



THE MYSTERIOUS LONG-FOOTED POTOROO

Activity 1 – Watch the Clip and answer the following questions:

<http://youtu.be/RP3nHGOrCRY>

1. When was the Long-footed Potoroo first discovered? _____
2. When was it first given a name? _____
3. Where is the Long-footed Potoroo found? _____
4. A team of scientists from VicForests has been running a surveillance operation to find out what? _____
5. Name the three common types of animals that VicForests' surveillance operation discovered.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
6. What was the exciting rare animal they discovered? _____
7. What type of cameras do the scientists use for their surveillance operation? _____
 - A. What, starting with the letter 'B', do the scientists need to set up in order to get a photo of the Long-footed Potoroo? _____
 - B. What four ingredients does it contain? _____
 - C. Which one of the four ingredients smells? _____
8. What, starting with the letter 'F', do Long-footed Potoroo like to eat? _____
9. What do the scientists attach the camera to in the forest? _____
10. How long do the forest cameras stay out in the bush? _____
11. What was one of exciting things the team discovered about the Long-footed Potoroo? _____
12. If a Long-footed Potoroo is found in an area that is going to be harvested, what do the scientists do? _____
13. Why can't you find Long-footed Potoroo in areas of the forest that have only just been harvested? _____
14. When will Long-footed Potoroo first start foraging in a harvested area? _____
15. Are Long-footed Potoroo the only type of animals that are found in the regenerated harvested areas? _____
16. Around how many nights of camera surveillance has VicForests carried out? _____



Activity 2 – More About The Long-footed Potoroo

Search the Internet to find out more about the Long-footed Potoroo. Draw a picture of this interesting little animal in the space below and then answer the following questions:



1. What is the Long-footed Potoroo also often called? _____
2. The Long-footed Potoroo is around the same size as a
 - a. hare, or
 - b. mouse?
3. What colour is the Long-footed Potoroo's fur? _____
4. How is the Long-footed Potoroo different from the Long-nosed Potoroo? _____
5. Which animals pose the main threat to Long-footed Potoroos? _____
6. In which two Australian states or territories can we still find the Long-footed Potoroo? Show where exactly on the map below: _____





Activity 3 – An Endangered Animal

The Long-footed Potoroo is an 'endangered' animal, which means that its numbers are getting lower and lower and so it is at risk of becoming extinct. When an animal or plant becomes extinct it disappears forever. So we need to find ways to protect this shy little creature because it plays an important role in the forest.

Why is the Long-footed Potoroo so important?

The Long-footed Potoroo mainly eats fungi, which it finds buried underground.



By eating these fungi, the Long Footed Potoroo spreads fungal spores throughout the forest. Spores are used by fungi to reproduce and are found in the Potoroo's poo.

Fungi supply nutrients for trees and also help prevent disease. So in this way, the Long-footed Potoroo plays an important role in the forest's ecosystem.

Make a Poster...

Not much is really known about the Long-footed Potoroo. Imagine you are a forest ranger. Design a poster to show the important role this creature plays in the forest, the risk it faces of becoming extinct and the ways we can protect it.



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