What's happening in the news this week?

Picture News

Let's have a look at this week's poster!

28th Feb - 6th March 2022

Picture News
Whose responsibility is it to help endangered animals?

Let's look at this week's story

Australia has announced that koalas are now listed as an endangered species across most of its east coast, after a huge drop in numbers. The country's environment minister, Sussan Ley, said that koalas, which had been listed as being vulnerable, would now be listed as endangered in the states of New South Wales, Queensland, and the Australian Capital Territory. Scientists have been warning for many years that the native marsupial's habitats were being hit by drought, bushfires, and land development.

Learn more about this week's story here.
Watch this week's useful video here.
This week's Virtual Assembly here.

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This week's story looks at events in ...

How does it make me feel?

sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent	aggrieved	beaming	addled	animated	agitated	astonished	alarmed
disconsolate	annoyed	buoyant	baffled	elevated	anxious	astounded	apprehensive
dismal	discontented	cheery	bemused	enlivened	apprehensive	disconcerted	daunted
doleful	disgruntled	contented	bewildered	enthusiastic	concerned	distressed	fearful
downhearted	distressed	delighted	disorientated	exhilarated	disquieted	dumbfounded	frantic
forlorn	exasperated	enraptured	indistinct	exuberant	distraught	horrified	horrified
gloomy	frustrated	gleeful	muddled	thrilled	distressed	staggered	petrified
melancholic	indignant	glowing	mystified		disturbed	startled	terrified
miserable	offended	joyful	perplexed		fretful	stunned	
woeful	outraged		puzzled		perturbed	surprised	
wretched	resentful				troubled		
	vexed				uneasy		

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ASSEMBLY RESOURCE

Read through the information found below about the situation with koalas in Australia

Australia has lost about 30% of its koala population over the past three years, according to the Australian Koala Foundation, with the worst figures seen in New South Wales, where numbers have dropped by 41%.

Why have koalas become endangered?

Australia has listed koalas as an endangered species across most of its east coast.

The country's environment minister said that koalas, which had been listed as being vulnerable, would now be listed as endangered. Australia's biggest koala conservation group says that there may now be as few as 50,000 of the animals left in the wild.

Recent droughts, heatwaves and bushfires have all been blamed for the declining wild koala population in Australia, as have disease and habitat loss.

What is being done to help?

To help protect koalas, the Australian government has announced that it will be spending $50m (£26m) to improve the protection and recovery of the koala.

Also, this change in status means greater priority will be given to their conservation. Australia's environment minister, Sussan Ley, said that efforts were already underway to preserve koalas' habitats. She said officials were designing a recovery plan, and land development applications would now be assessed for impacts on the species.

Will it be enough?

Conservationists believe that more needs to be done to protect the animals. Stuart Blanch from WWF Australia said, "Koalas have gone from no-listing to vulnerable to endangered within a decade. Today's decision is welcome, but it won't stop koalas from sliding towards extinction unless it's accompanied by stronger laws."

Pictured: A koala at an enclosure in Australia
Source: Goran Has

Do you think that the plans to help koalas go far enough or do you think more should be done?

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Resource one

Look at the resource below, which shares more information about koalas.

Koalas

Koalas are mostly found in eucalyptus forests of eastern Australia. Their strong, clawed feet are perfect for living in the branches of trees. They eat the eucalyptus leaves from the trees and can devour up to 1kg of leaves per day! When koalas are not feasting on leaves, they don't have much energy so spend up to 22 hours per day dozing in the branches.

Baby koalas are called joeys. As soon as they are born, they crawl into their mother's pouch and stay there for about six months.

Did you know?

The name "koala" is derived from the Dharug word "gula" or "gulamany" meaning "no drink".

It is believed that this is because koalas get almost all of their moisture from the leaves they eat and rarely drink.

Fact box

Appearance	Grey fur with a cream-coloured chest
Length	60 – 85cm
Weight	About 14kg
Lifespan	13 – 17 years

What else would you like to find out about koalas?

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Resource two

Look at the resource below, which shares some of the things people do to help endangered animals.

Laws

Introduce laws to protect animals from being hunted or from having their habitats destroyed.

Raise awareness

Many people do not know certain animals are facing extinction and why. Raise awareness so more people know about the problem.

Habitats can be destroyed by deforestation (clearing a large area of trees so the land can be used for something else).

Be environmentally aware

Learn how our behaviour impacts on the environment. For example, the green sea turtle is endangered because they are affected by climate change and pollution.

Raise funds

Raising money to support organisations that fight to save endangered species.

Conservation programmes

People are involved in conservation programmes, which is the act of protecting ecosystems and environments to protect the animals that live there. Many endangered animals have had their habitats destroyed.

Can you think of any other ways? Is there anything you could do? Have you or anyone you know ever done anything to help in the past?

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Reflection

Our world is so diverse, full of incredible wildlife and nature. As citizens of the world, we all have a part to play in protecting it and all within it.

British Values

Democracy

We all have a voice and the right to express our opinions. Some people choose to use their voice to help protect animals facing extinction.

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UN Rights of a Child

We have the right to share our opinions about animals facing extinction. Adults should listen and take us seriously.

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Useful vocabulary

Diverse

Showing a great deal of variety; very different.

Our world is so **diverse**, full of incredible wildlife and nature.

Endangered

Seriously at risk of extinction.

Australia has announced that koalas are now listed as an **endangered** species across most of its east coast.

Extinction

A situation in which something no longer exists.

Australia has announced that the koala is now at risk of **extinction** across much of the country.

Marsupial

A mammal that is not completely developed when it is born so is carried around in a pouch on the mother's body.

Scientists have been warning for many years that the native **marsupial**'s habitats were being hit by drought, bushfires, and land development.

Species

A set of animals or plants who have similar characteristics to each other and can breed with each other.

Are you aware of any other **species** that are currently classified as endangered?

Vulnerable

Likely to become endangered.

Sussan Ley, said that koalas, which had been listed as being **vulnerable**, would now be listed as endangered...

Can you use them in your writing this week?

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Picture News

Whose responsibility is it to help endangered animals?

Australia has announced that koalas are now listed as an endangered species across most of its east coast, after a huge drop in numbers. The country's environment minister, Sussan Ley, said that koalas, which had been listed as being vulnerable, would now be listed as endangered in the states of New South Wales, Queensland, and the Australian Capital Territory. Scientists have been warning for many years that the native marsupial's habitats were being hit by drought, bushfires, and land development.

Listen Think Share

- Look at this week's poster. What animal can we see on the poster? Does anyone know why koalas have been in the news recently? Explain that Australia has announced that the koala is now at risk of extinction across much of the country. Does anyone know what we mean by risk of extinction? Are we surprised to hear that the koala is at risk of extinction?
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource about the situation with koalas in Australia. Do you think that the plans to help koalas go far enough?
- Are you aware of any other species that are currently classified as endangered? Some examples include, the giant panda, the orang-utan and the stag beetle.
- Do you know any of the reasons why some animals have become endangered? The two main reasons are due to loss of habitat (this can happen naturally or due to human activity), the other is a lack of genetic variation in the species.
- Watch this week's useful video, which provides facts about koalas. What is the most surprising fact you have discovered about koalas?

Reflection

Our world is so diverse, full of incredible wildlife and nature. As citizens of the world, we all have a part to play in protecting it and all within it.

Picture News

KS1 focus

What do we know about koalas?

Listen Think Share

- Write 'koala' on the board. Do you know what a koala is? Can you describe what a koala looks like? Do you know where they live?
- Explain that a koala is an animal. It is mainly found living in Australia. Locate Australia on the world map slide.
- Read through resource 1, which shares more information about koalas. Does anything surprise you? What else would you like to find out about koalas? How might we be able to find out more information e.g. books, internet, write to/ask somebody?
- Koalas live in eucalyptus trees and they only eat eucalyptus leaves, getting all their nutrition from them. If you could only eat one food, what would it be?
- Discuss what happens to koalas when some of the eucalyptus forests are destroyed. Because they live in and eat from the eucalyptus trees, they end up with fewer places to live and less food. How does this make you feel?
- Explain that the koala is now at risk of extinction. Do you know what extinction means? Is this something that matters to you? What do you think you could do to help koalas?

Reflection

A koala is an animal that is mainly found living in eucalyptus forests in eastern Australia. Koalas are now at risk of extinction but learning more about koalas might help.

Picture News

KS2 focus

What are some of the things we can do to help endangered animals?

Listen Think Share

- Write 'endangered' on the board. If an animal is described as endangered, what do you think that means?
- Explain that the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) uses a system to describe the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Their definition of endangered is: 'Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable: species threatened with global extinction.'
- Do you know any animals that are currently threatened with global extinction? Koala, Asian elephant, green sea turtle, mountain gorilla, tiger?
- Many of these animals are not found living in the wild near us. Do you think we still have a responsibility to help these endangered animals? What do you think we might be able to do to help?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some of the things people do to help endangered animals. Can you think of any other ways? Is there anything you could do? Have you or anyone you know ever done anything to help in the past?
- Focus on raising awareness. Do you think this could help? Why? Is raising awareness something you think you could do? Would you want to?
- Can you think of any animals living near you whose numbers are declining such as hedgehogs and birds? Can you find out what you could do to help them?

Reflection

There are many endangered animals living in our world. There are different ways we can do something to help, if we choose to.

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KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Animals and wildlife such as hedgehogs, skylarks (and other birds), hazel dormice and adders have all seen a drop in numbers over the years. These are all animals that can be found living in the UK. Choose a UK animal, whose numbers are in decline or are vulnerable, and read and research to find out more.

- What is its habitat?
- What does it eat?
- Why are its numbers declining?
- What can be done to help?

Use the information collected to create a poster or leaflet to raise awareness of your animal and the problems it faces.

- Is there anything you could do at school or at home to help?

Option 2

Create some koala origami!

- Do you know what origami is?
- Have you ever created origami before?

Origami is the art of paper folding. You will need a square piece of paper to create your koala origami. Follow the instructions found here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bH5aZ8rf4OM

Once you have created your koala, perhaps you could explore making other origami endangered animals. Use them to make a display to raise awareness of animals facing extinction.

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KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Look at the koala fact box below.

Food	Eucalyptus leaves
Weight	Age 14kg
Length	60cm – 85cm
Amount of sleep	Up to 22 hours a day
Age of world's oldest Koala	25 years

Discuss the information found in the table and then try answering the following:

- What does a koala eat and what do you eat?
- How long does a koala sleep and how long do you sleep? What is the difference?
- How much older is the world's oldest koala than you?
- A koala weighs about 14kg, can you find something that weighs 1kg?
- Can you use a tape measure or metre stick to show the length of a koala?
- Is a koala taller or shorter than you?

Option 2

Use information found on resource 1, the fact box above and any other information you have found to create an information text about a koala.
Include the following:

- A heading or title
- A picture of a koala
- A sentence that includes a fact (something true) about koalas
- Another sentence that includes a different fact

Perhaps you could create another information text about an animal of your choice?

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This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-australia-60342830

This week's useful videos

All about Koalas
www.youtube.com/watch?v=oI3ADcDH0Uc

This week's virtual assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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*Our world is so **diverse**, full of incredible wildlife and nature.*

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A set of animals or plants who have similar characteristics to each other and can breed with each other.
*Are you aware of any other **species** that are currently classified as endangered?*

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*Sussan Ley, said that koalas, which had been listed as being **vulnerable**, would now be listed as endangered...*

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
28th Feb – 6th March
YOUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Frog found in primary school banana

A frog from Africa has been found in a bunch of snack time bananas at a Wirral primary school. The tiny amphibian was spotted by a teacher at Heswall Primary School in Merseyside as she was organising the pupils' morning fruit. Members of staff at the school were able to catch the frog, which is the size of a fingernail, and kept it safe in a damp container until it was collected. RSPCA inspector, Anthony Joynes said, "This sort of things happens from time-to-time nationwide but this is the first one I have known in Wirral. Providing a small enclosure, with moisture, warmth and a hiding place was spot on." He added that the school had done exactly the right thing by not touching the amphibian but keeping it safe so he could collect it. Deputy head teacher, Nicky Bolton, said, "We knew the frog had travelled from West Africa because wrapping was stamped with Ivory Coast. The children were so excited to learn about the frog's journey and how it has travelled almost 5,000 miles to arrive in Wirral. The children are now very excited to find out what species he is."

> "This sort of thing happens from time-to-time"

Pictured: The tiny frog found in a bunch of bananas at Heswall Primary School.
Source: Anthony Joynes@joynes85 Twitter page.

Cousins forge blacksmith business

Ollie and Harvey Roberts, who are aged 14 and 13, are Britain's youngest blacksmiths! They set up their own metal work business, O&H Metalwork Designs, during lockdown. They and their relatives are very proud that they are the 7th generation of welders in their family. "A long, long time ago, 1804, our family bought the Wrexham smithy and started doing blacksmithing," Harvey said. "Our grandad did it and we found it really interesting. We had a go, and then we thought we've come this far, and we may as well try to make a business out of it. We had to have help at the start - it's really dangerous and there are lots of sparks." Their design ideas, which include flowers and birds, have been purchased by people in countries as far away as Indonesia, raised money for Nightingale House hospice, and a dolphin sculpture made from old spoons is set to go on display at the British Ironwork Centre. The cousins have even received letters from Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street congratulating them on opening their decorative metal designs business and raising money for charity.

Pictured: Ollie and Harvey with one of their recent projects, a dolphin sculpture made from old spoons!
Source: O&H Metalwork Designs@h_metalwork Twitter page.

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Make ice cream in two minutes

Pictured: Salted caramel and vanilla ice cream sundae.
Source: Canva

A new countertop machine has been invented that can use pods to make ice cream in four easy, mess-free steps. The appliance aims to overhaul the frozen treats industry, making changes to how these types of products are made and stored, therefore significantly reducing emissions. The ColdSnap machine can take pods and turn them into soft-serve ice cream in 60-90 seconds. ColdSnap's single-serve aluminium pods are each roughly the size of a drinks can and deliver a variety of frozen treats; including dairy and non-dairy ice cream, frozen yogurt, frozen coffees, frozen smoothies, frozen shakes, and slushies. The frozen confections machine uses a camera, which scans the QR code on each pod as they are inserted, this gives the machine all the information it requires to make each frozen delight. Matthew Fonte was inspired to come up with the idea during a conversation with his daughters, Sierra and Fiona, who were disappointed at how time consuming and messy it was to make ice cream with a traditional at-home ice cream machine.

Last week's topic:
What does a city of the future need?

A city of the future needs residents to live in it and everything else that is important to make it good to live and work in.
Miti – age 9

I think that a school from the future needs hi-tech equipment, helpful robots and a futuristic, smooth look. Also, it needs people that are used to the great technology.
Aleks– age 10

My sustainable city would have: •renewable energy, e.g., solar panels, wind turbines •less petrol and diesel cars-more electric charging points, free parking for electric cars, more bike lanes, better public transport •more glass and less plastic buildings, drinks.
Ethan - age 10

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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TAKEHOME

28th Feb - 6th March

Whose responsibility is it to help endangered animals?

In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home...

- Do you know any other animals that are at risk of extinction?
- Can you think of ways that we can help animals that are endangered? E.g., raising awareness or giving donations to charity.
- Currently, do you think enough is being done to help, when a species becomes at risk of extinction?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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