

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT!

A whole new world comes alive when the sun goes down. Some animals are nocturnal, meaning they sleep during the day and are active at night. Being nocturnal can be a great adaptation for survival in Australia, as it is cooler at night and you can avoid predators that are active during the day.



MEET THE CHUDITCH

**Found:** South-west of Western Australia.  
**Fun fact:** The Chudtich is the largest, nocturnal, marsupial carnivore in Australia



MEET THE GHOST BAT

**Found:** Northern Western Australia.  
**Fun Fact:** Ghost Bats use echolocation to find their food. They emit a high-pitched sound and listen to the echo to determine how far and in what direction objects are.



MEET THE AUSTRALIAN TARANTULA

**Found:** Northern Queensland.  
**Fun Fact:** Tarantulas live in silk-lined burrows that vary in length from 40–100 cm.

NOCTURNAL ANIMAL ACTIVITIES

Investigate the nocturnal animals that may be in your yard!

MOTORBIKE FROG



LISTENING INVESTIGATION

**You will need:** Your yard

- 1 Wait for the sun to go down and turn off any outside lights.
- 2 Sit quietly in your yard and listen carefully for five minutes.
- 3 What animal noises did you hear? Was there rustling in a tree that might have been a possum? Did you hear sounds that could have been frogs calling to each other?
- 4 How many of the animal sounds you heard can you identify?

WESTERN RING-TAILED POSSUM



EYE-SHINE INVESTIGATION

**You will need:** Torch and your yard

- 1 Wait for the sun to go down and turn off any outside lights.
- 2 Turn your torch on and walk quietly around your yard. Slowly move the beam of light across trees and plants.
- 3 If you see two little reflecting spots – this could be an animal’s eyes reflecting the torch’s light.
- 4 What animal do you think is producing the eye shine? Could it be a possum, a spider, an owl or perhaps a bat?
- 5 Don’t forget to only shine the torch near the animals for short amounts of time, we don’t want to hurt its eyes with the bright light.

BILBY



NOCTURNAL HOUSE INVESTIGATION

**You will need:** Planet Keeper Nocturnal House video  
**Paper and Pencils**

- 1 Watch The Zoo Crew Planet Keeper Nocturnal House video.
- 2 Choose your favourite nocturnal animal from the video and draw it.
- 3 What parts of the animal’s body do you think make it well adapted for nocturnal life? For example does it have large ears to capture sound? Or does it have large eyes to capture light?
- 4 Label these adaptations on your drawing.