

BUSH BLITZ BADGE

FOR GIRL GUIDES

Challenges & Worksheets



GIRL GUIDES
AUSTRALIA



BUSH BLITZ BADGE



GIRL GUIDES IN AUSTRALIA HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND ENVIRONMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

The team at Bush Blitz and Girl Guides Australia now offer this opportunity to Guides throughout Australia to take part in the Bush Blitz badge. This has been created to support the Australian Guide Program. Guides will be able to take part in this program and earn the blanket badge to sew on their bag or blanket etc.



If you are up for outdoor adventure around the garden or a bush area, then take a look at this!

WHAT TO DO

To earn your Bush Blitz badge, you need to explore and discover the natural environment around you, take photos of naturally occurring plants and animals, and your Leader will upload your findings to iNaturalist.

- ✓ Check out the Bush Blitz resource and decide if you, your Patrol or Unit is interested.
- ✓ Please consider the safest and best way to participate in this challenge.

Remember, we have process for planning activities in our Guide Program:

Discover, Decide, Plan, Do, Evaluate

- Discover and Decide what you are going to do
- Plan the activity
- Do the activity
- Evaluate how you went!
- ✓ Share your findings or what you may have learnt with your Patrol or Unit
- ✓ Guides can research other areas of the Recognition System to find what other challenges might be relevant.



For any technical issues, please contact: bushblitz@awe.gov.au

Email feedback to: guides@girlguides.org.au



About Bush Blitz



Bush Blitz is Australia's largest nature discovery program – a unique multi-million dollar partnership between the Australian Government through Parks Australia and the Australian Biological Resources Study, BHP and Earthwatch Australia to document plants and animals across Australia.

Since the program began in 2010 Bush Blitz has discovered more than 1,800 new species and has added thousands of species records to what is already known, increasing our scientific knowledge to help us protect our biodiversity for generations to come.

There are many plants and animals still to be discovered by science. There are an estimated 580,000 to 680,000 species in Australia, but three-quarters of this biodiversity is yet to be identified. Forty-five per cent of continental Australia and over 90 per cent of our marine area have never been comprehensively surveyed by scientists.

Bush Blitz involves specialist taxonomists, Indigenous communities, rangers and landowners, teachers, students and BHP employees. Together they are making an extraordinary contribution to the protection of our country's natural heritage.



To find out more about Bush Blitz check out our website and social media - www.bushblitz.org.au

A Bush Blitz discovery story



When Amanda took a photo of a little brown spider sitting on top of her recycling bin, she had no idea she was about to leave her mark on the taxonomy of rare Australian spiders.

If you think you need to go to the depths of the Amazon to find a new species, think again. When Amanda De George of Illawarra took a photo of a little brown spider on her recycling bin, she had no idea that she had photographed a rare Australian jumping spider species unknown to science, an undescribed *Jotus*.

Amanda posted the photo to social media in the hope that someone might identify it. She found out just how special it was when it was seen by Museums Victoria taxonomist, Joseph Schubert. "When I got up close to the little brown spider, I noticed it had this vibrant blue face, so I posted the photo on Facebook and didn't think any more of it" said Amanda. "I went to get groceries, and a coffee, and by the time I found out how special it was that spider was long gone!"

To name a new species of spider, taxonomists need to study it under a microscope. This means they need to have the actual spider, not just a photo.

"When Joseph asked if I had the spider from the photo, I frantically started looking for it again, but it was only the size of a pea..." Amanda admitted. "I was kicking myself I hadn't caught it when I saw it. Then a couple of days later, low and behold, I saw another one bouncing along the dash inside my car! Joseph told me how to carefully package it so I could post it to him, and the rest is history."

Amanda posted the carefully packaged cargo across the New South Wales border to Joseph in Melbourne, Victoria. Joseph is caring for the undescribed *Jotus* species at home until he can study it under a microscope at Museums Victoria's laboratory. The new spider will be part of a scientific review of the jumping spider genus *Jotus* and will be formally described and named in the scientific literature.

How to earn your Bush Blitz badge



To earn your Bush Blitz badge you need to explore and discover the natural environment around you, take photos of naturally occurring plants and animals, and your leader will upload your findings to iNaturalist.

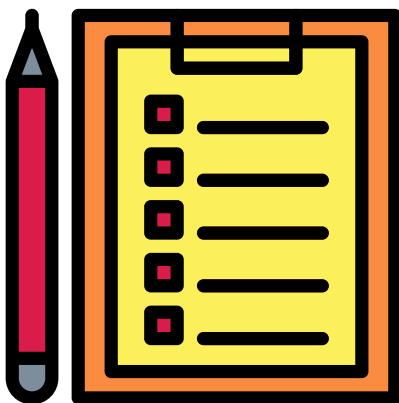
Explore and discover
the natural environment around you.

Document and record
plants and animals in their natural environment.

Choose one or more challenges to achieve your Bush Blitz badge.



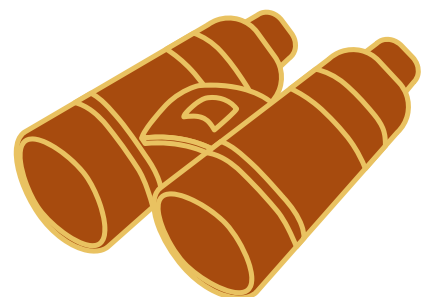
Lockdown friendly



Scavenger hunt



Housebound
hunting



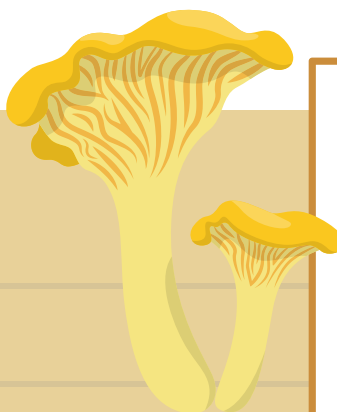
Native species
investigation



Challenge 1: Scavenger hunt!

*Discover species in your backyard**

Discover and photograph at least 6 of the 12 items on the checklist below to earn your Bush Blitz badge!

☐

Fungi

☐

Lichen

☐

Flowering plant

☐

Vertebrate

☐

Gastropod

☐

Insect

☐

Crustacean

☐

Myriapod

☐

Sound recording

☐

Tracks or traces of an animal

☐

Mammal

☐

Arachnid

Equipment

- Camera
- Copy of checklist

Preparation

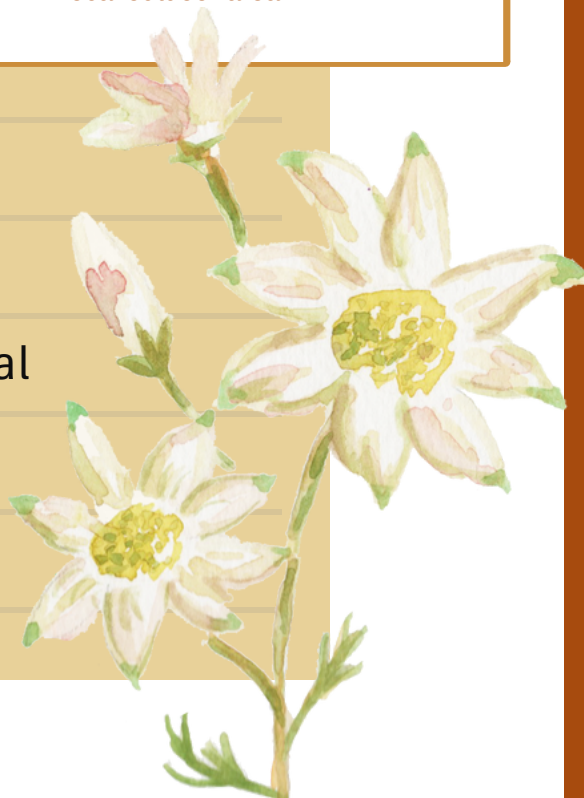
- Copy of checklist

Duration

- 1 hour group activity
- OR can be done over multiple days for as much time as you like

Setting

- Backyard
- Local outdoor area



**Backyard can include your local outdoor area*



Challenge 2: Housebound hunting

Discover what creatures live inside your house!

Find and photograph as many creatures as possible in 30 minutes...

Investigate ceilings, bathroom drains and sheds for arachnids (spiders). This White Banded House Jumper (*Maratus griseus*) was found in a carpet 'jungle'.

Remember not to touch our 8-legged friends!

Ready, set, go!



Check out your window sills, as flying insects can often be found looking for a way out. Don't worry if your insect is dead, plus they're easier to photograph if they're not moving!



Equipment

- Camera

Preparation

- Brainstorm where creatures might be hiding.

Duration

- 30 min

Setting

- Inside your house or group meeting place!

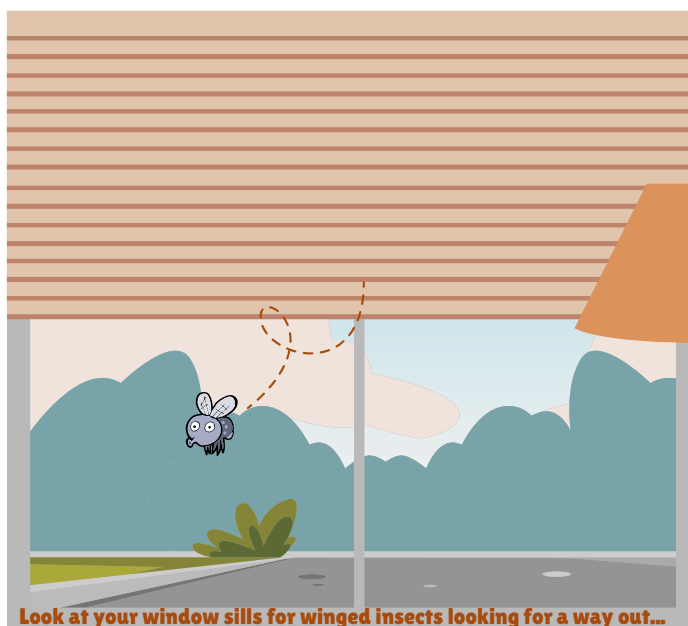


The average Aussie house is home to about 100 different species!

Housebound hunting tips

Where to look?

Have a look at lamp shades for light-attracted insects like moths.



Look at your window sills for winged insects looking for a way out...



Look inside pot-plants for insects living on foliage or in soil.

Hi! Please remember not to touch us!

Have a closer look at your rugs...



Challenge 3: Native species investigation

Identify native plant or animal species and their habitat and reflect on why habitats are important

- Investigate your local natural environment and discover and photograph 3 different native plant or animal species.
- Once your observations are uploaded to iNaturalist, other people will see them and help with identification.

Investigating habitat

What is habitat?

*A habitat is the natural home or environment of a **plant, animal, or other organism**. It provides the organisms that live there with food, water, shelter and space to survive.*

Investigate each of your species' habitats by researching and answering these questions:

- Where did you find your native species?
- What does your species need to survive?
- What habitat does your species need?
- Is their habitat threatened? If so, what threatens their habitat?

To help you answer these questions you can complete one of the 2 worksheets below.



What is a native species?

A species that is within its known natural range, and occurs naturally in a given area or habitat, as opposed to an introduced species or invasive species.



Equipment

- Camera

Preparation

- No preparation needed.

Duration

- 2 hours
- OR can be done over multiple days for as much time as you like

Setting

- Backyard
- Local outdoor area



Name: _____



Native species investigation – option 1

Instructions: Draw your three native species observations and their habitat below. Try to capture key characteristics of the species and what habitat they need.

1. Native Species

Habitat

2. Native Species

Habitat

3. Native Species

Habitat

Name: _____



Native species investigation – option 2

Instructions: Research the native species that you have observed and answer the following questions. Repeat this worksheet for each of your observations

Identification

Circle one: Fauna / Flora / Fungi / Lichen

Common name
(if applicable):

Scientific
name:
(iNaturalist can
help you with
this)

Habitat - observations

Describe where you found the species.

Habitat - research

Research what habitat your species needs.

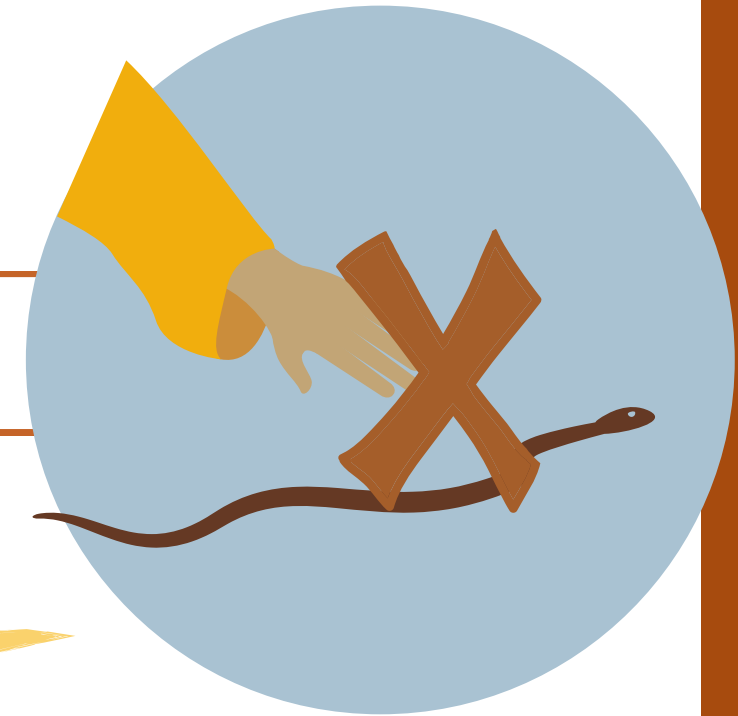
Threats

What is threatening your species' habitat?
Do humans threaten their habitat?

Staying safe

Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a hat and sunscreen.

Don't touch any wildlife or plants, they could be dangerous.



Make sure your parent/leader knows where you are going to look for plants and animals.



Your leader may set the geoprivacy setting to 'obscured' so that exact locations aren't visible to general users.



Name _____



Scavenger Hunt checklist

☐

Fungi

☐

Lichen

☐

Flowering plant

☐

Vertebrate

☐

Gastropod

☐

Insect

☐

Crustacean

☐

Myriapod

☐

Sound recording

☐

Tracks or traces of an animal

☐

Mammal

☐

Arachnid

Name _____



Native species investigation – option 1

Instructions: Draw your three native species observations and their habitat below. Try to capture key characteristics of the species and what habitat they need.

1. Native Species

Habitat

2. Native Species

Habitat

3. Native Species

Habitat

Name _____



Native species investigation – option 2

Instructions: Research the native species that you have observed and answer the following questions. Repeat this worksheet for each of your observations

Identification

Circle one: Fauna / Flora / Fungi / Lichen

Common name
(if applicable):

Scientific
name:
(iNaturalist can
help you with
this)

Habitat - observations

Describe where you found the species.

Habitat - research

Research what habitat your species needs.

Threats

What is threatening your species' habitat?
Do humans threaten their habitat?