

# ***Australian Wildlife and Flora***



# Flora

- Australia is blessed with a fascinating mix of native flora. Its distinctive plants include **the gum tree or eucalypt**, of which there are some **700 species**.
- Other common plants are **wattle, banksia, waratahs, bottlebrushes, paperbarks and tea trees**.
- **Flora of Australia consists of 15,638 native species, 1,952 naturalised species giving a total of 17,590 species. 83 species are presumed extinct**



**Eucalyptus**



**Jacarandas**



**Rainforests**



**Grass Tree**



**Ivory Cane Palm**



**Fern**



1. Rainforests
2. Palms
3. Pine

1

2

3

# Fauna

**Australia has around 240 species of mammals, 800 species of birds, 380 species of reptiles, 122 species of frogs, and 180 species of freshwater fish. The remainder are invertebrates, including insects.**

**Native animals include the Kangaroo, Koala, Emu, Possum, Wombat, Platypus, Echidna and Dingo.**



- Australia is home to many unique animal species such as **the platypus**, which is an aquatic, furred mammal with a bill like that of a duck. The Platypus belongs to an animal group known as monotremes.
- Another animal belonging to this group is **the spiny anteater, or echidna**.
- Most native mammals are marsupials. These include **koalas, kangaroos, possums, flying foxes and the ferocious Tasmanian Devil**.
- Australia also contains many varieties of **crocodile**, they are found in the tropical zone of Australia and they inhabit swamps, rivers and can also be found in the ocean near a river mouth. **Lizards** are very common, there are over 500 different species including **Goannas, Geckos and Dragons**. The Australian continent is also home to the most venomous **snakes and spiders** in the world, as well the deadly **Box Jelly Fish**.
- Australia is populated by many colourful **bird species** such as **parrots, budgerigars, rosellas, gallahs, finches and cockatoos**. The **Emu** is Australia's largest bird and is related to the Ostrich

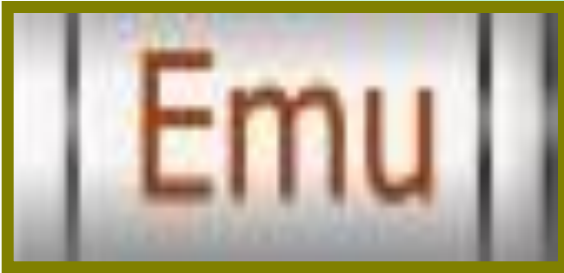
# Koala





Kangaroo





**It is hard to get close  
enough to a wild emu, but  
one sometimes gets  
lucky...**



Echidna



This is **a bandicoot** that just loves pieces of green apples that fall down after parrots pick on them.





# Dingo



# Platypus



# Tasmanian Devil





# Possum



**Both salt and freshwater crocodiles are found in the tropics, which comprises an area of the top third of Australia.**





**There are also many interesting and  
colourful birds  
including **Parrots, Cockatoos, and  
Kookaburras****



. In the evening one can see **owls** sitting on trees and on sides of roads, **wedge tail eagles and falcons** are also quite frequent. **Galahs and black cockatoos** are the most common birds, whilst **kookaburra** is a rare guest.

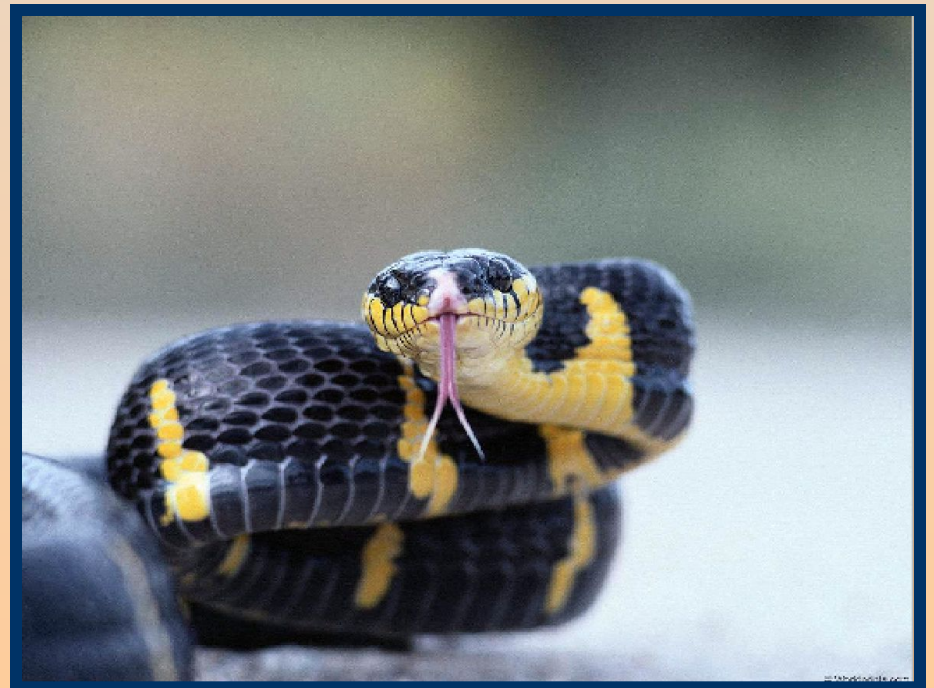






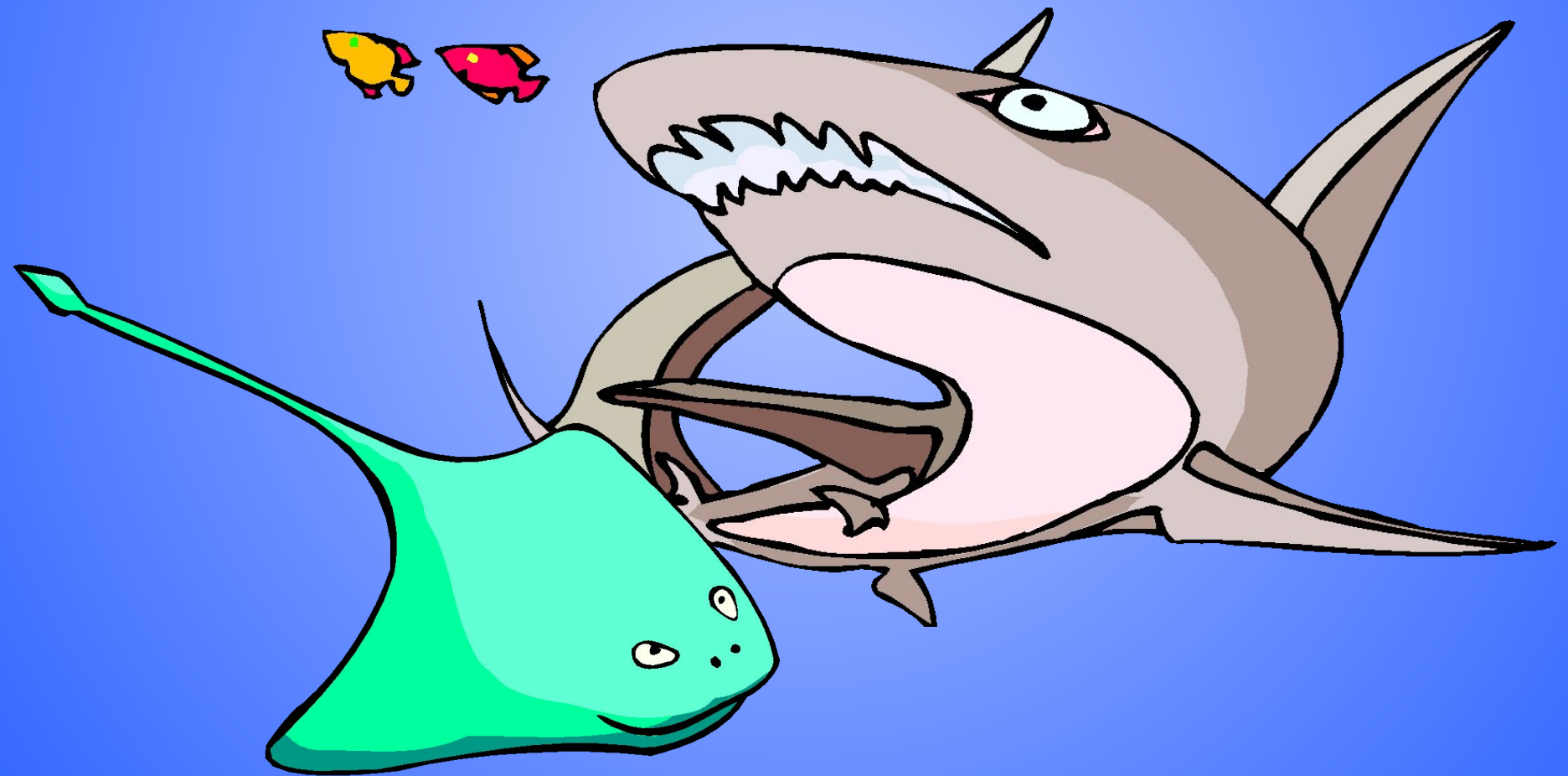
**Green parrots** are rather cheeky and are especially fond of green apples

**Australia has the most poisonous snakes on earth, including the Venomous Brown, Tiger, Death Adder, Copperhead and red bellied black varieties.**



Sea creatures to be avoided include some **sea snakes, sharks and the Box Jelly Fish**, which are many times more venomous than snakes.

**The Box Jelly Fish or Stingers** as they are also known are only a threat during the summer season in tropical Australia.



# 1,500 species of fish live in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park







# **Fauna includes spiders such as the Redback and Funnel Web.**

**The spider below is dangerous - the bite of a 'red back' could sometimes be fatal.**

**The body size of it is about 2 cm (3/4 ") in size.**





# Thorny Devil



**A creature is very prickly and has a lump of fat on its neck.**

# These are photos of creatures one can find in a typical garden.

Garden creatures





**Australians love their wildlife**

# ***Endangered species***

***Some food for thought***

**Since the settlement of Australia by Europeans in 1788, 30 species of mammals and birds have become extinct**

**The last toolache wallaby( a small kangaroo) was seen in 1927**



- **Millions of koalas** lived in the forests of **Eastern and Southern Australia in 1700**
- **Over 1,000,000 Koalas** were **killed** for their skins in **6 months in 1916**
- **Over 2,000,000 Koala skins** were exported from **Australia in 1922**
- **600,000 Koalas** were **killed** in **Queensland** in **1 month in 1927**
  - **Koalas became extinct in South Australia**

# AUSTRALIAN ZOOS

- **The Taronga Zoo**
- **Kakadu National Park**
- **The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

## **Activities**

- display animals**
- protect endangered species**
- provide veterinary care for sick, injured or orphaned animals**
- return animals to their natural habitat**
- organize school activities**





**YOU WOULD MISS THEM  
IF THEY WERE GONE**

