



## Teeth, tails and talons

### Components

	NAME	DESCRIPTION	AUDIENCE
	<i>Teeth, tails and talons</i> teachers guide	This guide includes suggestions for teaching strategies, discussion points, associated resources and potential uses of the card game, <i>Teeth, tails and talons!</i>	teachers
	<i>Teeth, tails and talons!</i> card game	A card game engages student interest in structural features of Australian animals.	students
	<i>Rules of the game</i> procedure sheet	This sheet explains rules of the card game, <i>Teeth, tails and talons!</i> It contains a table of animals included in the game.	students

### Purpose

To **Engage** student interest in structural characteristics of Australian fauna, and encourage consideration of functions of these characteristics within a particular environment.

### Outcomes

Students:

- consider structural characteristics of different Australian animals,
- make decisions about functions of structural characteristics of Australian animals, and
- appreciate the relationship between environment and structural characteristics of animals.

### Activity summary

ACTIVITY	POSSIBLE STRATEGY
Teacher provides instruction on how to play <i>Teeth, tails and talons!</i>	whole class
Teacher divides students into groups of four. Each group is provided with a set of cards and a rule sheet that contains a table showing animals included in the game.	group activity
When the game is finished, students examine the answer matrix, at the end of this guide, that shows the correct card sets.	group activity

### Technical requirements

The guide, procedure sheet and card set require Adobe Reader which is a free download from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). Laminating of cards is recommended to ensure future use.

### Teacher notes

Teachers explain that the object of the game is to build a complete set of cards that match physical structures of an animal.

If students are unsure of a structure they need to consider text clues written on each card. These text clues provide some information on function.

The card game takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. For a quicker game, the winner can be the first player to build a complete set.

The card game aims to engage student interest in the relationship between structure and function. Possible discussion points after the game include:

- How were your decisions about each structure made?
- How did the environment of each animal influence your choices?
- What information did the text clues on each card provide?
- What did you notice about the relationship between a structure and an animal's environment?

## Associated SPICE resources

*Structural adaptation 1: Teeth, tails and talons* may be used with related SPICE resources to address the broader topic of structural adaptation.

DESCRIPTION	LEARNING PURPOSE
<i>Structural adaptation (sequence overview)</i> This learning pathway shows how a number of SPICE resources may be combined to teach the topic of structural adaptation.	
<i>Structural adaptation 1: Teeth, tails and talons</i> A card game engages student interest in structural features of Australian animals.	<b>Engage</b>
<i>Structural adaptation 2: Featured creatures</i> A presentation encourages students to explore environmental conditions of three habitats, and characteristics a plant or animal would need to survive there.	<b>Explore</b>
<i>Structural adaptation 3: Structure and function</i> A video explains adaptations in three organisms: rakali, water-holding frog and seagrass.	<b>Explain</b>
<i>Structural adaptation 4: Researching adaptations</i> In a series of podcasts, three scientists at The University of Western Australia explain their research into Australian animals and plants.	<b>Elaborate</b>

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animal	teeth	tail or wing	talon or fin
<b>A Koala</b> <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>  Find   	<b>B</b>  teeth for chewing leaves 	<b>C</b>  There is a tail under there. 	<b>D</b>  talons for climbing 
<b>A Grey-headed flying fox</b> <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>  Find   	<b>B</b>  This animal eats nectar, pollen and fruit, and these teeth are sharp. 	<b>C</b>  This animal doesn't have a tail, but it does have wings. 	<b>D</b>  claws for hanging around 
<b>A Saltwater crocodile</b> <i>Crocodilus porosus</i>  Find   	<b>B</b>  teeth that grip and puncture 	<b>C</b>  This tail is perfect for swimming. 	<b>D</b>  sharp, powerful claws 
<b>A Dingo</b> <i>Canis lupus dingo</i>  Find   	<b>B</b>  cutting and tearing teeth 	<b>C</b>  a tail for communication 	<b>D</b>  claws to tear apart food 
<b>A Great white shark</b> <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>  Find   	<b>B</b>  serrated teeth for tearing 	<b>C</b>  a powerful tail for propulsion 	<b>D</b>  A pectoral fin aids balance and navigation. 
<b>A Humpback whale</b> <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>  Find   	<b>B</b>  They're not quite teeth, but they allow this animal to eat. 	<b>C</b>  power for swimming 	<b>D</b>  long pectoral fins for manoeuvring in water 



animal	teeth	tail or wing	talon or fin
<b>A Numbat</b> <i>Myrmecobius fasciatus</i>  <b>Find</b>   	<b>B</b>  This animal eats termites but still has teeth.	<b>C</b>  a long and distinctive tail	<b>D</b>  claws that dig food from logs
<b>A Common wombat</b> <i>Vombatus ursinus</i>  <b>Find</b>   	<b>B</b>  teeth for grinding roots, shoots, and leaves	<b>C</b>  not much of a tail	<b>D</b>  powerful digging tools
<b>A Tasmanian devil</b> <i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>  <b>Find</b>   	<b>B</b>  teeth that cut and tear, set in a powerful jaw	<b>C</b>  This tail acts as a fat store when times are good.	<b>D</b>  sharp claws for gripping food and digging dens
<b>A Western grey kangaroo</b> <i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>  <b>Find</b>   	<b>B</b>  teeth for grinding grass and leaves	<b>C</b>  This tail helps with balance and locomotion.	<b>D</b>  excellent weapons
<b>A Emu</b> <i>Dromais novaehollandiae</i>  <b>Find</b>   	<b>B</b>  This animal grazes and browses, but doesn't have teeth.	<b>C</b>  a fanciful, feathery tail	<b>D</b>  sharp claws for defence
<b>A Short-beaked echidna</b> <i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>  <b>Find</b>   	<b>B</b>  This animal eats ants and termites, but doesn't have any teeth.	<b>C</b>  a spiked tail for protection	<b>D</b>  claws for digging