



Adelaide's Bat Camp!

Information and Activity Booklet

Where did the Grey-headed Flying-foxes
come from and why are they here?



CITY OF
ADELAIDE

Photo: Grey-headed Flying-fox (Pteropus poliocephalus) eating flower nectar in Brisbane, QLD. Credit: Andrew Mercer.

I'm covered in one of my favourite foods – pollen! As I fly from flower to flower, this pollen gets transferred, allowing the flowers to produce fruit, seed and the next generation of plants!

Foraging Further Afield

These bats are very important pollinators for many Australian **ecosystems**. They eat the **pollen** and **nectar** of around 187 native plants.

They regularly travel over 15 km each night to find food but may travel up to 200 km if they can't find any nearby. From their camp in Botanic Park they often travel to the Adelaide Hills where they can feast on native plants and sometimes from orchard fruit trees, but only if they are particularly hungry!

Photo: Lilly Pilly (Szygium smithii) is a native you can plant to provide food for the flying foxes. Credit: Red Wolf

Bat Trail

You can take this booklet and explore the Bat Trail during Spring and Summer!

Find 25 bat tags hanging in trees around the city.

Each tag features a fun fact about these curious creatures. Can you find them all?

Visit cityofadelaide.com.au/GHFlyingFox for information on where to find them.

Fun fact: The City of Adelaide turns on its sprinklers to cool the bats in extreme heat.



Staying Safe

Please remember that bats are **wild** animals and could be carrying disease. Therefore you should NEVER touch them. If you see one on the ground, please call for help by contacting the City of Adelaide's Park Lands Ranger on 0407 394 662 or Fauna Rescue SA's Flying-fox Helpline on 0475 132 093.

Grey-headed Flying-foxes can become stressed during extreme heat and are more likely to be found on or near-the-ground. Please take extra precaution around their camp in Botanic Park and along the banks of the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari at these times.



When did the Grey-headed Flying-fox arrive?

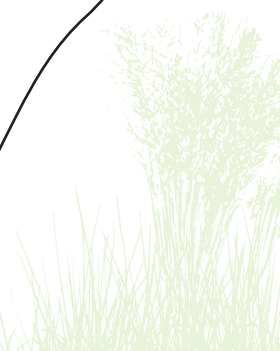
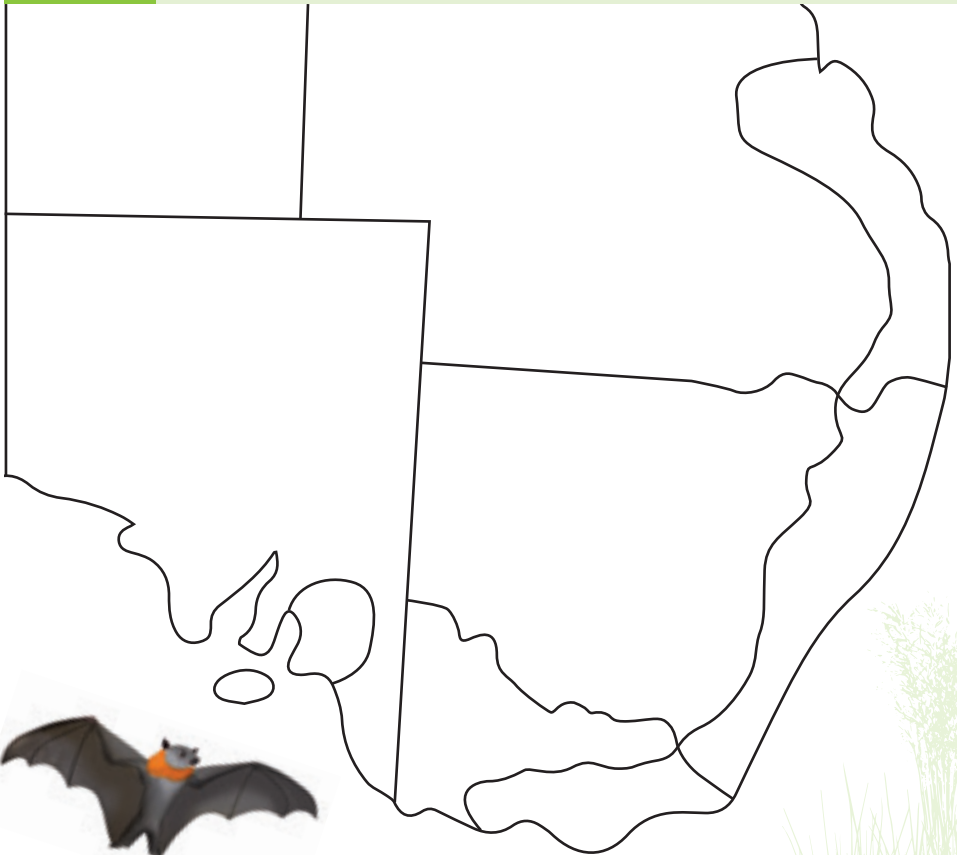
Adelaide's Grey-headed Flying-foxes set up a small permanent **colony** in Botanic Park in 2010, which now contains nearly 30,000 individuals!

They have fled **habitat** destruction and migrated away from the effects of climate change and drought in the eastern Australian states.

However, their population is in decline across Australia and they are now considered vulnerable to **extinction**. They are **endemic**, which means they are not found in any other country, and now need our help to survive!



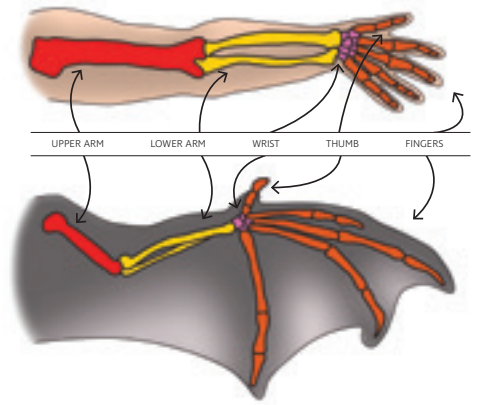
Colour **RED** where the Grey-headed Flying-fox came from and **GREEN** where they are also found now.



Making a Mammal

Bats are **mammals** just like us! Look at a bat wing **skeleton** and you can see how similar it is to a human arm, just with very long 'fingers'!

Fun fact: The scientific name for flying foxes is **megachiroptera**, which means 'large winged hands' in Latin. Can you see why?

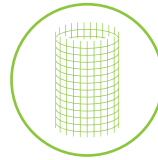


What Can You Do?



Talk to your friends and family about the amazing story of this fearless flyer.

Flying-foxes sometimes get a bad reputation, but they are just trying to survive. Let's share their amazing story of survival and encourage everyone to protect them.



If netting fruit trees, please use wildlife-safe netting.

Flying-foxes are easily tangled in **netting** with holes larger than 5mm, so having very fine netting on fruit trees is much safer for them.



Plant native plants from which flying-foxes can feed.

The nectar of banksias, grevilleas, tea-trees and gum trees and the fleshy fruit of date palms, lilly pillies, Moreton Bay figs and mulberries are favourite foods of our furry friends. Why not plant a few of these in your back garden?



Install a bat habitat box.

Although not used by flying-foxes, bat boxes are a great way for native **microbats** to find shelter in urban areas. You might notice fewer mosquitos over summer, as they are a favourite microbat food! Visit **ausbats.org.au** for instructions on making your own.



Flying-fox Bingo

See if you can cross off each task when you are visiting the Bat Camp in Botanic Park or on the Bat Trail!



COUNT: how many bats can you see in one tree?



FEEL: the rough surface of a tree on which their claws can hang



FIND: a tree with flowers or fruit that might provide them with food



HEAR: the bats chatting away



IMAGINE: your hand and arm as a wing, stretched across with skin



SEE: a flying-fox in flight



SMELL: can you detect a funky scent in the air?



SPOT: a flying-fox pup clinging to its mother



WATCH: what are the bats doing?



Flying-fox Find-a-Word!

The **orange** words used in this booklet
can be found in the find-a-word below.
See if you can circle them all!

K K O M W H H Y H D R L P I A
L A C I V F I P X A W R M Y H
K U M C S L H P T W E S E R O
W R K R N Y P C W N E H G A W
E N O O M I E B F E X W A K H
C A J B A N I C V T T H C S Y
O V F A M G Q A X T I A H K A
S J T T M F Z Z C I N B I E S
Y J S S A O A I R N C I R L W
S K P M L X M T H G T T O E I
T C O P S E W X T E I A P T L
E S L V D S J I R U O T T O D
M Q L N V E U L W M N S E N E
S Z E O F R S G Q I O P R H H
C G N Y F R U D P L N X A N J

ECOSYSTEMS
ENDEMIC
EXTINCTION
FLYINGFOXES
FRUIT

HABITAT
KAURNA
MAMMALS
MEGACHIROPTERA
MICROBATS

NECTAR
NETTING
POLLEN
SKELETON
WILD



City of Adelaide acknowledges that we are located on the traditional Country of the **Kaurna** people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today. And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations.

Thank you to our partners



Government
of South Australia



South
Australian
Museum



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