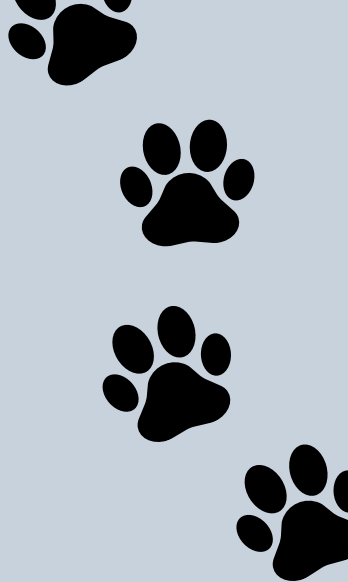




Australian Government

BECOME A

Junior Biosecurity Officer



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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Hi! I'm Frankie!
**Come with me as I learn to become a
biosecurity detector dog.**

**Let's work together and do our part to protect
Australia's biosecurity.**

**You can help by becoming a
Junior Biosecurity Officer. Share what you
learn with your friends and family!**

**If you need help filling in the booklet,
ask an adult.**



What is biosecurity?

Bio – means life or living, like a person, an animal or plant.

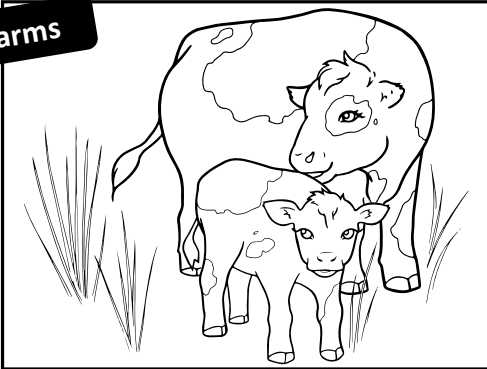
Security – means to keep things safe.

WHY IS BIOSECURITY IMPORTANT?

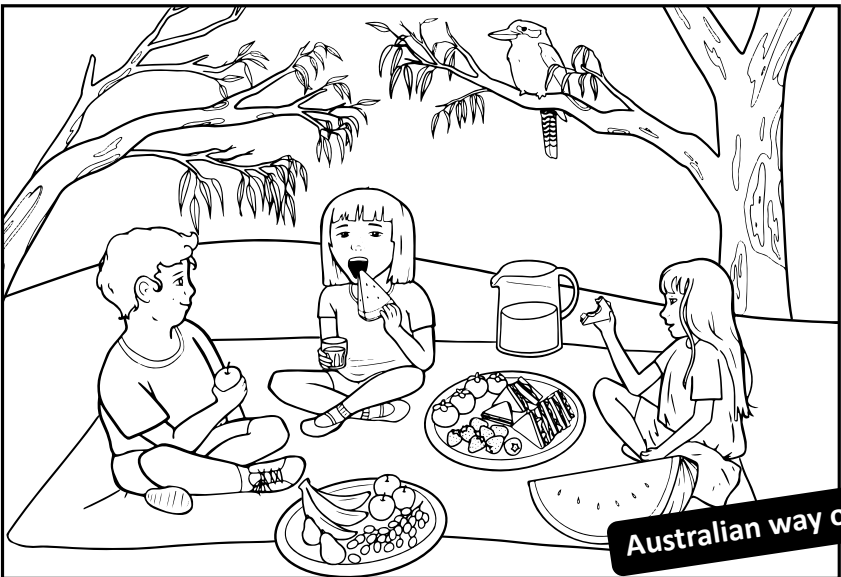
Biosecurity keeps our farms, animals, parks and pets safe from things that can make them sick. Biosecurity is good for all of us, so we need to work together to keep Australia safe.

In fact, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been doing this for a long time – taking care of Country to keep Australia’s unique plants, animals and environment safe from pests and diseases.

Farms



Environment



Australian way of life

What does it protect?

- Farms
- Environment
- Australian way of life

What are pests and diseases?

Pests are organisms, plants and animals that don't belong. They may hurt other animals, plants or the environment. They may also carry an illness that can make Australian plants, animals and people sick, and could damage our environment.

- Giant African snail is a plant pest.
- Karoo thorn is a pest that is bad for nature.
- Red imported fire ants are a pest to humans.
- COVID-19 is a human disease.
- Lumpy skin disease is an animal disease.
- Citrus canker is a plant disease.

What can you do?

You can help protect Australia from pests and diseases by becoming a Junior Biosecurity Officer! You can:

- learn all about biosecurity
- tell your friends and family!

When you finish this activity book, you will be part of the Junior Biosecurity Officer team.



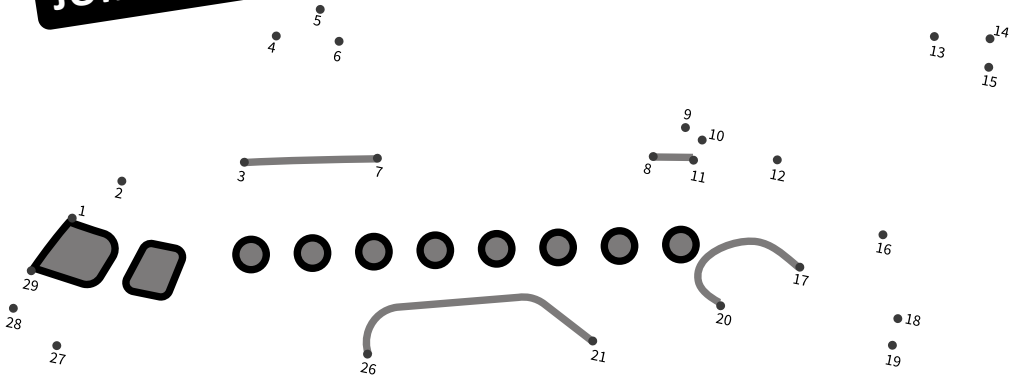
WHERE DO THREATS COME FROM?

There are lots of exotic pests and diseases that we don't want in Australia. These pests and diseases come from other countries or from the sea. They can get into Australia in many ways.

Pathways to Australia

- On the bottom of ships or in water they release
- Inside planes
- Sea containers and cargo at seaports
- International travellers' luggage
- Parcels, letters and items sent from overseas
- Wind, water currents and animal migration

JOIN THE DOTS!



Frankie fact!
Exotic means pests or diseases we do not have in Australia.



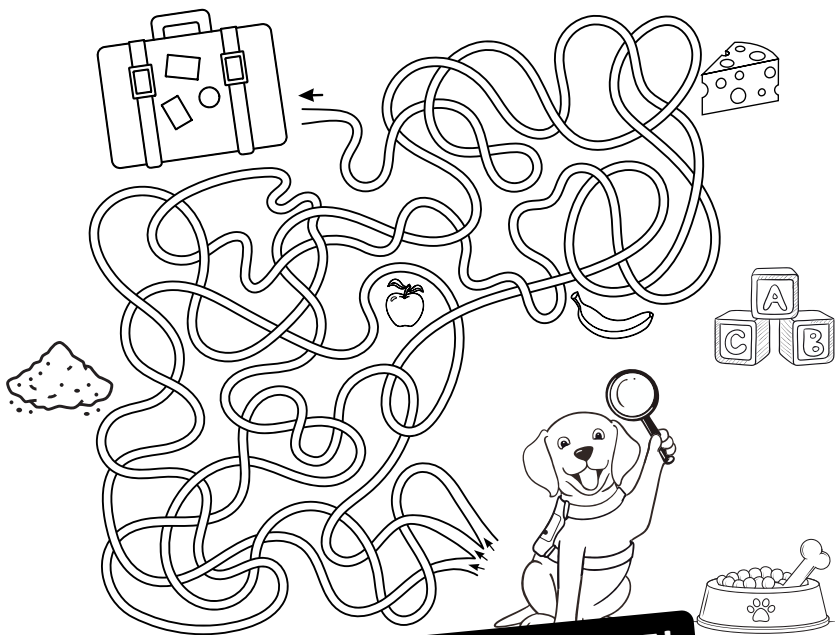
It is nice to bring home a souvenir to remember your great holiday, but we need to make sure it is safe to bring to Australia.

Exotic pests and diseases can come from things you bring back from overseas holidays. They can also come in parcels that your friends and family send to Australia in the mail.

Some items are not allowed into the country. This includes some food and things made from plants and animals, seeds and soil.

If you are travelling, biosecurity officers will be at the airport and other places to help you.

Tell your friends and family what they should not send to Australia.



HELP FRANKIE FIND THE SUITCASE!

TOP HITCHHIKER PESTS

Sometimes, pests get into Australia by sneaking into sea containers, riding on the bottom or inside boats, or hiding in cargo, luggage and anywhere else they can hide.

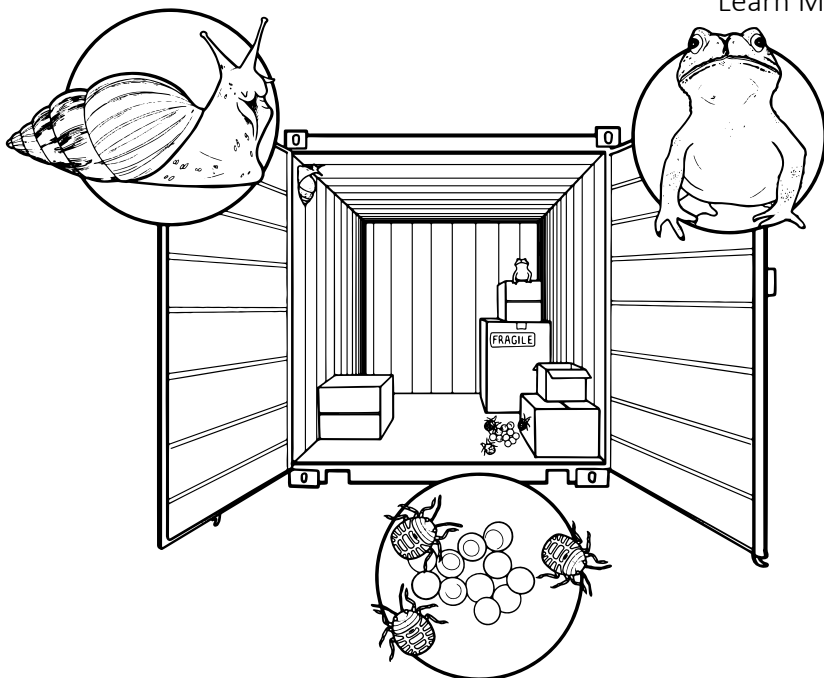
We call this 'hitchhiking' because they are hitching a ride. Sometimes these pests are very hard to find.

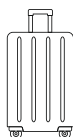
Our biosecurity officers inspect items coming into Australia very carefully.

You can also help by reporting any strange pests or diseases that you see when you buy or receive things from overseas.



Learn More





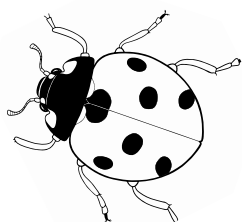
G	E	L	A	D	Y	B	U	G	D
B	I	A	E	D	A	R	W	A	Y
A	S	A	I	B	V	O	B	U	G
U	E	E	N	F	G	W	E	T	H
I	U	H	U	T	A	N	K	B	X
M	A	R	M	O	R	A	T	E	D
A	S	T	O	J	F	K	L	E	S
S	N	A	I	L	M	R	A	L	L
A	F	R	I	C	A	N	O	S	A
S	T	I	N	K	P	Q	C	G	I



FIND THE WORDS!

1. Frog
2. Bee
3. Giant
4. African
5. Snail
6. Brown
7. Marmorated
8. Stink
9. Bug
10. Ladybug

Frankie fact!
Did you know that the seven-spot ladybug is a pest? Count the spots on the ladybug.



CARING FOR PLANTS

Australia grows a lot of fruit and vegetables.

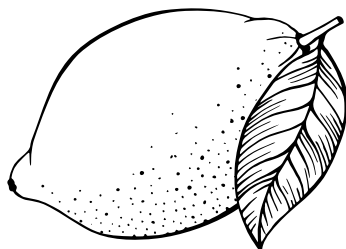
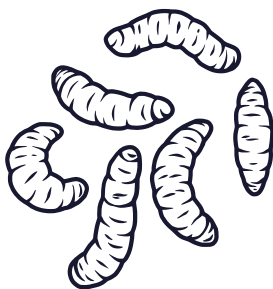
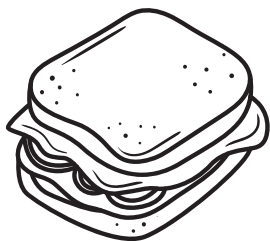
Exotic pests and diseases can hurt our fruit and vegetables, which means nobody would want to buy or eat them. Diseases, and pests like fruit fly maggots, can make fruit rot or too disgusting to eat. They can also hurt our native plants and foods, like quandongs and finger limes.

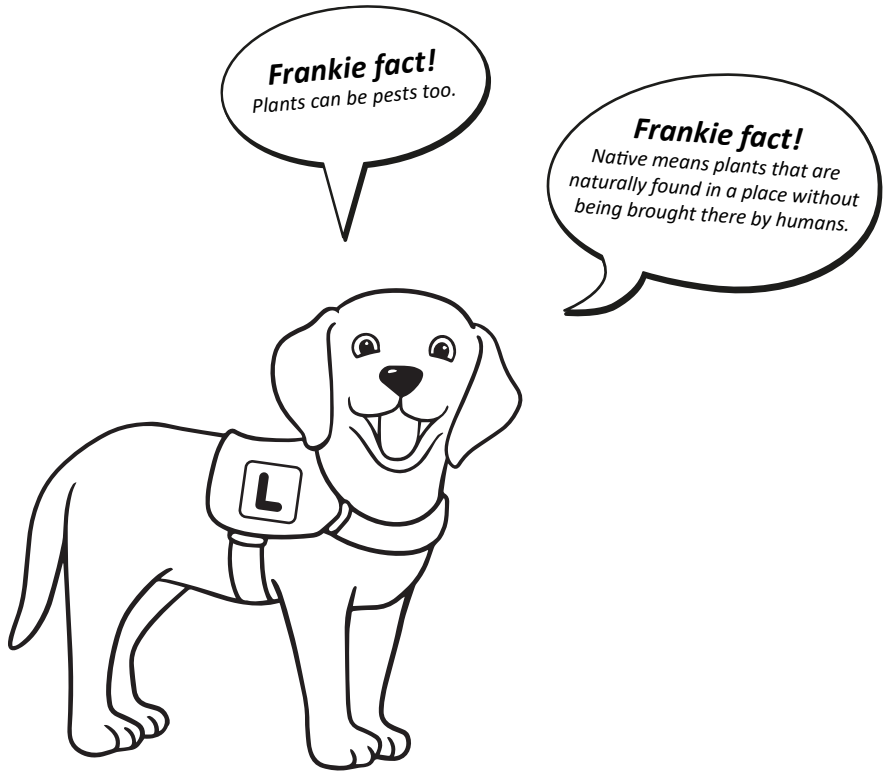
You can't always see pests and diseases. They can be hiding in things coming in from overseas like souvenirs made from plants, soil, on dirty shoes, and in fruits and vegetables.

That's why you should never bring food, especially fruit and vegetables, off the plane with you.

You should never send plants or seeds to Australia through the post, either.

Always clean your shoes, hiking clothes and camping gear before you come back to Australia.





Weeds

Weeds are plants that grow where they are not wanted.

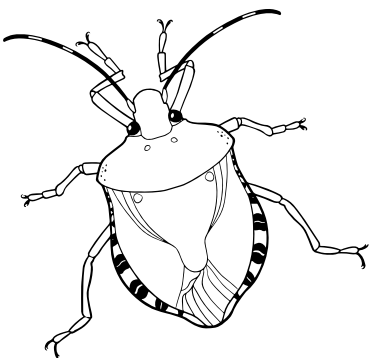
Weeds take water, space and nutrients from native plants.

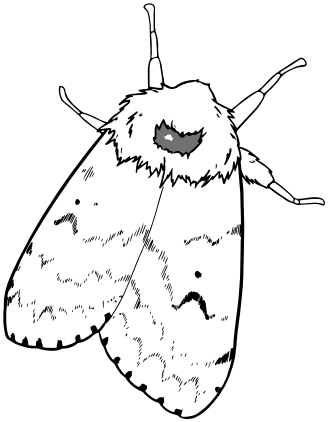
Some weeds are even poisonous and can hurt people and farm animals.

Seeds from weeds can stick on shoes and clothing and hide in soil, just like unwanted bugs.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Match the image to the text and use the words in **bold** to fill in the blanks.

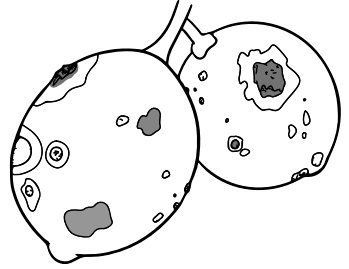




Spongy moths attack more than 1,000 types of plants including trees. Their caterpillars can eat all the leaves off trees, which can kill the trees.

Brown marmorated stink bug is a hitchhiker pest that likes to hide in dark places for the winter. This includes inside things we buy from overseas, like cars and trucks! The bugs feed on lots of different plants causing the leaves to drop off and unripe fruit to fall to the ground. They can be a stinky pest in large numbers.







Paterson's curse, also known as Salvation Jane, is a weed that was brought to Australia in the 1850s. It has purple flowers and can cause liver damage in farm animals that eat it, such as horses and pigs.

Citrus canker makes citrus trees like orange and mandarin trees sick. It causes rough brown spots on fruits and leaves, which can sometimes all fall off.

Xylella fastidiosa (zy-LEL-lah fas-tid-ee-OH-sah) is a type of bacteria that makes leaves turn brown and die. It can infect and kill more than 550 types of plants, including many food crops and trees.

CARING FOR ANIMALS

There are also lots of exotic diseases that can make animals very sick.

We don't want these diseases in Australia, because they could really harm native animals and birds, farm animals and our pets.

Some diseases, like bird flu, can harm Australian native birds.

Animal diseases can accidentally be brought to Australia from overseas by travellers or through the mail. Check them out:

Frankie fact!

Foot-and-mouth disease, which affects animals like cows, sheep and pigs, is different from hand, foot and mouth disease, which affects children.

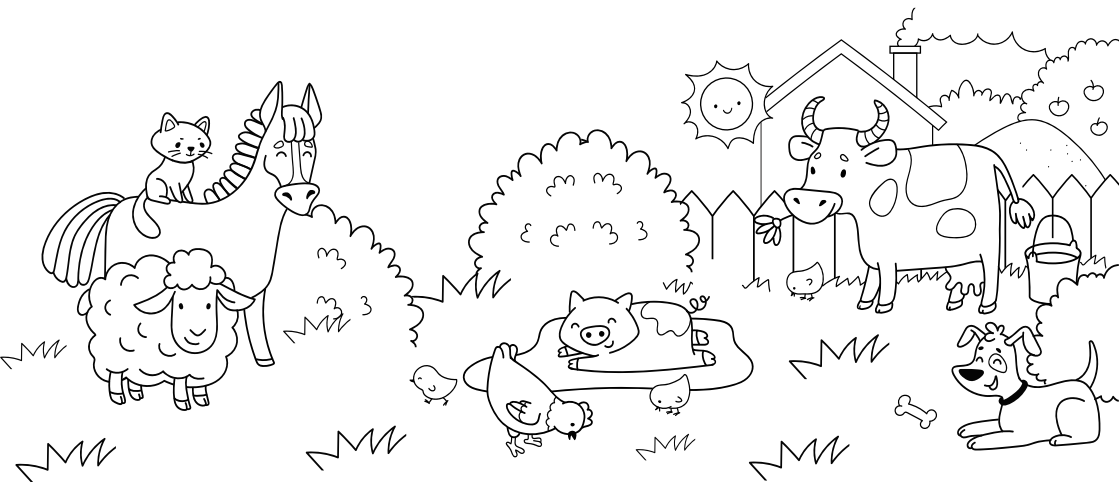
Frankie fact!

Feeding human food (scraps) to farm animals can make them sick.



Can you draw a line from the disease to the animal? Some diseases might harm more than one animal.

- **Foot-and-mouth disease** from animals including cows, sheep and pigs, and in soil
- **Lumpy skin disease** from animals such as cows, and which could be in untreated leather/cattle skins
- **Bird flu** which could be in eggs and infected chicken feathers, or a sick bird
- **Rabies** which could be carried by a dog or cat
- **African swine fever** which could be in meat from pigs



ALL ABOUT QUARANTINE

POST ENTRY QUARANTINE FACILITY

When an animal or plant comes to Australia from another country, we need to make sure they are healthy.

Some of them need to spend time in quarantine. For that to happen, they spend time away from the environment and other plants and animals in a special place called the Post Entry Quarantine facility or PEQ, which is in Melbourne.

Here, animals and plants are checked for pests and diseases before they can go to their new homes. Some of the animals that need to spend time at PEQ include pets like cats, dogs and horses, as well as other animals like birds, alpacas and bees.

It can be especially hard to make sure plants have no diseases, so they can spend more than a year in quarantine.



Frankie fact!

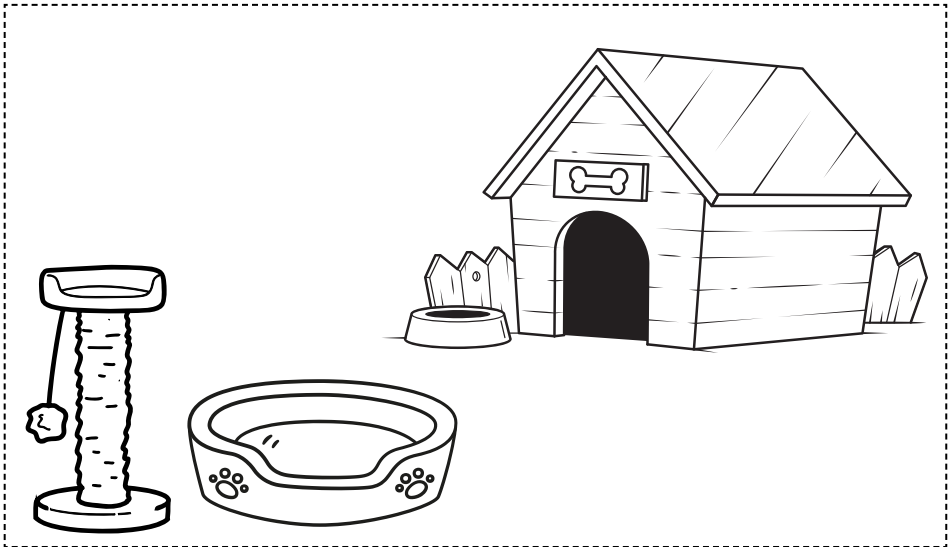
Quarantine is time spent away from others so that pests and diseases do not spread.

DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE KITTEN OR PUPPY!

What is their name?: _____

_____ has just arrived in Australia from overseas and is staying at a special place.

It's very safe! It is called the Post Entry Quarantine facility.



WHAT DO BIOSECURITY OFFICERS DO?

Biosecurity officers help protect Australia from pests and diseases.

They work in many places. This includes airports, seaports, mail centres and Post Entry Quarantine.



M	A	I	L	D	C	B	I	R	T
B	I	X	E	P	L	A	N	T	Y
A	S	R	I	B	V	O	R	U	G
U	E	A	B	O	A	T	E	G	H
I	U	Y	B	T	A	P	K	B	O
P	A	H	B	O	R	D	E	R	S
A	E	T	A	P	E	Y	T	T	S
S	N	S	T	L	D	O	G	L	L
R	O	A	T	M	O	Z	O	S	A
S	A	I	R	P	O	R	T	G	I

FIND THE WORDS!

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1. Mail | 6. Pet |
| 2. Xray | 7. Boat |
| 3. Borders | 8. Plant |
| 4. Pest | 9. Cargo |
| 5. Airport | 10. Dog |



WHAT DO INDIGENOUS RANGERS DO?

Indigenous Rangers are the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters. They help to take care of Country by managing feral animals, weeds, and fire. Indigenous Rangers play a very important role in Australia's biosecurity.

Indigenous Rangers keep a Top Watch across northern Australia. They look out for pests and signs of diseases and report anything unusual.

They also help keep oceans healthy by finding and removing rubbish such as plastic bottles and old fishing nets.

Australia's northern coastline is close to our island neighbours, and the Torres Strait is even closer. So close that pests and diseases can wash in with the ocean currents, hitch a ride on floating rubbish or vessels or blow in with the wind!

Frankie fact!

Torres Strait is a group of islands that stretch from the top of Cape York Peninsula (which is in the very north of Queensland) toward Papua New Guinea. There are plant pests and diseases in Torres Strait that aren't on mainland Australia and biosecurity officers and Indigenous Rangers help keep it that way.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

Can you spot any plants and animals that don't belong?



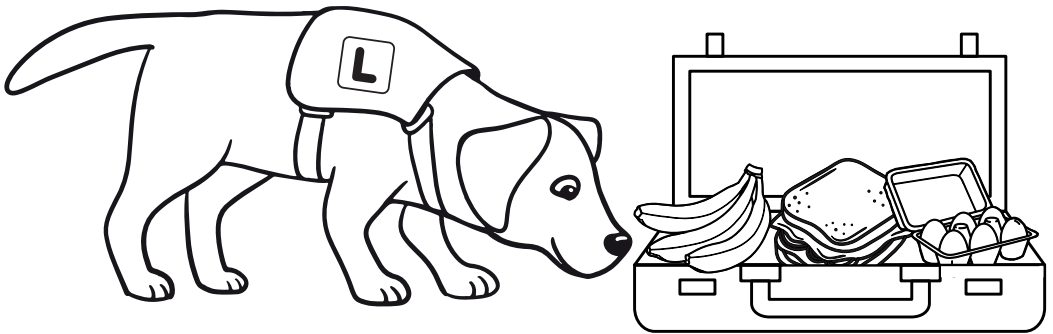
Answers on page 23.

WHAT DO BIOSECURITY DETECTOR DOGS DO?

Biosecurity detector dogs work as a team with biosecurity officers who are dog handlers. They love working together in airports, seaports, and mail centres.

They use their superpower noses to sniff out meat, plants, insects, seeds, dairy, vegetables or fruit in passenger luggage or parcels.

Dogs have specialised training to become biosecurity detector dogs and learn how to smell all of these, even things hidden in bags. Labradors are used as biosecurity detector dogs because they have an amazing sense of smell and are very friendly.



X-RAY

Biosecurity officers use X-ray machines to see what is inside suitcases, parcels and mail.

You can see X-ray machines at the airport. They are used in mail centres too.

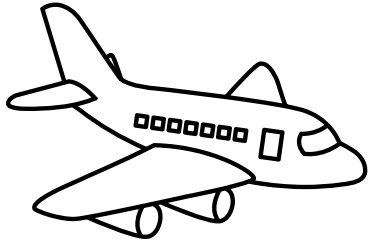
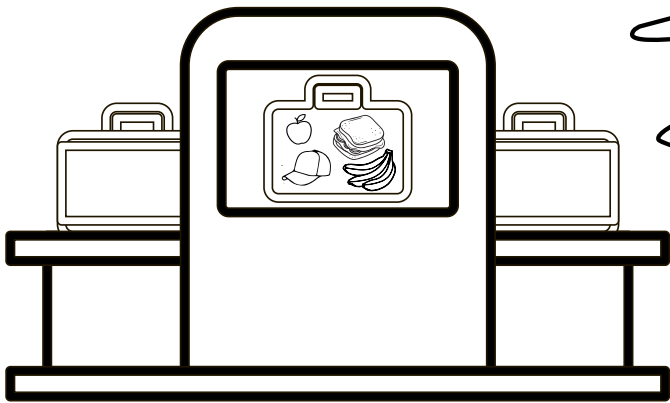
Frankie fact!
To declare means to tell someone something important. This could mean talking to a biosecurity officer at the airport or writing on an Incoming Passenger Card on the plane.



COLOUR THE SCENE!

A passenger did not tell the biosecurity officer that they had these items. They could get into trouble for this.

Colour the scene and circle the items that the passenger should have declared.



Page 19 spot the difference answers: exotic invasive ants, boa constrictor, feral pig, candleberry myrtle, lantana, Chinese mitten crab, rabid/wild dog, boat dumping contaminated water, Asian green mussel.

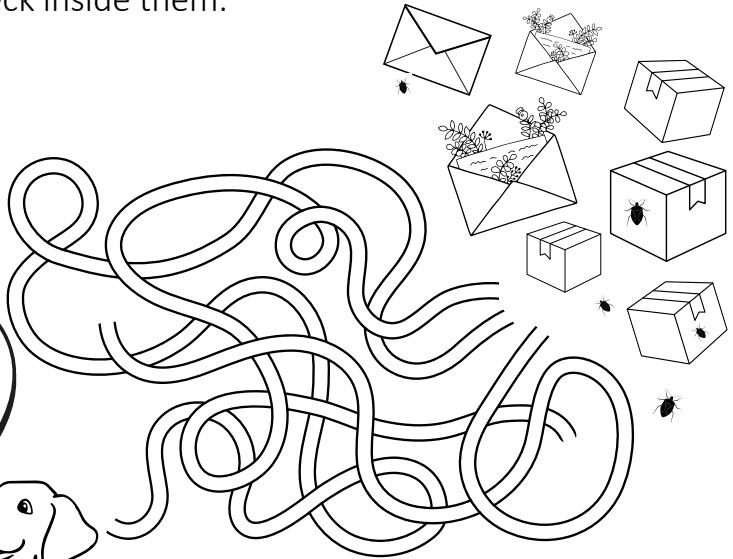
AT THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE

It is nice to get letters and parcels in the mail from friends and family overseas.

But the mail could be carrying exotic pests and diseases. When mail arrives in Australia, it goes to the international mail centre.

Biosecurity officers then check the mail to help keep Australia safe. As well as using their own senses (sight, smell, touch), biosecurity officers use X-rays and detector dogs to make sure exotic pests and diseases aren't in the letters or parcels.

If they detect items which may contain exotic pests or diseases, they check inside them.



Frankie fact!

Tell your family and friends to check our biosecurity rules before sending things to Australia.

Help me find the right path so I can inspect the letters and parcels for exotic pests and diseases.

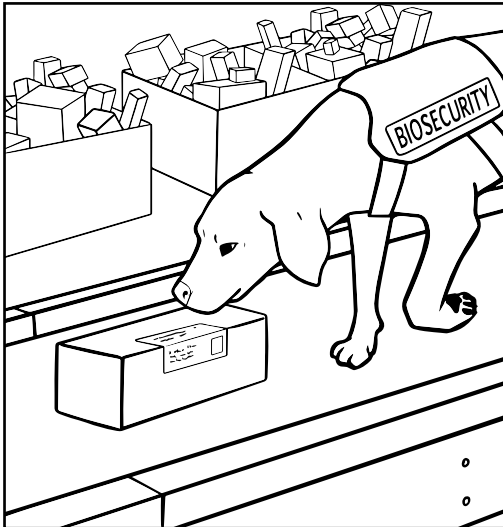


Scan the QR code to see what happens in the international mail centre.



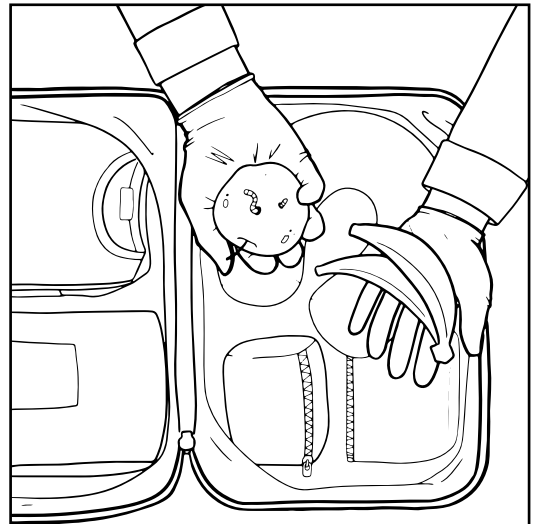
LET'S WORK TOGETHER

We all have a job to do. Biosecurity officers, Indigenous Rangers and biosecurity detector dogs work hard to keep exotic pests and diseases out of Australia.



Biosecurity detector dogs sniff mail.

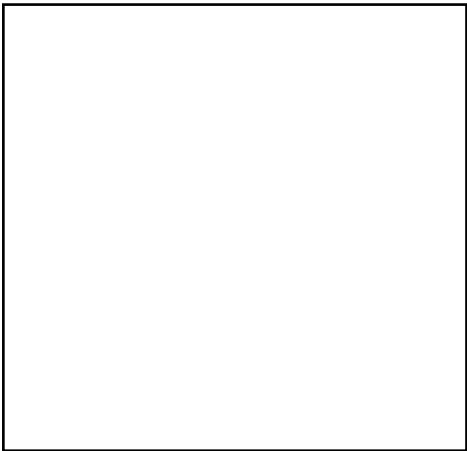
Biosecurity officers inspect luggage when people travel to Australia.



DRAW AND WRITE YOUR IDEAS!

What are some things you can do to help keep Australia safe from pests and diseases?





Have a peek at the next page, flip back through the book, or talk to a family member or friend if you need some ideas.

BIOSECURITY AT HOME

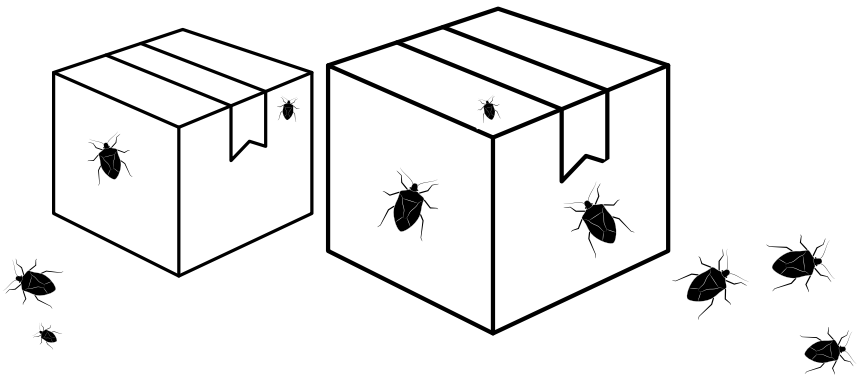
If you see a strange pest or disease at home or at school, tell an adult or a ranger.

If you receive something in the mail and there are pests or diseases in it, you should tell an adult.

You can ask an adult to help you:

- visit biosecurity.gov.au/report
- call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881
- call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888

That is why it is important to tell your friends and family about biosecurity.





Australian Government

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS!



Name: _____

Date: _____

You have completed Junior Biosecurity Officer training.

Thank you for being a biosecurity champion!



Australian Government

Learn more about biosecurity, including exciting videos, and stay tuned for more fun activities!

