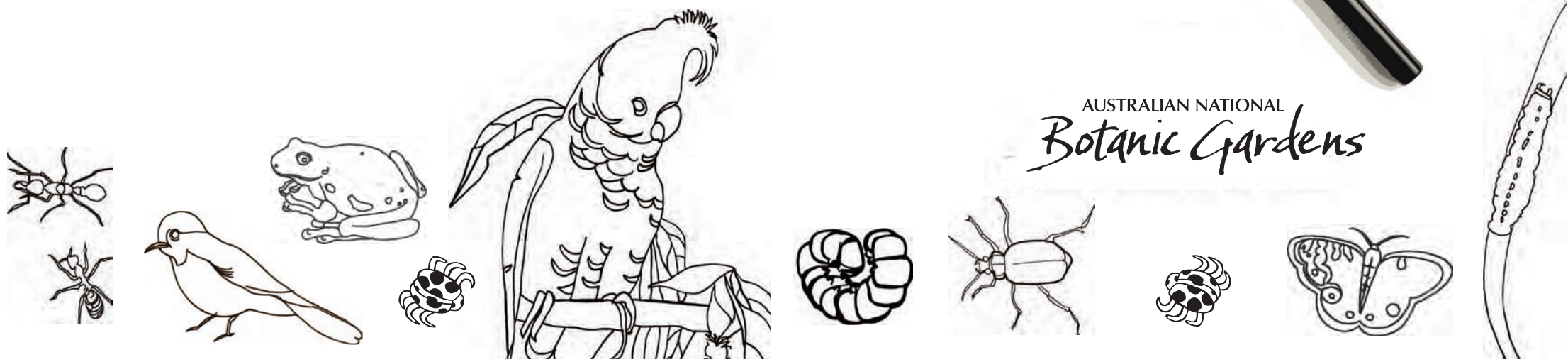


Have you ever wondered...
...who lives here?
A fun activity for the young and young at heart.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
Botanic Gardens



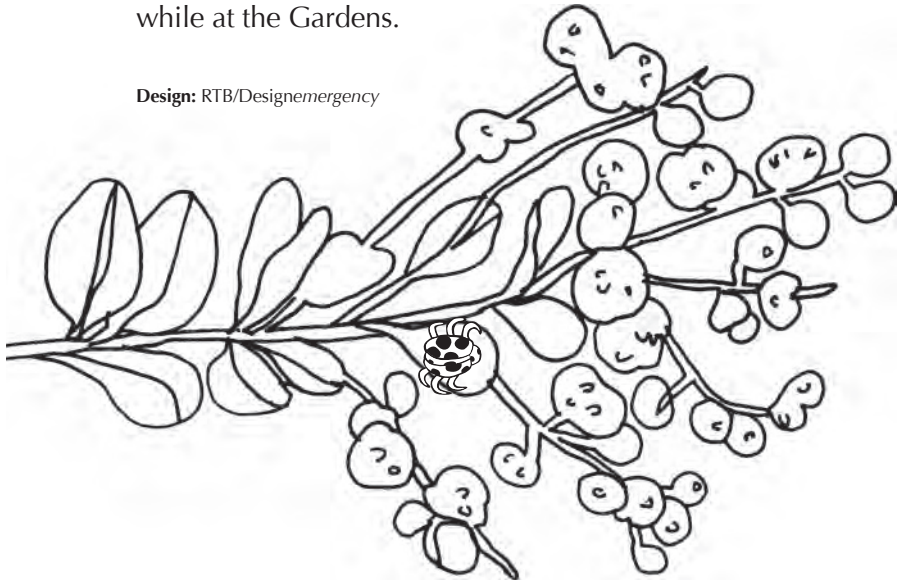
Notes for carers, parents and teachers

The purpose of the *Who lives here?* walk is to introduce children to the importance of plants and habitats. The overall concept is that vegetation holds the key to animal biodiversity. On this walk, children can also be introduced to concepts including food chains and webs, camouflage and other adaptations for survival.

- Carers, parents and teachers may need to read the booklet to younger children and explain some of the terms used.
- Supporting information for carers, parents and teachers is also included.
- Look up and around for all the creatures lurking about.
- Follow the hand lense signs to find your way.

The activities in the booklet are intended to be completed back at school or at home to reinforce the ideas explored while at the Gardens.

Design: RTB/Designemergency



Australian Government
Australian National Botanic Gardens

Want more copies? www.anbg.gov.au/education/who-lives-here-jump-off.html

Produced by Education Services Australian National Botanic Gardens
Clunies Ross Street, Acton ACT 2601

The mission of the Australian National Botanic Gardens is to grow, study and promote Australian plants.

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Have you ever wondered ...

...who eats who?

Look very hard! There might be more creatures here than you think!

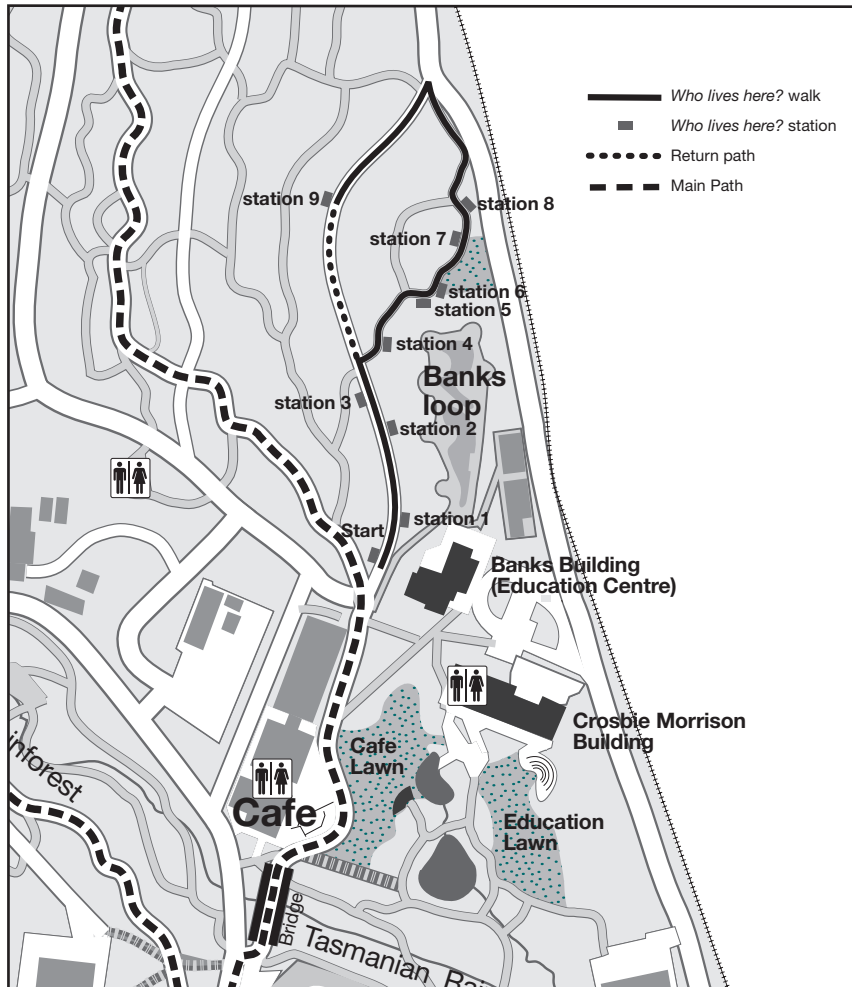
- Have you ever wondered what a fly eats?
- Can you find lunch for a spider?



Did you know:

- This is a food chain. The spider eats the fly—and the currawong eats the spider!
- Web-building spiders cover their bodies with an oil-like substance to avoid getting stuck in their own webs. They have special bristles between their claws with which to grease the threads of the web.

Bashful Beetle is hiding in lots of different places both in the booklet and in the bushes and trees! How many times can you spot Bashful?



Have you ever wondered ...

station

2

... how insects and spiders avoid being eaten?

- Who eats the leaves?
- How do they eat them?
- How many different creatures can you spot?

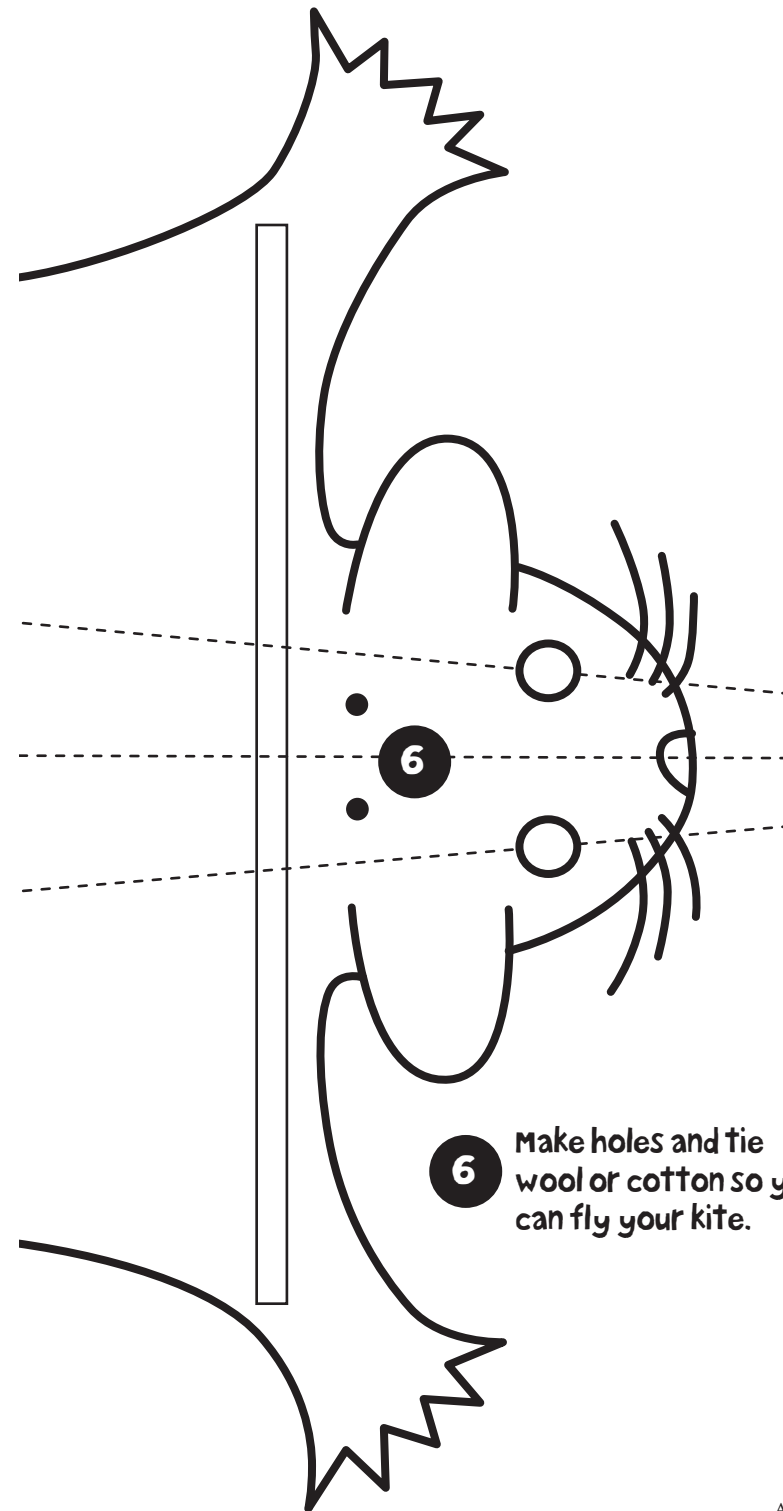


Later on, colour in the picture so that all the little creatures are still hard to find.

Did you know:

- Some insects and spiders are camouflaged. Their colour is similar to the plants they live on. This protects them from their predators.

Can you think of any other ways insects and spiders can hide? Can you find the chewers, skeletonisers and suckers?

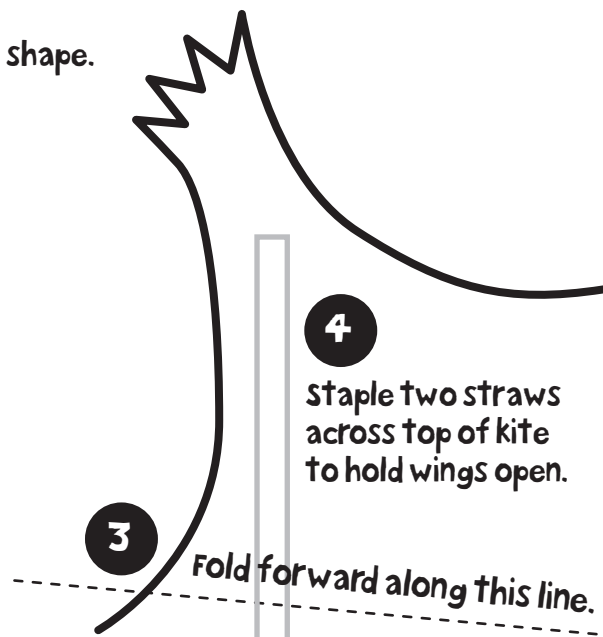


6 Make holes and tie wool or cotton so you can fly your kite.



Make a sugar glider kite

1 cut out shape.



4 Staple two straws across top of kite to hold wings open.

3 Fold forward along this line.

5 Attach tail here. crepe paper is ideal.

2 Fold back along this line.

Staple a drinking straw inside the fold to make spine stiff.



3 Fold forward along this line.

Have you ever wondered ...

station

3

... Why there are little creatures in the leaf-litter?

- What creatures live in the leaf-litter?
- Who eats these tiny creatures?
- Who do you think they are hiding from? Here's a clue.



Later on, colour in the picture.

Did you know:

- Mulch and leaf litter on the surface of the soil provide moist, dark habitats for invertebrates to live in and to hide from predators.
- These invertebrates help to break down the leaf-litter, making a nutrient-rich compost to allow new plants to grow.

Have you ever wondered ...

station

... why many birds live in trees? 4

Some birds keep watch on their nests from a distance. Why do they do this?



Later on, colour in the picture and add some baby birds to the nest.
The eggs have hatched!

Did you know:

- Bushes and trees provide excellent places for birds to roost and nest. Some birds protect their young from predators like kites by building nests in dense trees or bushes and watching them from a distance.

Have you ever wondered ...

station

... where bats and sugar gliders sleep during the day? 9

- Which nesting box is for a bat?
- Clue: look at the shape of the entrance holes.
- Which one is for a sugar glider?



Did you know:

- Seven kinds of bats visit or live in the Gardens. They sleep under the bark of trees like this, and eat insects.
- Sugar gliders live as family groups in hollows. They eat insects and flowers.
- We have provided nesting boxes as extra habitats for wildlife at the Gardens.

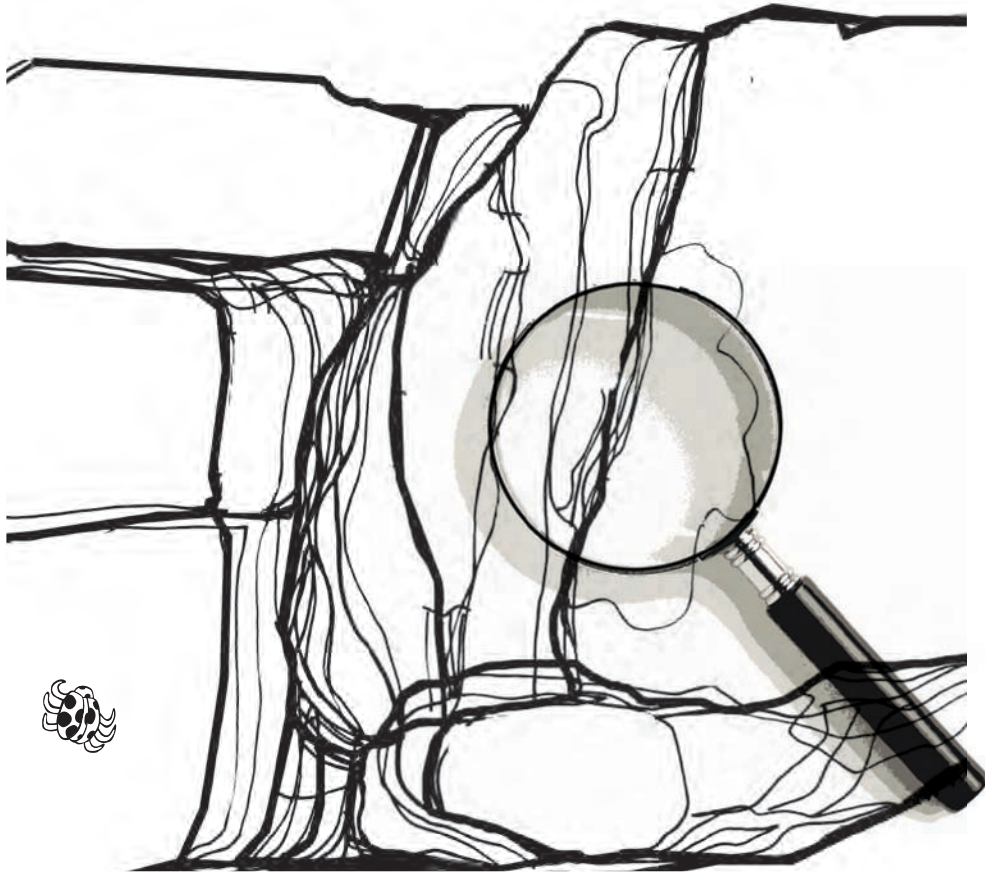
Have you ever wondered ...

station

8

... what lichen looks like close up?

How many different colours can you see?



Later on, draw and colour in the lichen and the moss.

What colours should they be?

Did you know:

- Lichens grow on rocks, slowly breaking them down into soil. Don't expect to see this happen! You would be here for a long time if you waited!
- Lichens and mosses are badly affected by air pollution. It kills them very quickly. So if there's lots of lichen, there probably isn't much air pollution!

Have you ever wondered ...

station

5

... why plants have flowers?

See if you can spot any birds or insects drinking the nectar of these flowers.



Later on, join in the dots of the banksia flower and colour it in. What colour should it be? Where's Bashful?

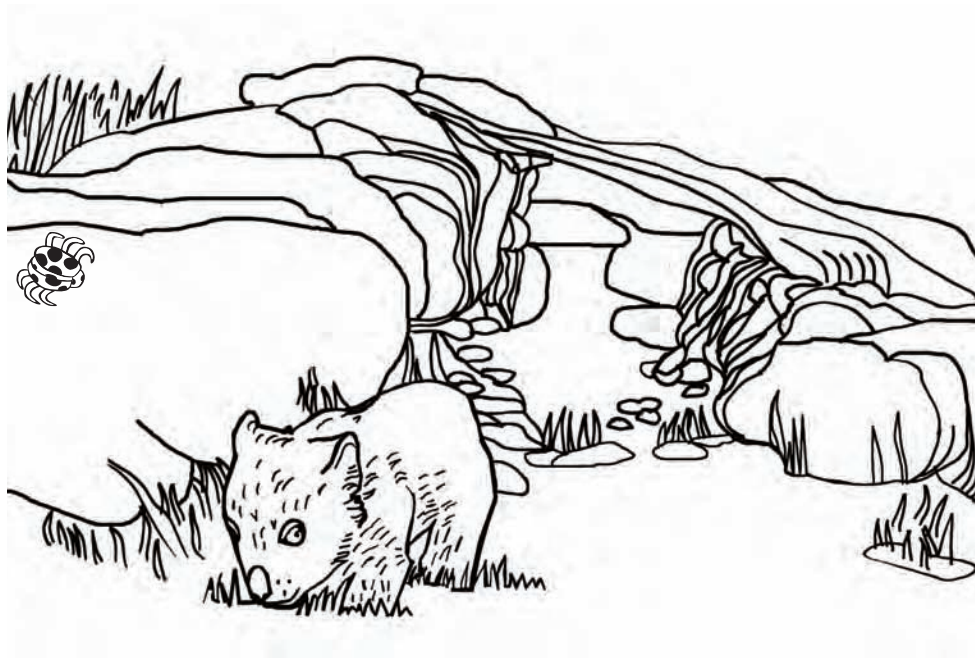
Did you know:

- Flowers attract birds like the New Holland Honeyeater and the Red Wattle Bird. They also attract insects and even some marsupials. These visitors drink the nectar from the flowers and in return pollinate them. So both the birds and the plants benefit!

Have you ever wondered ...

station

...what wombats eat and where they live? **6**



Later on, draw another burrow, some more wombats and some square poo.
Did you know:

- Wombats in Eastern Australia leave their poo on flat rocks. It's a territory marker.
- Animal poo is called 'scat'.

Have you ever wondered ...

station

... who eats the water plants? **7**



Later on, draw in the water plants and the sun. Have you ever wondered what would happen to all these little creatures if there were no water plants?

Did you know:

- This is a more complex food chain. How important are the plants to creatures that only eat other creatures?
- Water plants get their energy from the sun.