



THE ENDANGERED SWIFT PARROT - LESSON

Teacher Overview

Students will learn about Australia's native forests, the endangered Swift Parrot, their role as a pollinator (for blue and black gum trees) and the importance of protecting them.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Understand the importance of forests to the survival of the Swift Parrot.
- Describe the features and habits of the Swift Parrot
- Undertake internet research
- Develop drawing and creative writing skills

Background

The Swift Parrot is a migratory bird which only breeds in Tasmania's forests. It spends winters on the Australian mainland. During the breeding season nectar from Tasmanian Bluegum flowers are its primary food source and they require old hollow bearing eucalypts for nesting. The blue gum habitat that Swift Parrot s depend on is disappearing and the numbers of Swift Parrot s remaining are declining. The Swift Parrot is listed as endangered.

There are a number of strategies being undertaken to provide the forest that Swift Parrot s require to survive

The Activities

There are 5 activities to select from in this lesson. You may choose to undertake all of the activities, or alternately, choose those relevant to the objectives you want to achieve.

This lesson could be used in conjunction with the Bees and Forests lesson, to compare the roles that bees and the parrots have in pollination.

Activity 1 – The Endangered Swift Parrot

<http://youtube/PK6nh-u-0Bg>

This activity will enable students to learn some of the key characteristics of the Swift Parrot and its habitat and why they are endangered.

1. Discuss the meaning of the term endangered and what students already know about endangered species.
2. Students watch the video Going Bush 2 – Episode 4 – the Swift Parrot and answer the questions on the student worksheet.
3. Students present and discuss their answers.



Activity 2 – The Colours of a Swift Parrot

1. Students undertake internet research on the appearance of the Swift Parrot.
2. Using the diagram on the student worksheet students colour the diagram as for a male Swift Parrot.
3. Discuss how the colours of the male parrot are different to those of the female parrot

Activity 3 – Where do they go?

This activity enables students to locate the areas where the Swift Parrot is found.

1. On the map of Tasmania provided on the student worksheet, students indicate the three areas where the Swift Parrot is found during its breeding season.
2. On the map of Australia provided on the worksheet students indicate where the Swift parrot is found during winter.
3. Students discuss their findings.

Activity 4 – How they help make trees

1. Students read the information on the student worksheet about how the Swift Parrot pollinates the flowers of the gum trees.
2. Students draw a picture of the blue gum flower in the space provided then discuss their pictures.

Activity 5 – Why their numbers are going down

1. In pairs students read the information on the student worksheet about why the Swift Parrot is endangered.
2. Students design an 'interview' with a Swift Parrot and write their questions and answers in the space provided.
3. Students act out their interviews in front of the class



Sources

Swift Parrot facts :

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=7019>

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Lathamus-discolor>

[http://www.nrmsouth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Threatened Species-Swift-Parrot and Forty-spotted Pardalote.pdf](http://www.nrmsouth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Threatened-Species-Swift-Parrot-and-Forty-spotted-Pardalote.pdf)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuTkoJnnQgl>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFVjHe1DMYA>

Swift Parrot drawing:

<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Resources/File/Environment/Threatened/illustrations.htm>

Swift Parrot distribution maps:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/node/16019>

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=744

Blue gum facts:

<http://www.tastimber.tas.gov.au/SpeciesDetailsGeneral.aspx?SpeciesID=8>

Swift Parrot s as pollinators:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/03/150326111037.htm>

Threats to the Swift Parrot :

<https://theconversation.com/lets-stop-tasmanias-swift-parrots-going-the-way-of-the-dodo-39570>

[http://bird.net.au/bird/index.php?title=Swift Parrot](http://bird.net.au/bird/index.php?title=Swift_Parrot)

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