



THE ENDANGERED SWIFT PARROT

Activity 1 – The Swift Parrot

Watch the video Going Bush 2- Episode 4 <http://youtube/PK6nh-u-0Bg>- The Swift Parrot and answer the following questions:

1. How did the Swift Parrot get its name?

2. Are Swift Parrots one of the rarest or most abundant birds in the world?

3. In which season – Spring, Summer, Winter or Autumn – do Swift Parrots return to Tasmania?

4. Swift Parrots spend the rest of the year as far away as which other Australian state?

5. What is the Swift Parrot's favourite food?

6. Why do Swift Parrots return to Tasmania every year?

7. Is the Swift Parrot a big or small bird?

8. Starting with the letter 'M', what sort of bird is the Swift Parrot?

9. Around how many breeding pairs of Swift Parrots are left in the wild?

10. Why are there so few Swift Parrots left in the wild?

11. On which coast of Tasmania is Wielangta state forest found?

12. What is the perfect feeding habitat for Swift Parrots?

13. Where do Swift Parrots like to nest?

14. Why is it Tasmania's job to protect the nesting habitats of Swift Parrots?

15. Why are Swift Parrots so difficult to manage?

16. What does SPIBA stand for?

17. Do Swift Parrots always nest in the same place?

18. When Forestry Tasmania finds Swift Parrots breeding in new areas what happens with harvesting there?



Activity 2 – The Colours of a Swift Parrot

The Swift Parrot is a slim, medium-sized parrot with pointed wings and a long pointy tail. Like the Rosella, it's a very colourful bird. Male Swifts are more brightly coloured than females.

Search the Internet to discover the colours of this bird and colour in the following drawing of a male Swift Parrot :



Activity 3 – Where does it go?

As we learnt in the Forestlearning video, Swift Parrots are migratory birds, which means that they move from one place to another, usually twice a year – once in Spring and again in Autumn.

From September through to March, Swift Parrots remain in Tasmania for breeding. During this time, you can only find them in three areas of Tasmania :

- along the eastern coast
- the Wellington ranges, near Hobart; and
- on Maria and Bruny islands

Using a red-coloured pencil show where they are found during their breeding season on the map below:





Then in April, the Swift Parrot moves to Australia's south-eastern mainland. So in winter you can only find them in southern and central Victoria, eastern New South Wales and in southeast Queensland.

Using a blue-coloured pencil show where they are found in winter on the map below.



Activity 4 – How they help make trees

The narrator of the video, 'Going Bush – Innovative ways of keeping the home fires burning', tells us wood pellets are turning waste into 'good energy'. But some scientists say converting wood – even wood *waste* – to energy still has a negative impact on our environment.

Working in pairs, do some online research on wood pellets and list some of the environmental advantages and disadvantages of using wood pellets to heat our home instead of other products:

Advantages:

Disadvantages:



Activity 5 – Your Thoughts

Working in pairs, out of all the energy sources for heating a home you have learnt about in this lesson, which one do you think leaves the biggest carbon footprint? Why?

Which one leaves the smallest carbon footprint? Why?

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