

05 Skimming and Scanning – Lesestrategien für komplexere Texte anwenden

- A1** Do not start reading properly yet. Just **skim** the article. Guess what it's about and tell your partner.

Skimming means quick reading. It helps you to quickly find the main idea of a text. These steps might help you:

1. Read the heading of the article.
2. Find the captions and analyse them.
3. Have a look at the pictures and graphics.
4. Read the first and the last sentence of each paragraph.

Your summary for your partner:

- A2** Read the article and have a closer look at it. Use the reading strategy **scanning**.

Scanning means finding facts. It helps you to focus on hard facts and to find the key words. This is what you have to do:

1. Look at the text section by section.
2. Look for the nouns and verbs in each sentence.
3. Look for bold or repeated keywords.

- A3** Answer the following questions.

a) Why are many Australian animals threatened by extinction?

b) Which species are endangered?

c) How did the researchers define a city?

d) In which city does the majority of wild animals live?

- A4** Which facts do you find most interesting? Are there facts which you didn't know before?

Australia's wildlife and its hiding places!

Abstract

Most people think that endangered plants and animals can only be found in natural reserves, far away in the wilderness. But is that true? We discovered that a lot of these endangered species live closer than people think – namely right here in our cities! They can be found, for example, in Sydney, Brisbane or Perth and that is why we need to find a way to help them to survive. We need to find a way to share our neighbourhoods with them.



Introduction

In Australia you can find animals like the kangaroo, the koala bear or the wombat. It is home to a lot of unique animals and plants that cannot be found anywhere else on earth. However, a lot of Australian animals and plants are threatened by extinction¹¹. Why? – Because their natural habitats¹² were destroyed – by men, environmental or by foreign plants and animals that were brought to Australia and unbalanced the ecological system. That is why we need to find a way to protect those endangered species.



Flying foxes like cities because of the trees and lakes.

But where do we find them? Most people think that they live far away in the wilderness or maybe in natural reserves. That is, however, not true. A lot of these endangered animals and plants live in our neighbourhood, right here next to us.

In order to find a way to protect these endangered species we need to figure out which species are under threat and how many of these species actually live in our cities.

Methods

What species are endangered?

We started our research project by investigating which kinds of animals and plants are threatened by extinction. The Australian government published a list of endangered species according to which over 1200 plants and 400 animals are under the threat of extinction. This was also known to many researchers and nature scientists who had already collected a lot of data. Using the data, these researchers created maps where those endangered species can be found.

What cities are there?

As a next step, we needed to map all Australian cities, which became a tricky task since it is sometimes difficult to distinguish¹³ between a city and a suburb. We therefore defined a city according to the following criteria:

- A city is a place where at least 10,000 people live.
- A city is a place where at least 100 people per km² live.

Our results showed that there are 99 cities in Australia (which cover less than 0.25% of the whole continent!).

Is there an overlap?

Having now a distribution map of the endangered species and a map of the Australian cities, a computer program showed us where the maps overlapped. In other words, in which cities the endangered species can be found.

¹¹ (N.) extinction = something does not exist anymore. Example.: The dinosaurs are extinct.

¹² (N.) natural habitats = places where animals and plants naturally live. Example: The natural habitats of the grey-headed flying fox are the forests in the south-eastern Eastern Australia.

¹³ (v.) to distinguish (sth./between sth. or sb.) = to differentiate. Example = Are you able to distinguish the different types of kangaroos?