

**Overview:** Accept the challenge and find the creatures we seek. Students work together to classify Perth Zoo animals based on observable features. They will explore the similarities and differences of the vertebrate classes with some of the most interesting and exciting animals from across the globe.

**Lesson Logistics:** There is a moderate amount of movement involved during this experiment. It will take place in one of our outdoor venues. In small groups, students will investigate the defining characteristics of animals and determine what class of mammal those animals belong to. They will then use this information to find out which creature we seek.



Southern Cassowary

*Casuarius casuarius*

**Duration:** 40 minutes

**Conservation Message:** All animals, including us, can be grouped according to our similarities and differences. The world is a wondrous place and we can all help keep it that way.

### Links to the Australian Curriculum

Science	Science Understanding Biological Science	Science as a human Endeavour	Science Inquiry Skills
Year 3	Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things ( <a href="#">ACSSU044</a> ).	Science involves exploring and observing the world using the senses (ACSHE013).	Respond to questions about familiar objects and events (ACSIS014).



## Before Your Visit

It would be useful to consider the following topics prior to your *Creature Seeker Zoo* education experience:

- Look at different ways of classifying living things. This could include looking at which countries they live, how they move, or whether they are aquatic or life on land.
- Research these living things – orangutan, Burmese python, Australian tarantula, emperor penguin, barramundi and green tree frog. How would the groups look different if you grouped them in the following ways:
  - by the countries they live in
  - by the way they move
  - by what they are covered in
  - whether they have an exo-skeleton or an internal skeleton
- Look at the scientific classifications of animals with a backbone (vertebrae) and look at the defining characteristics of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish.

## After Your Visit

After your visit you might like your students to:

- Create a Venn diagram showing the similarities and differences between their favourite:
  - mammal and fish
  - reptile and bird
  - amphibian and fish
- Look at the differences between invertebrates and vertebrates.
- Write a description of their favourite mammal including at least six defining characteristics within the text.
- Create their own super creature with a combination of characteristics that they have learnt about. What kind of habitat would this creature live in?

