

Student handout

Tree kangaroos and home movies

- how letting rare tree kangaroos film themselves might help protect their species

Introductory questions

1. If you wanted to study your pet dog or cat, what are some of the ways you would go about it?
2. If you wanted to set up some cameras to video your pet, where would be good places to do so?
3. Imagine you're wanting to study a wild animal. How might this be more difficult than studying your pet?

Questions once the video has been shown

1. Why are tree kangaroos hard to find?
2. What things have humans done to reduce the numbers of tree kangaroos?
3. What did the researcher put on the tree kangaroo?
4. Why did the researcher do that?
5. Why didn't they just climb up the tree with the tree kangaroo and film them there?
6. What did the crittercam show?
7. What did the researcher discover the female tree kangaroo was carrying?
8. Why was everyone excited by this?
9. If they found a female and it didn't have a baby joey inside, what might that mean?
10. Did the scientists think the Crittercam was a success? Why?

Final questions

1. What other animals do you think it would be good to put a Crittercam on? Why?
2. What animals would you not put a Crittercam on? Why not?
3. What other methods could zoologists and scientists use to study endangered animals?

nb: the video on which these questions are based is available to view at www.KentonWebb.com>For educators>Lesson 1: Tree kangaroo home movies. It is a National Geographic production made in conjunction with Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, USA.