



# Queensland Museum Kids' Collection

**TEACHER NOTES AND PARENT SUPPORT MATERIAL  
LEARNING ACTIVITIES**





# ANIMALS of Australia

Teacher Notes and Parent Support Material



## Learning Activities

PAGES	TEACHING	LEARNING
Cover and title page	Text prediction from title	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children discuss the bird on the cover and predict where that bird lives and which country it is from. Discuss how they can check their knowledge and ideas.</li> <li>2. Children discuss birds they may have as pets.</li> <li>3. Children discuss different types of birds which you can not keep as a pet in a cage but may have seen around or at a zoo.</li> </ol>
Children choose one bird and learn deeper knowledge about this species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New birds of Australia</li> <li>• Vocabulary</li> <li>• Species types</li> <li>• 3 facts more... Learning facts from a research site.</li> </ul>	Children engage in new bird names and extend their knowledge with looking up these birds on the internet to learn three new facts about each bird.
Discuss Colour words	Make a list of the colours which are seen in the illustration of each bird.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discerning colours</li> <li>2. Listing conclusions</li> </ol>
All pages	Speech Marks	Children learn how to read speech marks using different voices for each speaker.
All pages	International Birds project task	Children choose and research a bird from another nation which does not live in Australia. Children present a poster presentation about this bird. Students present their facts to the class.
All pages	Graphs and Statistics - Chance and Data Mathematics	<p>Children vote on their favourite bird in the book.</p> <p>They draw the bird and explain in one sentence why they like the bird they chose.</p> <p>Class counts the votes for each bird and discovers which bird is the most popular in the class.</p>

**My Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Graphs and Statistics from *Hello Bird* Tally Sheet.

Children vote and tally their favourite animal from the book.



Birds in the story	Tally Marks	Total
Kookaburra		
Budgerigar		
Galah		
Pacific Black Duck		
Black Swan		
Cockatiel		
Rainbow Lorikeet		
Little Penguin		
Crimson Rosella		
Gouldian Finch		

# A letter in the post...

We would love to hear from you... and your students.



**Email:** You can email the Author at: [donna@donnadyson.com](mailto:donna@donnadyson.com)

**Snail Mail:** You can mail a letter to the author care of the Queensland Museum Publishing Department.

Address your snail mail envelopes like this:

Author Mail: Donna Dyson  
Queensland Museum Publishing  
PO Box 3300,  
South Brisbane BC, Queensland 4101

Donna Dyson tries hard to reply to all class and student mail and you can expect your reply to be returned as soon as possible.

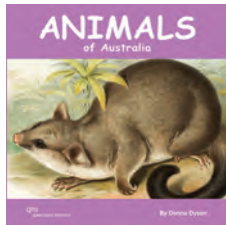
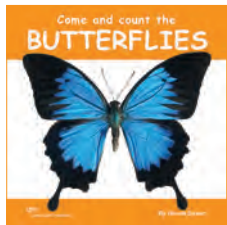
In many cases, [one class letter](#) is sent from the author to the class as a whole.

Individual questions or special comments relating to a few students may be included in this class letter.

The letters are always [written fresh](#) and respond to the student's interests. There is [no generic letter](#), so children can be specific.

You might like to [send images or utube link of your class performing](#) any of the titles of this series. Make sure you have a [media release](#) signed by your student's parents and cleared with your school administration, before sending us images please. These images may be used for marketing and promotion for QM learning on our website.

[We love hearing from you and your students!](#)  
[If your students need assistance with letter writing, a template follows.](#)



# Letter Writing:

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Your school **name** goes here

Your school **address** goes here

Your school **suburb, State and Postcode** go here

Leave this line with no writing on it here.

The date goes here. It is written like this example: 5th March, 2011

Leave two lines with no writing on it here\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mrs Dyson,

Write your letter here. You might want to write about your favourite part of a book Mrs. Dyson wrote, or about your favourite book you have ever read. You might like to ask a question about writing or how books are made which is not covered on her website.

Tell Mrs Dyson about your story writing at school , what you enjoy and are good at in school, your sports, hobbies or pets. Mrs Dyson loves hearing all of your thoughts and news. She tries hard to write back to you as soon as possible. She **can not write to your home mailbox**, but she will send you a **snail mail** letter back through your school. Make sure you write your full name, class and school name very carefully. This is how Mrs Dyson's letter will find you.

If you write by **email** to Mrs Dyson, she will simply reply by your email address as long as it is a school email. Mrs Dyson **will not reply to home email addresses or facebook sites**. Proofread your email with your teacher who will assist you to send your email so that your school email address is correct. This makes it easy for Mrs Dyson to easily reply to you or your class.

Author visits from Mrs Dyson, are arranged with your teacher /school librarian / head of curriculum or principal. Mrs Dyson does enjoy visiting schools, but sometimes she is unable to reach all schools. **Doctor Dan** from the book **Your Shipwreck Adventure** is unable to visit schools, but he **does reply** to all emails. Remember there really is a Doctor Dan! When you finish all the news you end your letter with an ending such as **kind regards, or yours truly, or yours sincerely**.

**Kind regards,**

Then you sign your name here in your fanciest signature.

*Sam Smith*

Mrs Dyson likes you to PRINT your name very clearly in your best writing at the end.

Sam Smith. (Well done! Now it is time to post or email your letter!)