

# WILDLIFE CLUES ... WHO LIVES HERE?

We may not always see wildlife when we visit a place.

Here are some extra clues we can investigate. Note or draw your observations.

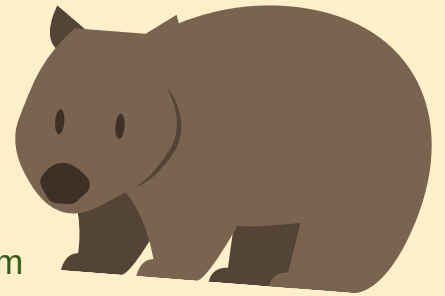
## Wombats

Wombats are often sleeping during the day, so we don't see them all that often. Think about the food, type of shelter and habits of wombats to see if they are likely to be living here.

Food: **grasses and plant roots** - can you see these here?

Shelter: look for their **burrows** or places they could dig

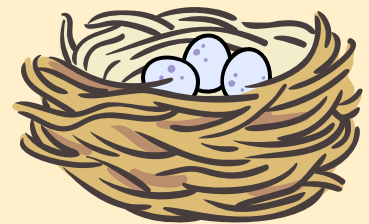
**Scats:** wombats have square-shaped scats and often leave them on top of rocks to mark their territory



## Nesting birds

Birds have varying preferences for the places they like to nest and the materials they use.

Can you find some suitable places for nesting birds here?

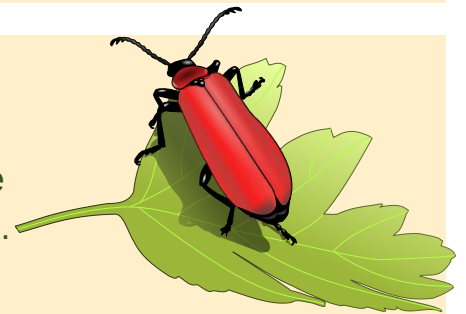


Some birds use **tree hollows**, small birds may build a nest inside **bushy plants** that offer protection. Can you **hear any birds** calling? Keep a watch for fallen **feathers**.

Look for suitable **twigs, grasses, mud**, even **spider webs** that birds might collect and build with.

## Invertebrates

Invertebrates are animals without a backbone. Invertebrates are incredibly diverse and numerous. They live just about anywhere. Insects, worms and spiders are all invertebrates.



**Listen:** can you hear insects at flowers or on plants - bees, flies and crickets, perhaps?

Can you find an **ant nest or trail**? What are they doing?

Can you spot a **spider web** or perhaps some **tiny eggs** on a leaf?

Any **holes in leaves** that might be signs that an invertebrate has been munching?

Find a **flowering plant** - are invertebrates visiting to enjoy the nectar or pollen?

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## Frogs

The easiest way to find frogs is to listen for their calls. Many local frogs are only small, yet they have a loud voice! Different species have their own calls - it's not all 'croak', some go 'bonk' or 'tat-tat-tat-tat-tat'.

Listen: can you **hear frogs** calling?

Are there **wet spots, waterways or ponds** here?

Any **rushes and reeds**? How about trees for tree frogs?

Maybe you can spot some **tadpoles** (don't get wet!)



## Possums & bats

Even though they are nocturnal, we may be able to find signs of these animals, too.

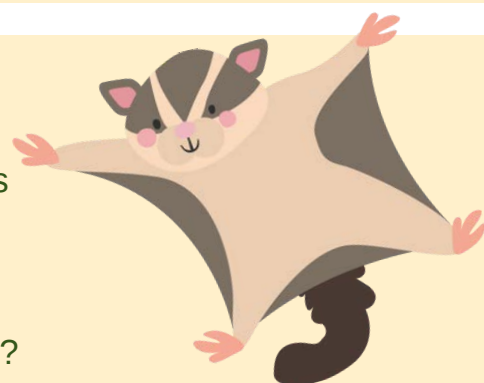
Look for **roosting sites** and **hollows** in trees.

Check below trees for **scats** - can we tell who they belong to?

Are there nest boxes in the trees here? Do you think they are for mammals or birds?

Can you find any trees with **flowers, fruit or seeds** that might be suitable food?

Look for **bits of insects** on the ground - sometimes insectivorous possums and bats drop bits of their meal when eating!



## Reptiles

We can also look for clues to see if reptiles like snakes, skinks, lizards and goannas are here.

Reptiles use **rocks to bask** in the sun and to **shelter** under.

Are there rocky spots here?

Monitors (goannas) like to visit **tree and log hollows** seeking prey or for shelter.

**Tufty plants like grasses** provide shelter and hunting grounds for reptiles.

To **avoid snakes**, keep to the path and make some noise when moving around.

