



## Southern Brown Bandicoot

**Common Name:** Southern Brown Bandicoot

**Scientific Name:** *Isodon obesulus*

**Description:** The Southern Brown Bandicoot has brown fur with distinct golden streaks that cover most of its body. The fur underneath is often dull white or cream colour. The bandicoot is a small and quick marsupial that varies in size and weight. The adult males can grow up to 45 centimeters and adult females 41 centimeters. The average weight for males is around 850 grams and females are around 700 grams. Males are almost always bigger and heavier than the females.



**Southern Brown Bandicoot**  
Photo courtesy of N. Haby

**Breeding:** The availability of food, the temperature, rainfall and even the length of sunlight in a day can influence the number of young bandicoots a mother has each year. On average the female bandicoot will have around three young in each litter and between two and five litters per year. Unfortunately less than half of these young babies will make it to adult life. The most common time of year for breeding is between June and December.



**Bandicoot nest**  
Photo courtesy of M. Turner



**Young bandicoot**  
Photo courtesy of N. Haby

**Habitat:** The bandicoot prefers areas that have a dense ground and shrub environment including the under-story in forests, woodlands, scrub and heathlands and grasslands. The vegetation cover provides the bandicoot with protection from predators and ideal nesting sites. Nests are made into distinct mounds from the surrounding leaf litter and soil. Some nests have even been located in rabbit warrens.



**Woodland– ideal  
bandicoot habitat**



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**Diet:** The bandicoot is an omnivore meaning they eat both meat and plants. Some of the plant matter includes seeds, berries, grasses, clover roots, mosses and fungi. Bandicoots also eat spiders, flies, centipedes, millipedes, worms, beetles, fleas, moths, butterflies even wasps and ants! The scats or 'bandicoot poo' can help the researchers to understand which foods the bandicoot likes to eat. This information can assist us in any re-vegetation projects.



*Southern Brown Bandicoot*  
Photo courtesy of N. Haby



*Southern Brown Bandicoot Distribution*

**Distribution:** In South Australia the bandicoot is known to occupy areas of the Mt. Lofty Ranges, Kangaroo Island and small area in the South East. These are the last remaining species of bandicoot that is naturally occurring in South Australia. Two species have been re-introduced while all other species have become extinct.

**Conservation Status:** Nationally endangered.

**Threats:** The major threats to the bandicoot include;

*Habitat loss and fragmentation* (where patches of vegetation have been isolated like islands with no way for the bandicoots to move safely between them).

*Habitat degradation* (the destroying or changing of vegetation through grazing, erosion, or introduction of weeds and pests).

*Predation by foxes, cats and dogs.*

*Competition with rabbits for food and nesting areas*

*Bush fires*

*Road traffic*

*And Diseases* (often spread by other animals).



*Cat – Predator of the bandicoot*  
Photo courtesy of N. Haby



*Monitoring bandicoot population*  
Photo courtesy of N. Haby

**Action Plan:** Restoring habitat for food, nesting and protection. Planting corridors to link fragmented vegetation. Controlling weed and pest invasions. Fire management. Researching and monitoring the population and habitat including breeding programs. Raising community awareness and involvement. There are many ways the community can become involved to help ensure the survival of the Southern Brown Bandicoot.





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# Bandicoot: Activity Sheet 1



Can you find the Bandicoot?

Draw in a nest and some food for the Bandicoot.

Circle the animals that look similar to the bandicoot.

What are the main predators.

.....  
.....  
.....

Colour Me In !



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# Bandicoot: Activity Sheet 2

**Activity:** [redacted] Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Program want to alert motorists to the presence of bandicoots in the area and stop the number of accidental road kills. Motorists often mistake bandicoots for large rats or rabbits. This can cause a high road kill rate in populated areas such as yours. We would like your class to design a Road Warning Sign to help drivers recognize there are bandicoots crossing the road in your area. Students at Scott Creek Primary School have designed a road sign (pictured below). The class then petitioned their local council to produce the sign to be erected on the road around their local national park. It is now positioned near their school.



*A Southern Brown Bandicoot  
Photo courtesy of N Haby*



*Scott Creek Primary School bandicoot road sign.  
Photo courtesy of Ryan Incoll*

### Sign Ideas:

A representation of a bandicoot (outline or drawing) or a picture of a bandicoot.

A catchy slogan to catch the eye of passing motorists.

A mention of both [redacted] the Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Program and it's sponsors, Jensen Planning & Design and The Yurrebilla project

A mention or logo of your School.



*Native vegetation which is ideal habitat for bandicoots  
Photo courtesy of N Haby*

**Classroom Activities:** Conduct a competition where everyone votes on which road sign is the best. With this chosen sign, lobby your local council or a local business for the money to produce the sign.





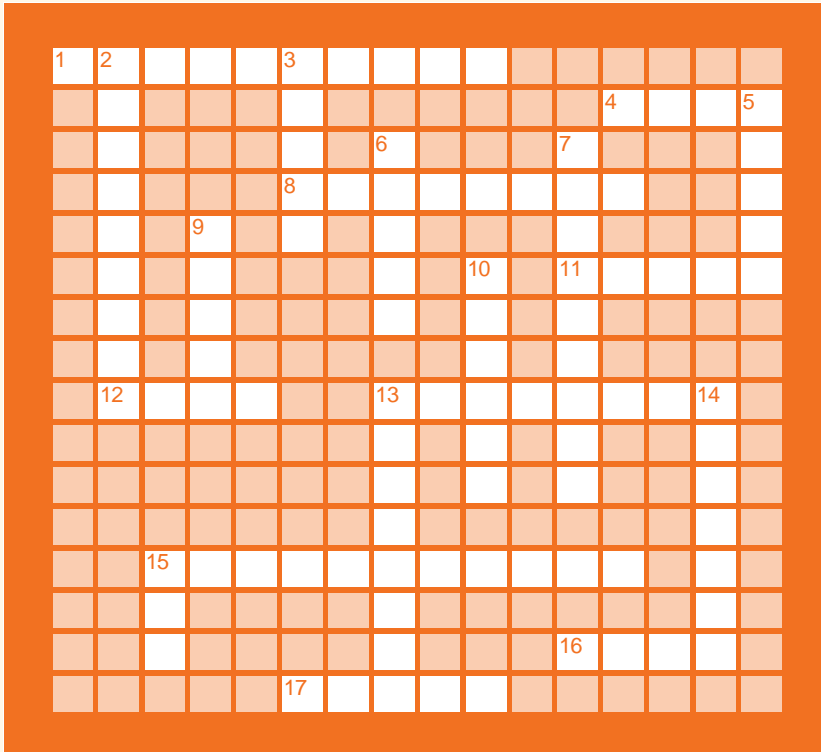
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# Bandicoot: Activity Sheet 4

Crossword

**Activity:** Answers can be found from the information in the Southern Brown Bandicoot fact sheets. Students should test their skills and memory by trying to complete the crossword after reading the fact sheets.

**Suggestion:** Run a competition and time the class.



**Across:**

1. Bandicoots are nationally .....
4. Bandicoots eat ....s of many small soft plants
8. (What) Brown Bandicoots?
11. Bandicoots prefer ..... vegetation
12. Habitat .... is a major threat
13. Bandicoots searching for food cause these?
15. Bandicoots can grow up to 45 what?
16. Small black animals that is food for the bandicoot
17. Bandicoots eat these long animals

**Down:**

2. Bandicoots are .....
3. Green food for bandicoots?
5. Average number of young in each litter
6. One vegetation food bandicoots eat
7. The term used when bandicoots are under threat by other animals
9. Another major threat to bandicoots
10. Mt Lofty .....
13. Breeding is common between June & D.....
14. Bandicoots eat these creepy creatures.
14. A domestic predator of the bandicoot



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# Bandicoot: Activity Sheet 5

Which photograph is of the Southern Brown Bandicoot?  
Circle the right one.



What makes a bandicoot look different to other animals?

.....  
.....

Make your own story or play using any combination of these characters and settings.

### Characters

- Borris the bandicoot
- Chino the cat
- Digger the dog
- Rawnsley the ranger
- Flora the farmer
- School children

### Settings

- A school
- The Australian Bush
- A dairy
- A backyard
- A car park
- The zoo

Get to know your bandicoot