

## Vegan Education in Schools

### Vegan Clubs

#### Years 7 to 12

#### 'Guess the species' challenge

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##### Overview

The 'Guess the species' challenge is a fun and interactive activity where students identify animals based on sound bites, photos or trivia clues. This challenge helps students learn about the diversity of animal life, their unique behaviours, and the threats they face in a way that's engaging and memorable. The activity can be tailored to focus on native Australian wildlife, global species or specific themes such as endangered animals or marine life.

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##### How to run the 'Guess the species' challenge

###### 1. Use sound bites to test students' knowledge of animal calls and sounds.

- Play recorded animal sounds and ask students to identify the species.
  - Examples:
    - a) A kookaburra's laugh-like call.
    - b) A humpback whale's song.
    - c) The barking call of a koala.
  - Provide hints if needed, such as describing the animal's habitat or behaviour.
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###### 2. Show photos of animals to encourage visual recognition.

- Display images of animals and ask students to name the species.
  - Examples:
    - a) An echidna, with their spiky coat and long snout.
    - b) A quokka, famous for their "smile".
    - c) A leafy sea dragon, with their intricate camouflage.
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### 3. Incorporate trivia clues to add a critical thinking element.

- Provide clues about an animal's characteristics, behaviour or habitat, and have students guess the species.
  - Examples:
    - a) "I'm a marsupial who carries my young in a pouch, but unlike kangaroos, I glide from tree to tree." (Answer: Sugar glider)
    - b) "I'm an ocean animal with eight arms, three hearts and blue blood." (Answer: Octopus)
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### 4. Tailor the challenge to focus on specific themes.

- **Native Australian wildlife:** Highlight unique animals such as wombats, platypuses or lyrebirds.
  - **Endangered species:** Include animals like the Tasmanian devil or the leatherback turtle to educate students about conservation.
  - **Farmed animals:** Focus on animals like pigs, chickens or cows, discussing their emotions, intelligence and natural behaviours.
  - **Marine life:** Feature species like dolphins, stingrays or coral reefs, emphasising ocean conservation.
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### 5. Make the challenge interactive and competitive.

- Organise the activity as a game show, with points awarded for correct answers.
  - Split students into teams to foster collaboration and friendly competition.
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### 6. Use multimedia tools to enhance engagement.

- Use apps or online platforms to play sound bites, display images or provide animated clues.
  - Tools like Kahoot or Quizizz can make the challenge more dynamic with leaderboards and real-time feedback.
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## 7. Incorporate physical activities to energise the session.

- Add an action element by having students mimic the animal's movement or call before guessing.
  - Example: "Waddle like the animal in the photo, then guess their name." (Answer: Penguin)
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## 8. Combine the challenge with educational discussions.

- After each round, share interesting facts about the animal, such as their role in the ecosystem, their conservation status or unique behaviours.
  - Example: After guessing a wombat, explain how they dig burrows with cube-shaped poop to mark their territory.
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## Outcomes

- **Increased knowledge:** Students learn to recognise various species, their calls and behaviours, building awareness of biodiversity.
- **Conservation awareness:** By including endangered species and conservation themes, students gain a better understanding of threats animals face and how they can help.
- **Teamwork and critical thinking:** Working in teams encourages collaboration and problem-solving as students use clues to identify species.
- **Engagement and fun:** The interactive format ensures students remain enthusiastic and invested in learning about animals.