Main Topic: Ecology
Sub Topic: Introduced Species

- Most students will have heard of the film *The Rabbit-Proof Fence*. Show them a scene from the film or some still photos featuring the fence itself, to initiate some discussion and research into what the actual rabbit proof-fence is and why it was constructed.

- Read *Introduction and Extinction* from the Our Voices series for a brief explanation of the fence and what led to its construction as well as an overview of some introduced animals and their effects on the country.

- Brainstorm the animals which were in Australia before Europeans arrived and those that have been introduced since colonisation.

- Discuss with students which animals have been introduced to Australia? Introduce the students to the terms Native and Introduced and list the animals under the appropriate headings.

- Most of the animals introduced into Australia following colonisation impacted upon the environment and the ability of Aboriginal people to conduct their lives as they had prior to the arrival of Europeans.

- Group work: Each group is allocated an introduced species to research. Key points to consider:
  - environmental impact
  - effect on native species
  - effect on the Aboriginal way of life
  - are they a new food source
  - economic value to Australia
  - economic value to the Aboriginal people

- Using a cube net, make a fact cube placing a picture of the animal, local Aboriginal name, interesting facts, Dreaming story, threats, habitat, food on each of the faces.

- Research where the Kookaburra came from and how was it introduced into Western Australia?

- Discover the Aboriginal stories that relate to the Kookaburra

- Whole class activity: Students research and discuss the issues surrounding the introduction of the cane toad into Australia.

- Using a top end map of Australia examine what Aboriginal Lands the cane toads have passed through. Identify what Aboriginal communities are involved in toad eradication projects.


- Individual: Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper highlighting their
concerns regarding the invasion of the cane toad. This should include the environmental impact upon Aboriginal communities.

- *A Home for Bilby* is an engaging picture book which includes factual information about the bilby and its status as an endangered species. It is written by a Geraldton author and a Broome illustrator.

**Resources**