

## **Living World – The Emu**

### *Adaptations of living things*

#### **Key inquiry question**

How do physical conditions affect the survival of living things such as emus?

How do structural and behavioural features of emus and other living things support survival?

#### **Science and Technology K-6**

##### **Outcomes**

ST3 4LW S examines how the environment affects the growth, survival and adaptation of living things

##### **Students**

- Describe how changing physical conditions in the environment affect the growth and survival of living things
- describe adaptations as existing structures or behaviours that enable living things to survive in their environment
- describe the structural and/or behavioural features of some native Australian animals and plants and why they are considered to be adaptations

##### **Skills Focus**

This series of lessons requires students to process and analyse data represented as a distribution map.

##### **Lesson / activity outline**

This activity enables students to meet curriculum outcomes through discovery and analysis. Students learn about structural and behavioural adaptations which enable the emu to survive in its environment. Students consider the links between emu distribution and urbanisation before learning about the Emu in the sky and its importance in Aboriginal culture.

This series of lessons is fairly self-directed for students.

##### **Required resources, equipment and technology**

- A device to watch the YouTube video and access other weblinks
- This sheet printed
- Pencil and eraser

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**Weblinks utilised**

Emus – with Dr Dave <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4I8LYR4e1o>

Adaptations - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tC-u8xcZYSM>

How to Draw and Emu [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjkgCD\\_MS94](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjkgCD_MS94)

Australian Museum Animal Factsheet (Emu)

[https://australianmuseum.net.au/learn/animals/birds/emu/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZrG6MJSHYV2-akXbozIJMls-oqiW4yB0SqG-dh3\\_kXcciaDudkVNcMaAsmEEALw\\_wcB](https://australianmuseum.net.au/learn/animals/birds/emu/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZrG6MJSHYV2-akXbozIJMls-oqiW4yB0SqG-dh3_kXcciaDudkVNcMaAsmEEALw_wcB)

ABC Focus – Interview with Ray Norris on the Emu in the sky.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/programs/focus/eora-44-indig-astronomy/8383252>

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## The Emu

### Activity 1

Watch the following YouTube clip about the different types of adaptations of animals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tC-u8xcZYSM>

As you watch the clip, fill in some examples of each of the categories of adaptations in the table below.

<b>Behavioural</b> (The way an organism behaves or acts)	<b>Structural</b> (Physical features)	<b>Functional</b> (Processes inside an organism)

### Activity 2

Watch the following YouTube clip about the emu.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4I8LYR4e1o>

Dr Dave is pretty funny! He has also given us some interesting information about the emu. Write down 3 interesting facts that you have learnt about the emu.

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Name one adaptation that emus have to help them survive in their environment. Is it behavioural / structural / functional (circle).

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**Activity 3**

In the box below, draw a picture of an emu using the link below to guide you through the process. Use a lead pencil – all scientific diagrams should be in lead pencil.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjkgCD\\_MS94](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjkgCD_MS94)

Show its physical characteristics and label the parts of its body. Write a brief description of each body part and explain how the emu uses it.

Features:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

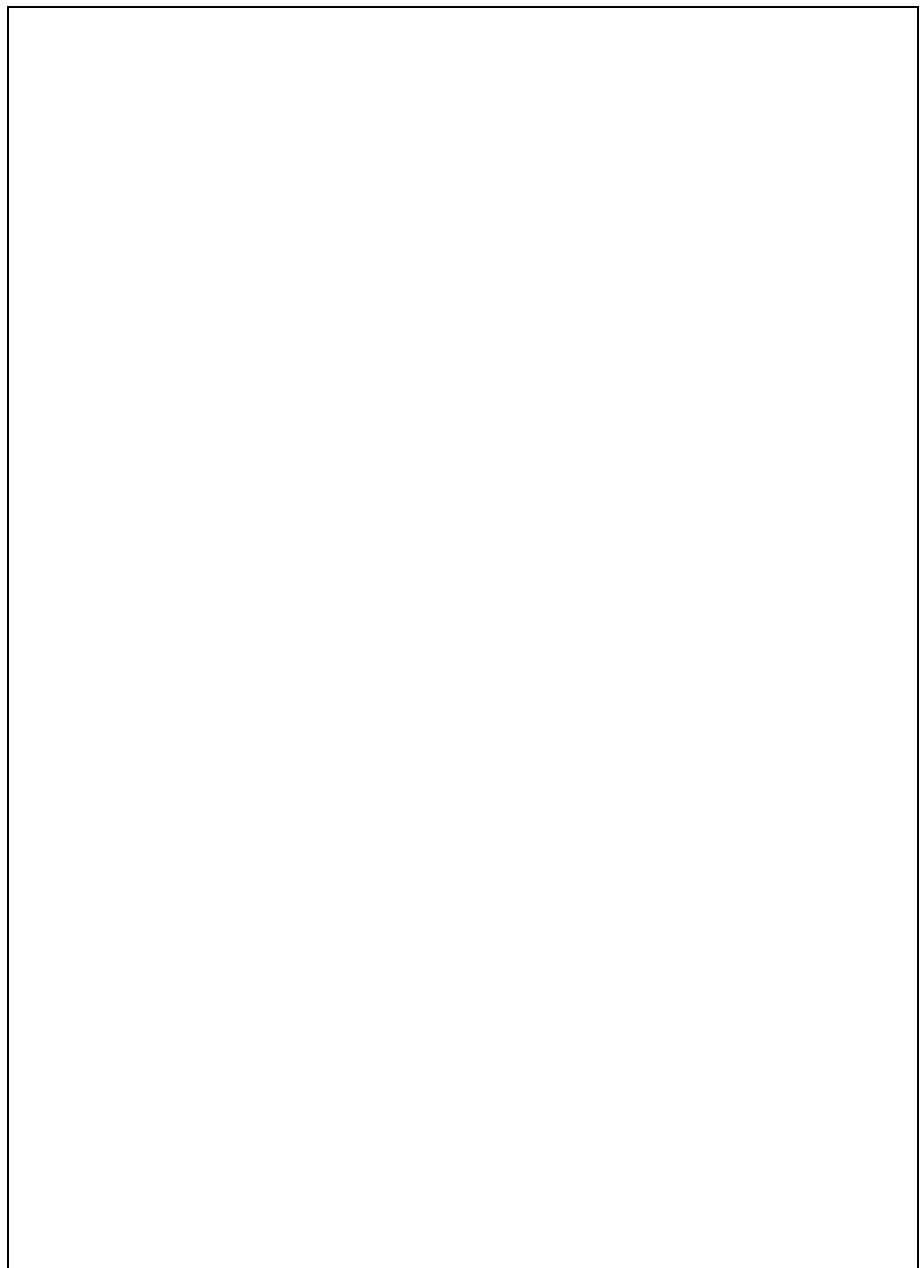
3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Activity 4**

Use the link below to research emu habitat and distribution (where they are found).

<https://australianmuseum.net.au/learn/animals/birds/emu/?gclid=Cj0KCCQjwpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZrG6MJSHYV2-akXbozIJMls-oqiW4yB0SqG-dh3 kXcciaDudkVNcMaAsmEEALw wcB>

Fill in the missing words.

The main habitats of the emu are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . These birds are rarely found in rainforest or very arid areas.

Look at the map on the website. The orange dots are emu sightings and show the distribution of emus across Australia.

Zoom in to see if there are emus living close to you. Are there any? Why or why not?

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Are there greater numbers of emus found in urban areas (close to cities like Sydney) or country areas? Why or why not?

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### Activity 5

Spot the emu in the sky!

Click on the link below to listen to Ben Flick, an Aboriginal man from the Kamilaroi language group of north-western NSW. Ben explains a creation story passed down to him regarding 'the emu in the sky'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzFYFutiwoA>

Could you see the emu?

The best time to see the emu is April to May. What are the Aboriginal people able to do when they see the emu in the sky?

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Tonight, if the sky is clear, why don't you go outside and see if you can see the emu in the sky, in the Milky Way, underneath the Southern Cross. Listen to the interview with Ray Norris on the link below for some pointers.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/programs/focus/eora-44-indig-astronomy/8383252>

