

# FINDING OUT



Forests NSW has researchers who study and monitor the forest. Their job is to find out the needs of the creatures that live there. It is with this understanding that biodiversity in a forest can be protected or enhanced, which is important for the future health of the forest.

What can you find out? Find the meaning of the words:

researcher .....

monitor .....

biodiversity .....

What can you find out? Survey three people to find out one word that best describes how they would feel...

If you went for a walk in a forest, how would you feel if you saw a kangaroo, koala or wombat?

PERSON 1 .....

PERSON 2 .....

PERSON 3 .....

If you went for a walk in a forest, how would you feel if you saw a snake, spider or leech?

PERSON 1 .....

PERSON 2 .....

PERSON 3 .....

All of the creatures in a forest are fascinating to watch, and all should be approached with caution. All are an important part of the biodiversity.

What can you find out? Find out differences between:

vertebrate .....

and

invertebrate .....

predator .....

and

parasite .....

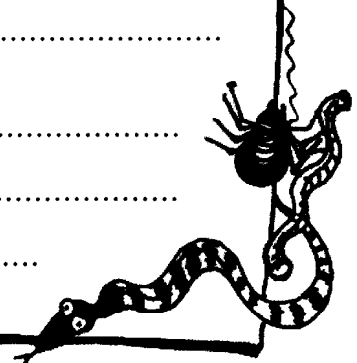
annelid .....

and

arachnid .....

and

reptile .....



What can you find out? Find out about snakes, spiders and leeches.

The Forests NSW website has interesting information on forest vertebrates and forest invertebrates. Check out facts sheets online at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests)

What have you found out?

Use the information you have found out to help you connect the word in the box with the drawing. Some words will connect with more than one creature.

1. vertebrate

2. invertebrate

3. predator

4. parasite

5. annelid

6. arachnid

7. reptile

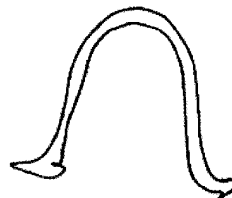
Snake



Spider



Leech



Interesting facts we've found out:

There are more than 40 different types of snakes that can be found in New South Wales. No snake can be positively identified by describing only its colour. Young snakes often appear very different from the adult, and colours vary from area to area for the same species.

Leeches occur in forest areas on the coastal side of the Great Dividing Range. They can withstand drought in a dried up condition, and can go without food for up to one year. They feed on mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs. They are food for worm-eating birds.

Spiders come in all shapes and sizes and each type uses silk in a different type of web. For example: the door to a trapdoor spider's hole is made with mud and saliva and attached with a hinge made from web.



Answers: snake 1, 3, 7, spider 2, 3, 6 leech 2, 4, 5