

Spot the pest

Student: Class:

European settlers changed much of the Australian wilderness into farmland. They introduced new animals into Australia for food, transport and companionship. Some of these tame (or domestic) animals escaped and became wild. As feral animals, they preyed on native species and destroyed habitats. Some, such as rabbits and foxes, were brought here to be hunted as sport. Others, such as rats, made their own way via ships. Some animals have been introduced as a biological control for other pests.

Instructions

1. On the following page are pictures of introduced animals. Match each picture with where you think it should go on the chart. Write the name of the animal in the correct box.
2. Circle each animal you think has become a pest in Australia. Give reasons for your choices.
3. Research one of these pests. Prepare a one-page report outlining why it was introduced to Australia, how it became a pest and what is being done to control it.

I sneaked into Australia via the ropes and riggings of ships.	I was brought to Australia as a pet. I enjoy eating birds and rodents.	I was introduced to provide food (milk and meat).	I was brought to Australia as transport and to help with farming.
I was introduced to provide food (meat and eggs).	I was introduced to provide food, but now enjoy wallowing in mud and digging up the land.	I was brought to Australia thousands of years ago.	I was brought to Australia as transport for the early explorers.
I was brought to Australia as a pet, and am usually very faithful.	I sneaked into Australia on the hull of a ship.	I was introduced into Australia by scientists to control another pest.	I was introduced into Australia for sport. I enjoy eating bilbies.

