

# SCIENCE WEEK – DECODING NATURE'S SECRETS

Get ready to become a wildlife detective!

As you journey through *Nura Diya*, *Nguwing Nura* and the ARC, you will explore a rich tapestry of Australian species, each uniquely adapted to their environment. Your task is to **decode 'nature's hidden secrets'** — footprints, markings, patterns, sounds, and behaviours — to uncover which animals are nearby and how they live, survive, and connect with one another.

By observing these signs and asking questions, you'll not only identify the species, but also begin to understand the hidden systems that govern the natural world — the relationships between animals, their habitats, and us.

Through this trail, you will be asked to identify a series of animals based on footprints, marking and senses. Fill in the blanks once you have solved which animal it is, this will unlock a letter code that you can use to solve our final puzzle at the end.



The Science Trail takes you on the journey shown in the map above (in red). To help guide your path you can see images of the entry for each exhibit below.









# NURA DIYA

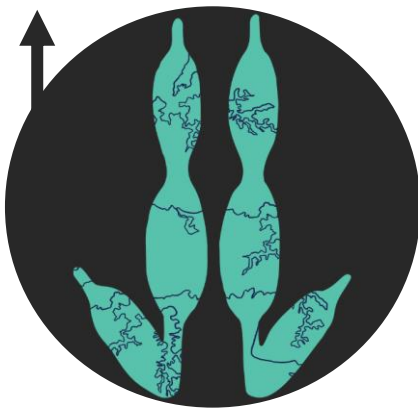
## HUMANS HAVE BEEN DECODING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS









Aboriginal People use their knowledge of the environment and the species that lived within it to assist their survival. By understanding the markings left behind by animals, Aboriginal people can determine the species and resources available in that area.


Identify the animals below based on their footprints and fill in the blank spaces.


















## NGUWING NURA (NIGHT COUNTRY)

Animals a wide range of super senses to decode the universe. Make your way through Nguwing Nura and find the animals that use these adaptations to assist with their survival in the environment.

I am a ground-dwelling marsupial with a long nose and a super sense of smell



I am a spikey animal who uses my long, bony, tube-like electroreceptive beak to detect and suck up prey



I use my super charged bill that is packed with electroreceptors to find food in the water



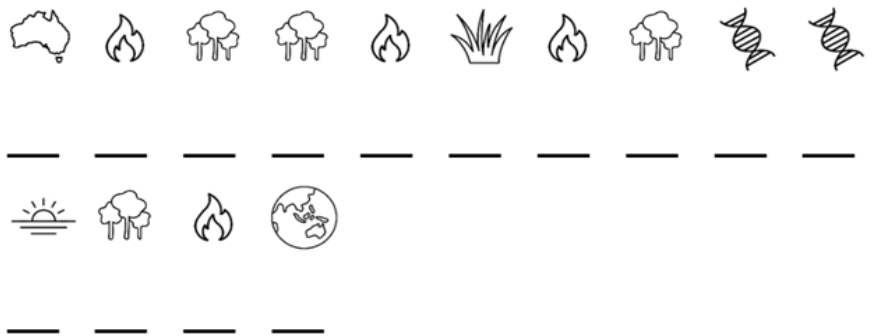


# IDENTIFYING PATTERNS

## ARC – Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Centre

































Observing animal adaptations helps us understand how species interact with their environment. Many animals play crucial roles in ecosystems—roles that often go unnoticed until the species is gone. By learning to recognise and differentiate between species, we can better appreciate their importance. In some cases, this can be as simple as identifying their patterns.

Observe the patterns on the images below and as you make your way through ARC, identify the species that matches the pattern. Write the name of that species according to the sign at the exhibit in the space allocated with letter corresponding to a symbol



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Use your answers from the past two pages to match up the symbols and decode Taronga’s vision.

									
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____		
									
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
									
<b>W</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
									
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	

## Your mission doesn't end here.

Taronga Conservation Society is constantly working to make this vision come true. As you walked around the zoo you would have seen some signs that teach how you can make a difference — at home, at school, and in your community.

What are some things you might do to support your local environment?

How can you inspire others to care for wildlife the way you do?