

Source Sheet: Saving the Numbat

A curated, Year 6-readable source sheet on the numbat (Western Australia's faunal emblem), a threatened Australian species. Provides factual evidence on its needs, the threats to its survival, and conservation actions — for use in the Lesson 4 evidence-based response activity.

The numbat is a small, striped marsupial and the animal emblem of Western Australia. Once found across much of southern Australia, it is now a **threatened species** — fewer than about **1,000** remain in the wild.

What the numbat needs to survive

- **Food:** it eats almost only **termites** — up to 20,000 a day, licked up with a long sticky tongue.
- **Shelter:** it sleeps in **hollow logs** and burrows, which protect it from weather and predators.
- **Habitat:** open eucalypt **woodland** with plenty of fallen timber and termites.

Threats to its survival

- **Introduced predators:** feral **cats and foxes** hunt numbats. This is the single biggest threat.
- **Land clearing:** removing woodland takes away the hollow logs and termites the numbat depends on.
- **Small numbers:** with so few left, the species is fragile — one bad event can wipe out a whole group.

What is being done to help

- **Predator-proof fenced reserves** keep cats and foxes out — numbat numbers have risen inside them.
- **Captive breeding** at places like Perth Zoo raises young numbats to release into the wild.
- **Habitat protection** keeps woodland and fallen logs in place so the numbat has food and shelter.

To build your response: pick **two facts** above as evidence, then choose **one action** that matches the threat — and explain why it would work.