



It's time to get to know the Polar Bear!

Read a bit about yourself and underline what you find most important or interesting to start getting into your character.

Polar Bears (a.k.a. YOU):

- You are very big! They measure over 2.5m long and weigh around 680kg. The average 13 year old measures around 1.5m and weighs around 46kg! What a difference!
- You live on the ice in the Arctic, Canada, Alaska (US), Greenland, Russia and Norway.
- You have very thick fur (up to 15cm), a layer of blubber (25cm) and black skin underneath your coat which soaks up the rays of the sun. All this helps you keep warm in the cold air and freezing water. Imagine how warm you'd be with all that insulation/if you wore a coat that thick!
- You are a great swimmer! You have been seen 100km offshore, but are not quick enough to catch seals in open water, so you depend on the ice to stand on for hunting.
- You suffer from the effects of climate change and global warming because you rely on sea ice for traveling, resting, hunting and for making dens for your cubs
- You now have much less time in the year to hunt for food because ice is forming later and melting earlier.
- You are losing weight as the number of seals is declining – this is your main food. Losing weight has an effect on reproduction as you won't be able to have cubs.
- You are having to spend more time on land, rather than ice, which is likely to increase the potential for conflict between humans and polar bears which can be a dangerous meeting for both.
- You are listed as Vulnerable on the Endangered Species list.

If you were a polar bear, how would you feel?
What would you say about the state of the world right

Sources:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/general-animals/polar-bear-facts/>

<https://interesting-facts.com/polar-bear-facts/>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/23184499_Effects_of_climate_change_on_polar_bears

<https://arcticwvf.org/species/polar-bear/population/>

It's time to get to know the Bark Beetle!

Read a bit about yourself and underline what you find most important or interesting to start getting into your character.



Bark Beetles (a.k.a. YOU):

- You are the Red-haired Bark Beetle, one of about 6,000 species of beetles. Your bark beetle friends can be black or brown, and though you look black, your red hairs can be seen with a microscope.
- You are the size of a rice grain. You have hard forewings that are like a protective shield for your delicate flight wings and your soft abdomen.
- You and your friends are called bark beetle because you reproduce in the bark of trees and you are sometimes called engraver beetles because of the intricate patterns you form on the tree barks when making tunnels. The word beetle also comes from the Old English word *bitela* which means little biter.
- You are usually non-aggressive to trees, just feeding on trees that are already dead like stumps and freshly cut logs. You are able to speed recycling and decomposition of dead and dying wood and renew the forest.
- Some of your friends, though, are more aggressive, and not only attack trees that are weakened by diseases, drought, smog, or physical damage, they can attack healthy trees and many times kill them. They are then known as pests.
- Although you are usually non-aggressive, you have the ability to spread globally and reproduce in many trees
- Although you and some of your beetle friends are not necessarily bad for the environment as a whole, when you spread and become a very large population, you have impacts on the lumber industry, water quality, fish and wildlife, and property values.

If you were a bark beetle, how would you feel?
What would you say about the state of the world right

Sources

<https://animalsake.com/interesting-facts-about-bark-beetle>

http://forestpests.org/acrobat/red_haired_bark_beetle.pdf

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bark_beetle

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https://www.fs.usda.gov/naspf/sites/default/files/publications/red_haired_bark_beetle.pdf

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/pest-and-disease-resources/great-spruce-bark-beetle-dendroctonus-micans/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/bark-beetle>

It's time to get to know the Eucalyptus!

Read a bit about yourself and underline what you find most important or interesting to start getting into your character.



Eucalyptus (a.k.a. YOU):

- You are the Eucalyptus camaldulensis, or River Red Gum, one of the 700 species of Eucalyptus!
- As a species, you are iconic to Australia but like your other Eucalyptus friends, you can be found in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and the Philippines, and you are commercially grown in many places all over the world.
- You love water so you are rarely seen away from it - you are happy with rain and flooding (but not too much or you'll drown)!
- You are very beautiful, with bark that is white or cream-coloured, with patches of yellow, pink or brown, you have white flowers and your wood is brilliant red.
- You and your friends can live very long, surviving more than 250 years in the wild.
- The Aborigines have used you as medicine for chest and joint pain and other sickness.
- You are usually 20 - 45 metres but your friends are some of the tallest trees in the world, measuring up to 60 metres! The average human is only 1.70 metres! The average 13 year old human only measures around 1.5m. What a difference!
- With your friends, you are the Koala's main diet, but your nectar also provides food for many insects.
- You and your friends are very exploited because of your wood and oil because these can be used to soothe sore throats and nasal congestion, as insecticide, as furniture, as firewood, and other uses.
- Aborigines have used you to fish because you release a mild tranquilliser in the water which makes fish easier to catch. You are also used to make a popular instrument called the didgeridoo.
- You catch fire very easily but many of your friends are resistant to fires because they have dormant shoots inside, which only germinate hormones that are triggered by the heat of a fire.
- The increase in global temperature due to climate change can really affect you, and 91% of your species is expected to shrink in size (about 51%).

If you were a Eucalyptus, how would you feel?
What would you say about the state of the world right

Sources:

http://www.softschools.com/facts/plants/eucalyptus_facts/542/
<https://adaptationsnatasham.weebly.com/river-red-gum.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_camaldulensis

It's time to get to know the Koala!

Read a bit about yourself and underline what you find most important or interesting to start getting into your character.



Koalas (a.k.a. YOU):

- Although you may look like a bear, you are actually a marsupial, which is the same species as kangaroos! One characteristic of marsupials is that you carry your young in a pouch.
- If you are a male, you are called a 'buck'. If you are a female, you are called a 'doe', and if you are a baby, you are called a 'joey'. Which one are you?
- You can be found in mainland Australia (in the states of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria) and in some islands off the southern and eastern coast.
- Your main diet is eucalyptus leaves. It is not safe for other animals to eat them, but you have a special part in your intestine and produce a substance to digest the leaves. Because it takes a lot of energy to digest these, you sleep a lot to conserve energy - up to 18 - 22 hours a day!
- Your name comes from words in Aboriginal languages that mean 'no drink' because you don't need to drink a lot of water - most of the moisture you need comes from eucalyptus leaves.
- Cough drops are sometimes made of eucalyptus leaves, so sometimes you smell like cough drops!
- Because of the rising level of carbon dioxide, there has been a decrease in the nutritional content of the eucalyptus leaves, making them more poisonous, so you are sometimes ingesting poison.
- The Australian droughts, made more intense by global warming, lessens the moisture of the leaves. This can be dangerous for you because it can give you kidney failure.
- You can live up to 10 years in your undamaged habitat, but only a couple of months or years in damaged habitats or places where humans live. If you are a male, you are in even more danger because you need to move around more in search of mates.
- There are less than 80,000 of your family and friends remaining today, possibly as few as 43,000.
- Your conservation status is sometimes considered vulnerable, sometimes threatened, sometimes endangered and sometimes critically endangered. Some local populations are already extinct.

If you were a koala, how would you feel?
What would you say about the state of the world right

Sources

<https://www.savethekoala.com/about-koalas/frequently-asked-questions>
<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-do-koalas-eat.html>

It's time to get to know the Stork!

Read a bit about yourself and underline what you find most important or interesting to start getting into your character.



Storks (a.k.a. YOU):

- There are 19 living species of storks - you are one of them! You are the white stork, found in many countries in Europe and Africa, but a whole quarter of your family lives in Poland! Many of you spend the winter in Africa.
- You like to live in various kinds of habitats, like marshes, grasslands, meadows, swamps, riverbanks and lake shores.
- You are considered a big bird, weighing from 2.5 – 4.4 kilograms and measuring from 100 to 115 cm. Although the average 13 year old human weighs around 46kg, they measure around 150 cm - just a little taller than you!
- Some of your other stork friends are even larger, like the Marabou stork, typically weighing 4.5 to 8 kg and measuring 120 to 130 cm and some small, like the Abdim's stork (only 75 cm high, weighing 1.3 kg).
- Unlike many other birds, you don't make much sound, but croak, whistle and make a noise by rapidly clattering your bills together, amplified by your throat pouches, just like a soundbox!
- Rather than fly, you prefer to soar on air thermals to conserve energy. Flying all the way from Europe to Africa (sometimes up to 8664.47 kilometers and around 4-5 months of travel) could be very tiring for you if you don't do that!
- You make very big nests and you return to them for years. These nests can be up to 2 metres in depth, 1.5 metres in diameter and 60 - 250 kilograms in weight. They are sometimes up trees, or on cliffs and buildings. Sometimes, when buildings are torn down, you can become very disoriented when you go back to nest.
- When you're old enough, you usually chose one partner and stay with them for life, taking care of your young together.
- You like to eat fish, frogs, lizards, snakes, rats, mice and other birds. Sometimes you help keep places clean by eating carrion and food waste. Because you like to find things to eat in the garbage, you have to be very careful you don't eat the wrong thing, like plastic!
- Your conservation status is considered as 'Least Concerned', but there are many dangers affecting you. Global warming is affecting wetlands, which you really like, and so you have to move to find habitats that are better for you. Also, you have to be more and more careful with power lines because you might collide with them, pesticides are affecting your family, and you are in danger of being hunted during your migration routes.

If you were a stork, how would you feel?
What would you say about the state of the world right

Sources:

<https://animalcorner.co.uk/animals/white-stork-birds>
<https://blog.londolozzi.com/2013/01/09/do-white-storks-bring-babies>
<https://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-storks>

It's time to get to know the Eucalyptus, the Polar Bear, the Bark Beetle, the Stork and the Koala!



Read a bit about yourself and underline what you find most important or interesting to start getting into your character.

The Interviewer (a.k.a. YOU):

- You are a human child, who has been in Earth for a little more than a decade. A lot of things have been set in motion since before you were born that are now having a negative impact on the health of the planet. There are a lot of things you cannot control, but knowing a little more about what is going on may help you understand those who are being impacted. Maybe, by knowing each other better, you can all find a way to help each other.
- Around you are representatives of five different species on Earth.
- Do you know anything about them? Do you think they know anything about each other?
- Are you curious about them? Do they eat, sleep, live the same or differently than you? How?
- What is the information you'd want to know from someone you're trying to get to know? Would you like to ask these species the same questions?
- Do you think climate change is affecting them? Would you like to know how they feel about how they are being affected? Maybe you'd like to share how you might feel too.
- Do you think they have an idea of how they could feel better about the state of the world?
- Do you think they have an interesting fact they'd like to share with you?

List all the questions you might want to ask of each of them. Maybe there are things you want to ask them all, and maybe there are things you want to ask one of them specifically. Enjoy your time with them and find out what you all can learn and do together!