

# Wonambi Worksheet



You are a time traveller who has travelled back in time 200,000 years ago. Naracoorte Caves area looks a lot different to what you see now. Animals that you discovered through looking at fossil deposits are now before your eyes. There are five areas for you to research and prepare a report.

- **Carnivore Zone**

1. What is happening to the wallaby?
2. What is a carnivore?
3. How many carnivores can you see?
4. What might have attracted the carnivores (meat eaters) to this area?
5. You are the first person to see a live Thylacoleo. Take a description of it back to the present.  
Eg size, fur, teeth, feet tail.

- **Swamp Zone**

1. What is a herbivore?
2. What do you think Zygomaturus would eat? (careful observation)
3. Take a description of Zygomaturus with you back to the present. Eg size, fur, pouch, tail, feet.

- **Forest Edge/Water Edge Zone**

1. Would Diprotodon live in the thick forest or open land? Why?
2. Examine the kangaroos – how do they differ from the kangaroos you see today? What type of environment do you think they would live in?
3. Very few bones have been found of Palorchestes. Take back a description of the animal that will help other people understand more about it. (There is a mother Palorchestes further on from this point, in a cave.)
4. How might scientists guess that Palorchestes had a small trunk?

- **Cave Zone**

1. Would there be many insects in here? Why?
2. What might the owl bring into the cave?
3. There are many different animals in here. Describe how each of them may have got in here. Who could get out again?
4. How might the Tasmanian Devils get the fluid they need to survive in the cave?

- **Research Zone – You have now walked back to the present.**

1. The sand cone has been sliced through. Describe what you see.
2. Are all the bones complete? What may have happened to break them? (Think about how the animals got into the cave and also what you saw in the cave!)
3. A calcite formation (stalagmite, or flowstone) can be dated to tell us how old it is. How might that help us work out how old the bones might be?

### **Book a visit to the Wonambi Fossil Centre**

To find out more about booking a visit to the Wonambi Fossil Centre contact Naracoorte Caves National Park

Phone: (08) 8762 2340

Email: [NaracoorteCaves@sa.gov.au](mailto:NaracoorteCaves@sa.gov.au)