



Setting the scene

Despite the best efforts by people, many pest animals continue to thrive in Australia.

To better deal with the problem of pest animals you must understand the features that make them a successful pest.

What to do

Understand the power of a pest.

Choose one of the following pest animals and answer the following questions listed in the pest animal chart.

- fox
- rabbit
- feral pig
- feral goat
- feral camel
- cane toad

The pest animal I have chosen is the _____

Pest animal chart

Q Where can I be found?

HINT Can this pest animal be found all over Australia or only in special habitats?

A

Q How long do I live?

HINT What is the average life span of this pest animal in the wild?

A

Q Do I give birth to lots of babies or just one each year?

A

Q What do I like to eat?

HINT Can this pest animal eat lots of different things or are they fussy eaters.

A

Q Am I a pest in other countries?

A

Q How many times was I introduced to Australia?

HINT Was this pest animal introduced to Australia more than once?

NOTE If you find it hard to answer this question explain the reasons why.

A**Q Why was I brought to Australia?**

HINT Did the pest animal serve a purpose when it first came to Australia?

A

What to do next

Create your own powerful pest animal by including some powerful pest features.

Be creative.

Think about all the features that would make your pest animal a powerful pest.

- How does it affect native animals and plants and sensitive habitats they live in?
- Does it fly, swim or run?
- Does it live in tree hollows or dig burrows underground?
- Is it dangerous or poisonous?
- Can it live in your neighbourhood or backyard?

Once you have completed the design of your powerful pest animal, answer the following questions:

- Which native animals does this pest animal impact?
- How does your pest animal impact native animals?
- How does this pest animal impact the national parks?
- How does this pest animal impact rivers and lakes?
- How does this pest animal affect farmers, their farm animals and their crops?
- How does this pest animal affect people and the community?

FERAL FACT

Farm animals are still establishing themselves as pest animals in Australia.

In 1999, several deer escaped from a farm on Kangaroo Island and have now established a population at the north-western end of the island. The destruction caused by these feral deer includes damage to farmland, spread of weeds, competition with native animals and the destruction of important habitats.