

# Teachers' Notes For Let's Chat Habitat

## **Some points to discuss prior to the performance.**

What is a habitat? (Answer. The natural environment where an animal or organism is normally found. The place where a thing is naturally found.)

The difference between weather and climate. (Answer. Climate occurs over a long period of time. Weather occurs over a short period of time.)

The Exxon Valdez oil spill. The oil tanker ran aground off the coast of Alaska in 1989 losing more than 10 million gallons of oil into the ocean.

Ecological footprint. (This is a measure of human demand on the earth's ecological system. It shows how much we use and who uses it.)

Extinction. The mass dinosaur extinction was probably caused by some sort of natural disaster, perhaps a meteorite hitting the earth. In Australia, the Tasmanian Tiger was killed off by humans because it was killing farm animals and the New South Wales numbats and pig footed bandicoots were killed off by introduced species such as foxes and feral cats.

The different types of animals living in the Arctic and in Antarctica. Make a list of the animals that you would find in both places.

## **Vocabulary**

Antarctic, arctic, penguin, meteorite, climate change, Exxon Valdez, polar bear, feral, numbats, bandicoot, trout, recycle, technology, ecological, environment.

## **Connection to the Curriculum.**

- Creative and Visual Arts (Different types of puppets).
- Literacy (Learning and using new vocabulary).
- Science (Climate, Habitat). The way in which growth in technology has affected and changed our habitat and way of life.

## **Teachers' notes for use with the class after the performance.**

### **Let's Chat Habitat.**

Let's talk about the earth.

### **What is a habitat?**

The natural places where plants and animals live.

What is the habitat of fish? A fishbowl or an ocean or a river or pond??

A fishpond is not a habitat because it is not the natural place for a fish to live. We can find fish living naturally in the oceans, rivers or lakes.

The earth is our habitat.

### **Discuss the difference between climate and weather.**

Climate refers to long periods of time and weather refers to a short time.

### **What is our Ecological Footprint?**

My Ecological Footprint.

How can I change my Ecological Footprint? Turn off lights or TV when not in use.

Recycle wherever possible (especially plastic or glass). Do not litter. If everyone threw one paper bag on the ground each day, what would our streets, playgrounds, parks look like? Walk instead of being driven around in the car.

My School's Ecological Footprint.

Find the answers to these questions. How much rubbish does my school have each day? How might we be able to reduce this? Could we recycle more of it?

Could we turn off more lights during the day?

### **Discuss the things that we can do to help reduce the effects of climate change or reduce our Ecological Footprint.**

By turning off the lights when we leave a room and also switching off appliances at the power point when not in use, we reduce the amount of electricity that we use. This also saves us money.

Use curtains or blinds to keep the heat in or out of our house. This reduces the amount of electricity that we use.

Take your own bag to do the shopping.

Don't throw rubbish on the ground. Recycle it wherever possible.

**What are the other names for the North Pole and the South Pole.**

The North Pole is the Arctic and the South Pole is the Antarctic.

The penguins, seals and whales live in the Antarctic and the polar bears, seals and whales live in the Arctic.

**Who are some of the characters/puppets in the performance?**

Dora and Dino the Dinosaurs, David the little boy puppet, long nosed trout, Fred the fish, Pea 1 and Pea 2, Pea Pod, the Blue Whale, Wanda Whale.

**Who was your favourite character? Why?**

**How many different types of puppets are used in the performance.**

Shadow puppets, hand puppets, make your own finger puppet.

Why are the puppets so effective? .....colourful, visual, fun.

**What are the some of the animals mentioned in the story that have become extinct?**

How did some of these animals and plants die out.

The dinosaurs were killed off by some natural disaster and some because of the introduction of other species (numbat and pig footed bandicoot) and some died because of being killed off by humans (Tasmanian Tiger).

How have “introduced species” affected our native animals? This was the effect of a change to their habitat.

**What is the difference between a meteor and a meteorite?**

A meteor is a solid extraterrestrial body that enters the earth’s atmosphere. A meteorite is a piece of stone or metallic object that remains from a meteor that has landed on the surface of the earth.

**What did you learn from the performance.**

Habitat, ecological footprint, Exxon Valdez disaster, extinction, ways to save electricity.

**Vocabulary.**

Antarctic, arctic, penguin, meteorite, climate change, Exxon Valdez, polar bear, feral, numbats, bandicoot, trout, recycle, technology, ecological, environment.

# Activity Sheet K to 6

## Lets Chat Habitat

### Make your own puppet

#### What you will need.

- A sheet of A4 paper.
- A short piece of elastic (about 15cm).
- Two pipe cleaners.
- Some sticky tape.
- A small piece of blue tack.
- A small circle of paper (or cardboard) about 5cm diameter.

#### How to make the puppet.

1. Take the piece of elastic, make a circle and tie the ends together.
2. Fold the piece of paper in half lengthwise and then fold it again.
3. Fold the paper in half by folding the bottom to the top.
4. Straighten the paper again.
5. Take the circle of elastic and slip it over the paper to the middle.
6. Fold the paper over again.
7. Fold the paper in half again from top to bottom.
8. Tear off a strip of sticky tape about 20cm long and wrap it around the middle of the paper.
9. Take the first pipe cleaner.
10. Push the paper open at the top fold and slip the first pipe cleaner through it at the end opposite the elastic.
11. Tie the ends of the pipe cleaner over and twist them together to form the puppet's neck.
12. Push the other pipe cleaner through the fold with the same length sticking out either side. This will form the arms.
13. Fold both ends forwards.
14. Then fold the two pipe cleaners in half to make the arms bent at the "elbow".
15. Then fold the pipe cleaners close to the ends to form the hands.
16. Take the piece of BlueTack, stretch it out and wrap it around the neck.
17. Push the round piece of paper/cardboard onto the BlueTack to make the head.
18. Then you put two fingers through the elastic to form the legs.

And now you have your puppet. You can colour it in if you would like to make the puppet's clothes and face.

## Activity Sheet K to 2 Lets Chat Habitat

**Who were some of the characters in the performance?**

.....

.....

.....

**Draw a picture of Dora the Dinosaur and her son Dino.**

## Activity Sheet Years 3 to 4

### Lets Chat Habitat

#### Choose the right words.

In the performance, the performer (**sings ...talks ... plays**) to us about (**climate ... habitat..... fishponds**).

Some of the Australian animals that have become extinct are the (**NSW numbat ...., kangaroo ..... elephant**) the pig footed bandicoot and also the Tasmanian (**zebra ..... seal ... tiger**).

The (**Exxon Valdez ..... Titanic .... Queen Mary**) ran aground on a (**rock .... reef .... island**) off the coast of (**Hawaii ... America ...Alaska**) spilling lots of (**fish .... oil ..... garbage**) into the ocean. This killed many sea creatures such as birds, seals, fish, plants, clams.

Climate describes changes over a (**short ... long**) period of time and weather changes over a (**short ... long**) period of time.

Polar bears live in the (**Arctic ... Antarctic**) which is also known as the (**South ... North**) Pole. Penguins live in the (**Arctic ... Antarctic**) which is also known as the (**South ... North**) Pole.

It is believed that (**elephants ... dinosaurs ... penguins**) became extinct millions of years ago when a large (**rainbow ... meteorite ... spaceship**) hit the earth. This caused a change in their (**food ... habitat ... homes**).

To save electricity we should turn off the (**washing machine ... lights ... car**) when we leave the room. We should turn off our (**computer ... TV ... light**) when we are not (**reading .... watching ..... playing with**) it. We should also (**re-use ... recycle ... replace**) our rubbish, especially (**food and TV ... plastic and glass ... cans and toys**).

We need (**water ... oxygen ... clouds**) in the air that we breathe for us to be able to live. (**Carbon ... water ... oxygen**) in the air makes our world (**better ... cooler ... hotter**).

Changing a habitat often causes animals to (**go to sleep ... die out ... get bigger**).

Some organisations that work to assist are in combating climate change are (**the Red Cross ... Greenpeace ...The Smith Family**), Friends of the Earth, or Climate Project.

The earth's largest creature is the (**dinosaur ... elephant ... blue whale**).

## Activity Sheet Years 5 to 6 Lets Chat Habitat

### Fill in the missing words.

In the performance, the performer ..... to us about .....

The Australian animals that have become extinct are ..... and  
..... and also the Tasmanian .....

The ..... ran aground on a ..... off the  
coast of ..... spilling lots of ..... into the  
ocean. This killed many sea creatures such as .....,  
....., and .....

..... describes changes over a long period of time and  
..... describes changes over a short period of time.

Polar bears live in the ..... which is also known as the .....  
Pole. Penguins live in the ..... which is also known as the  
..... Pole.

It is believed that ..... became extinct millions of years ago when a  
large ..... hit the earth. This caused a change in their  
.....

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To save electricity we should ..... when we leave the room. We should turn off our TV when we are not .....

We should also ..... our rubbish, especially ..... and .....

Some organizations that work to assist in combating climate change are ..... , Friends of the Earth, and Climate Project.

The earth's largest creature is the .....