

**Grades: 6-8**

## **Magical Land of Oz, “Human”**

"Magical Land of Oz" offers a look into the land's highest snow peaks and the depths of its frigid and wild southern seas. It looks at the last populations of wild numbats to its largest diorama of giant cuttlefish. It's a land of diverse beauty that delights and surprises. The series both entertains and deepens our understanding of how the natural world is made up of not just unique species, but distinct individuals, whose lives are far from predictable. This episode is an exploration of Australia's mesmerizing wildlife and how they've adapted to survive in the human environment, including a flamboyant dancing peacock spider in a suburban garden.

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

### **Question Box 1**

- What clues can you point to in the program to explain the author's purpose? What is the intent or purpose of the writer?
- What is your analysis of the program? What evidence did you identify to support your analysis of this episode?
- Provide an objective summary of the program.
- What interaction might influence future events? Provide evidence.
- Describe how the wildlife in the program have adapted to survive in a human environment. Include specific details from the program.
- What were some of the wildlife featured in this episode?
- What were some of the environments that animals needed to adapt to and why?
- What patterns or trends did you notice as you watched how the species adapted to living in human environments? What were the similarities you noticed?

### **Question Box 2**

- What did you learn from the program?
- What resources will you need to learn more about this topic?
- What do you believe the director could have done differently to help you learn this topic easier?
- Where did you encounter struggles understanding the topic, and how did you deal with it?
- What are your thoughts on protecting the land that wildlife need to thrive?
- Should land for human use be limited to protect wildlife? Why or why not? If so, to what extent?

### **Box 3 (Tasks)**

***Continued on the next page...***

- Draw a picture of a Cuttlefish or other featured animal. Label its parts and describe its environment.
- Discuss with evidence, a major problem that humans are causing with Australian wildlife. Design a poster to demonstrate this problem.

#### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- List and describe five fun facts about the Australian Dancing Peacock Spider. Use the website <http://tenrandomfacts.com/peacock-spider/> to help you create an infographic about the spider. (You may choose another animal).
- Make a map of Australia. Locate and discuss Australia's six national parks. (ELD)  
*Present the map orally to someone.*

#### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- Research and discuss a success story of how human actions have *helped* Australian wildlife.
- This episode focused on the interaction between humans and animals in Australia. This is a common event in any area that has been urbanized.
  - Brainstorm a list of animals and insects that you have seen where you live.
  - Write down one positive and one negative impact of urbanization for each of the animals you listed.
  - For each of the negatives brainstorm ideas to reduce or fix the negative impact.
  - Share your lists with a family member and discuss how you and your family can reduce the negative impacts on the animals from your list.