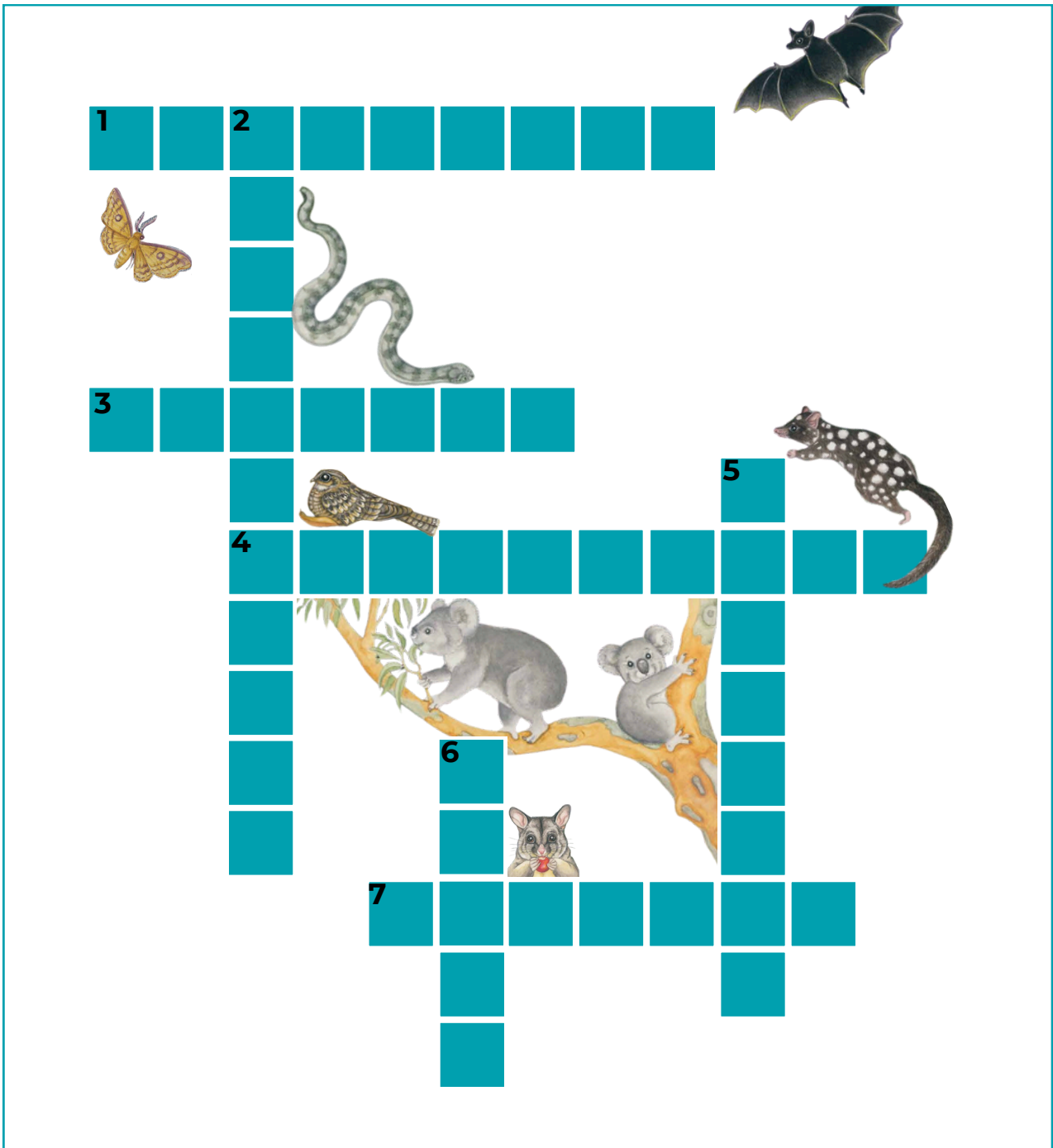
Make a class wall map. Ask class to draw their favourite animal from the book and stick it to the map where that animal may be found.

Each spread, details a different habitat and area of Australia. In groups research a particular habitat and create a diorama showing the flora and fauna. Write a creative piece based on one of the habitats and the animals found there.

## Nightlife Crossword Puzzle Answers

- 1. Nocturnal**
- 2. Crepuscular**
- 3. Diurnal**
- 4. Camouflage**
- 5. Marsupial**
- 6. Swamp**
- 7. Habitat**

## Nightlife Crossword Puzzle



## Across

1. Active at night and sleeps in daytime
3. Opposite of 1 across
4. A defensive way animals hide from prey
7. Where animals live

## Down

2. Most active at dawn and dusk
5. A mammal that carries its young in a pouch
6. An area of low lying ground where water collects.