Moth Mob

productive partnerships, student investigations and community arts integration.



Kate Harden



Growing Green Kids





http://kabcnt.org.au/eco-schools-video-overview/





Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

ATLAS MOTH

Attacus wardi

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: Len Willan and CSIRO Entomology



2016 - Atlas Moths?????





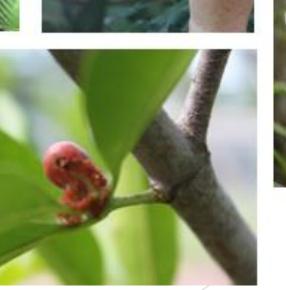




























What Self Defence Do they have?

Worder how they commicute

I Wonder how They Mate?

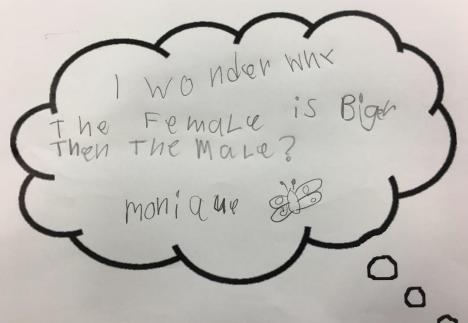
Who makes the cocoon man orgirl

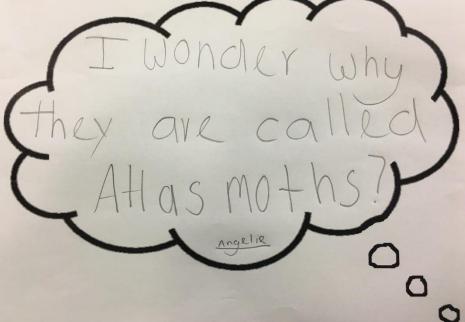
How did Geof get into doing moths?

	IS? DOES?	HAS? DID? WAS? PAST	CAN?	SHOULD?	WOULD? COULD? PROBABILITY	WILL?	MIGHT?		
WHAT?									
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WHEN?				,					
WHICH?				,					
WHO? PERSON									
WHY? REASON									
HOW?			,			,			































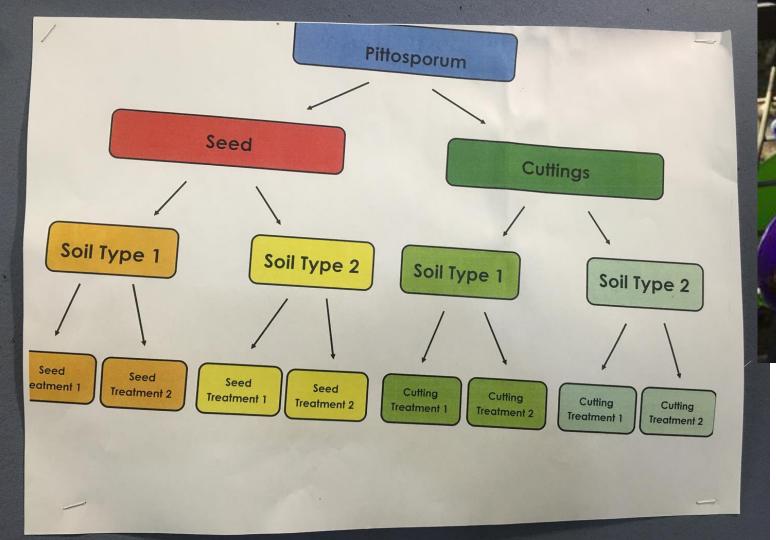


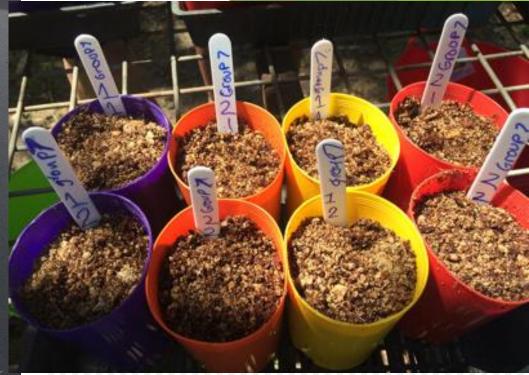


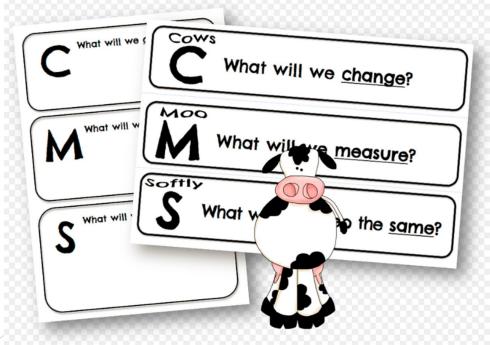














Investigate:

Native moths and butterflies

Food plant observations

Name:			Date:			
Other members of your team:						
What are you going to investigate?		What do you think	will happen? Explain why.			
		4.				
	hin on A control of the		ada.			
Change?	hings (variables) Measure or observ	you are going to re?	Keep the same?			
		٠, ٠				
Describe the conditions under which plants.	you will grow your	What equipment w	vill you need?			

Write and draw about your observations in your Moth Mob journal.



Investigate:

Native moths and butterflies

Presenting Results

	Can yo	u sho	w you	r resul	ts in a	graph	ıŝ	
				1				
	-							

accuracy)?

How could you improve this investigation (fairness,

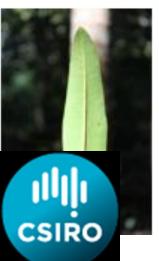
What problems did you have in doing this investigation?























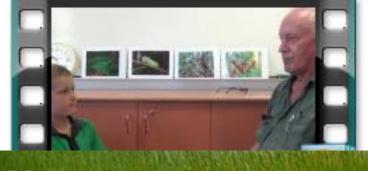




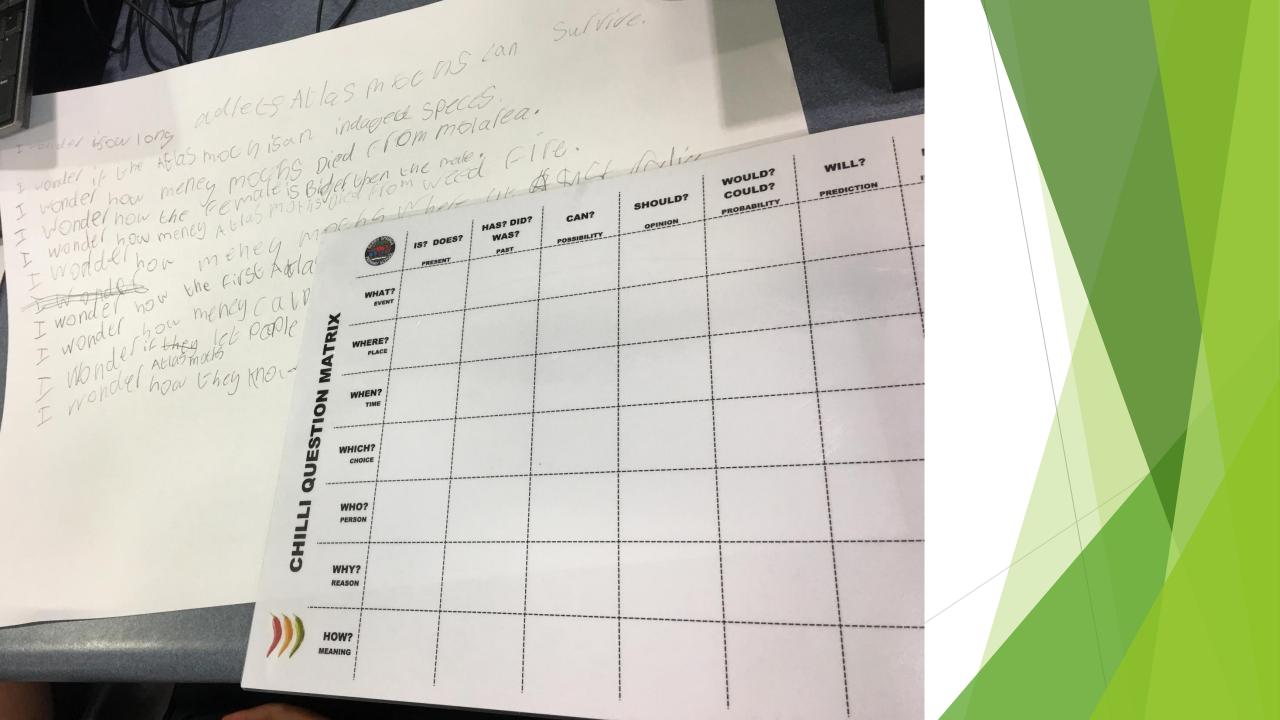




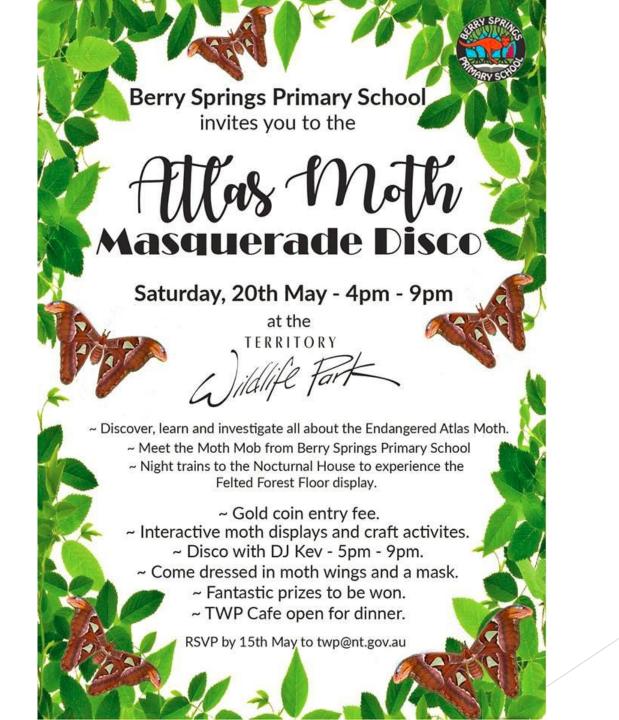
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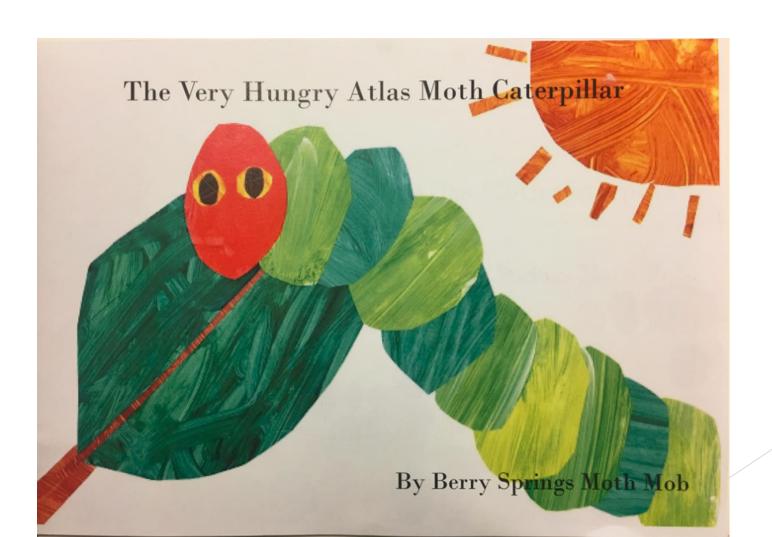
105.7 ABC Darwin

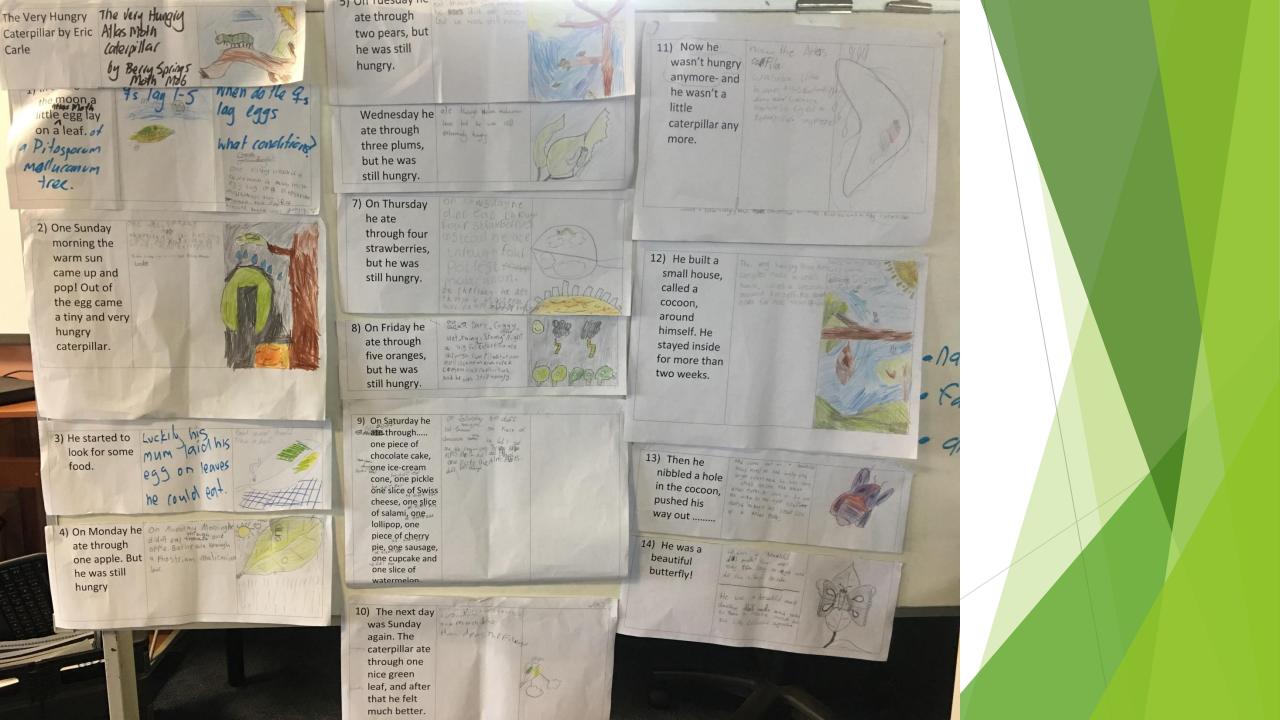






How do we share the story of the Atlas Moth with our community?





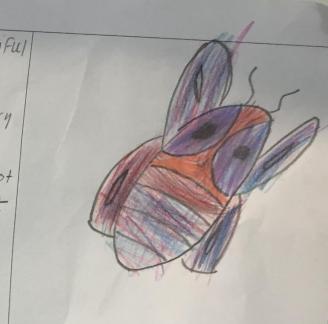
12) He built a small house, called a cocoon, around himself. He stayed inside for more than two weeks.

The very Langry Atlas Moth Like-Leaves.

Catipitler made a small Different ty house, called a cocoon, of shades, around himself. He stayed inside for more than 18 months

13) Then he nibbled a hole in the cocoon, pushed his way out

And came out as a beautiful Atlas Moth! He had lovley and bright colurs. And he was very small unlike the other Atlas Moths. As soon as he got started to begin his small life of a Atlas Moth!

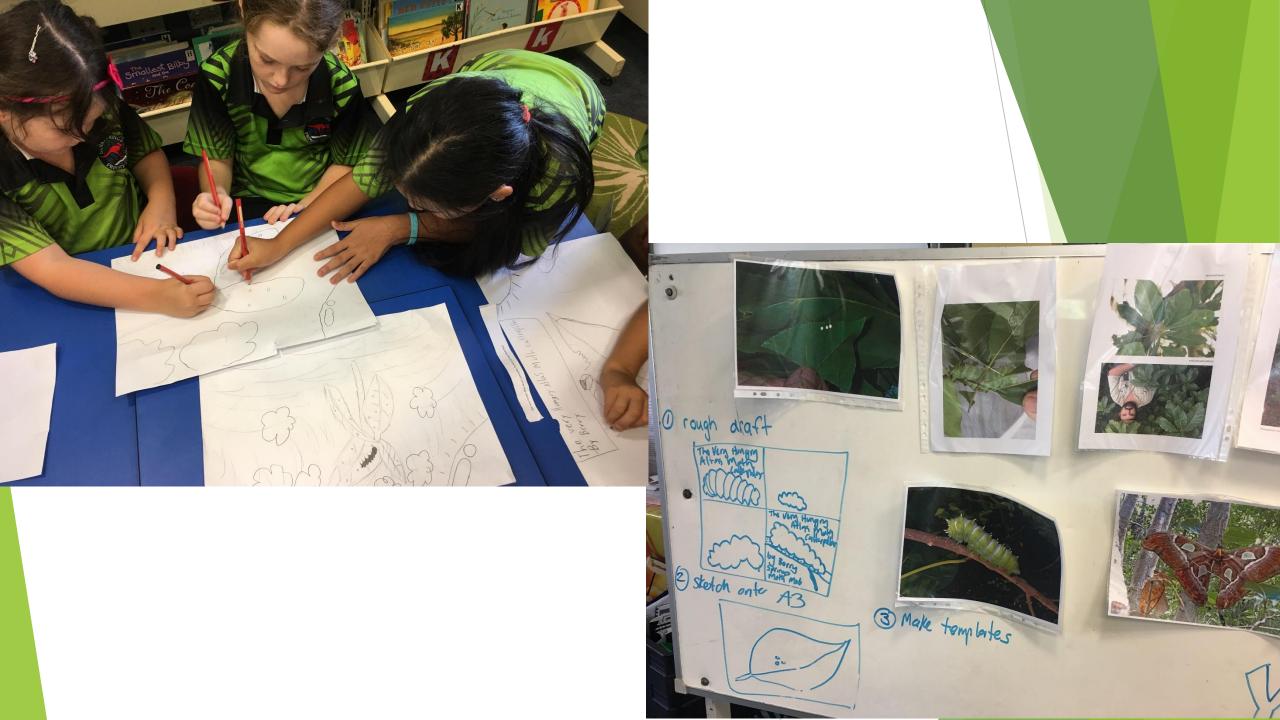


14) He was a beautiful butterfly!

He was a beautiful at 165 moth! there was redy the lay a \$99 and ho the lifeci (cicale

He was a beautiful most stunesting atlas mother and reduy to Fine a mate and reduy the life ceicale again.

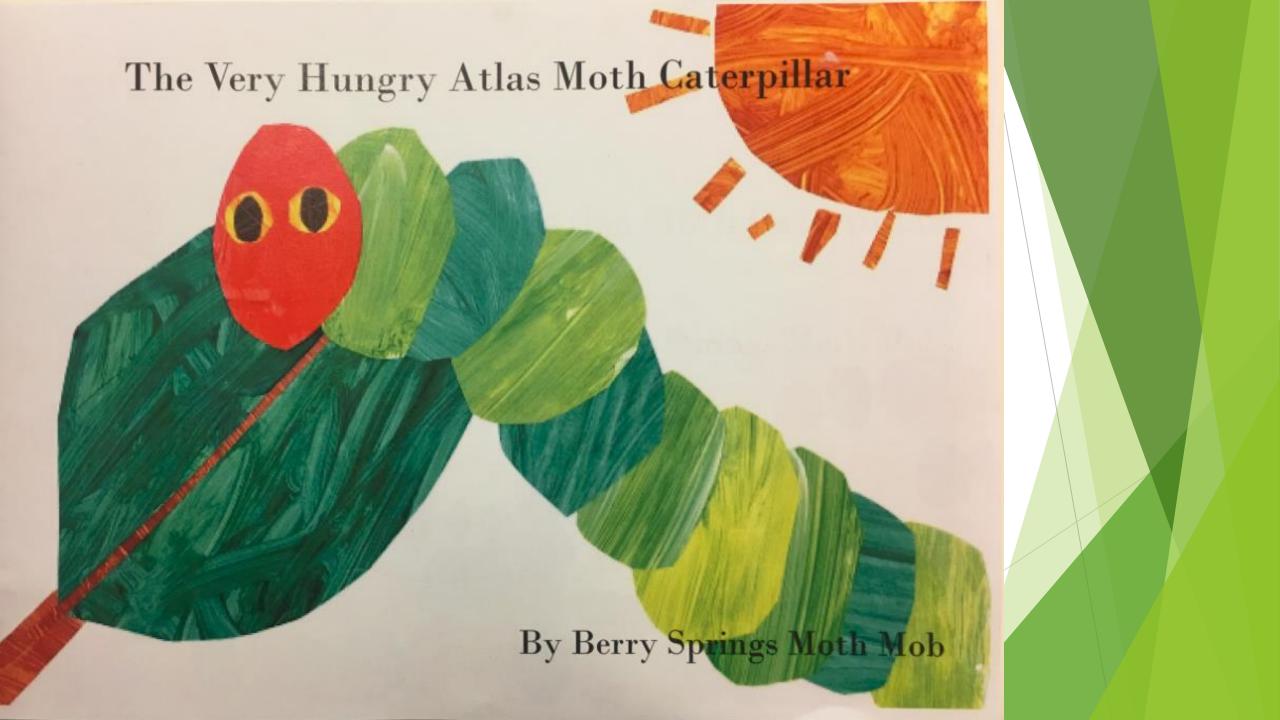








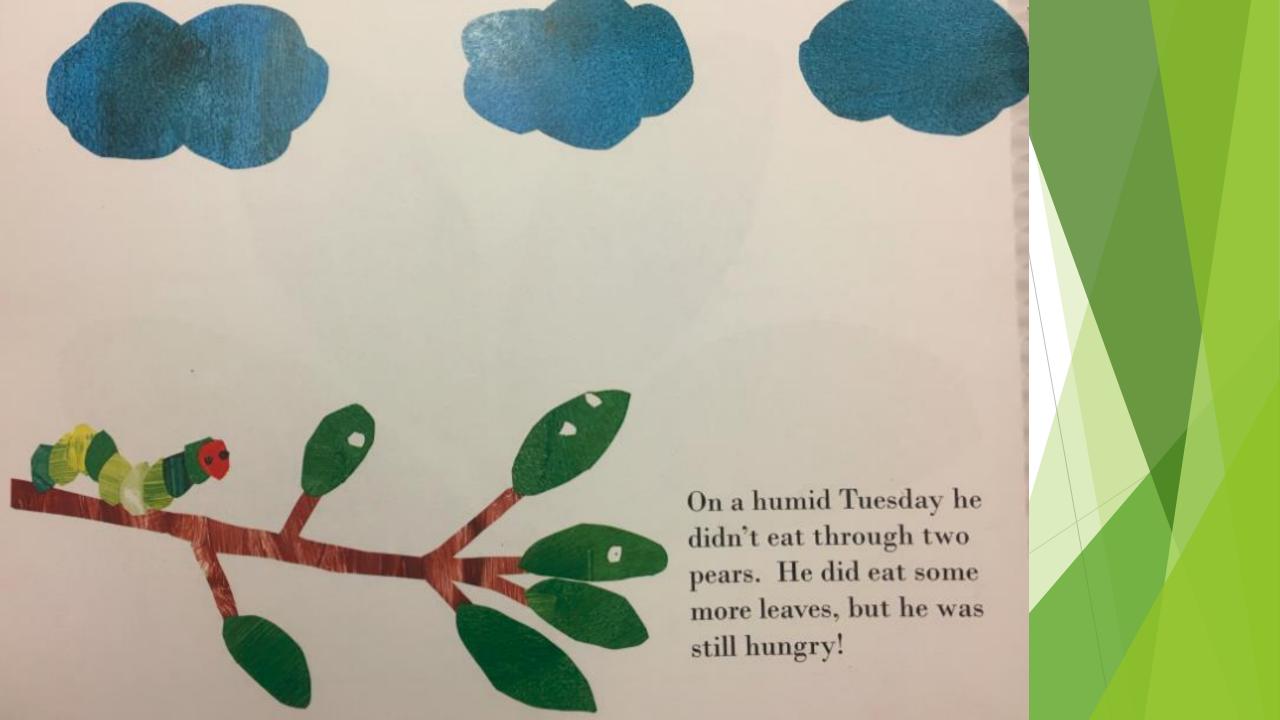


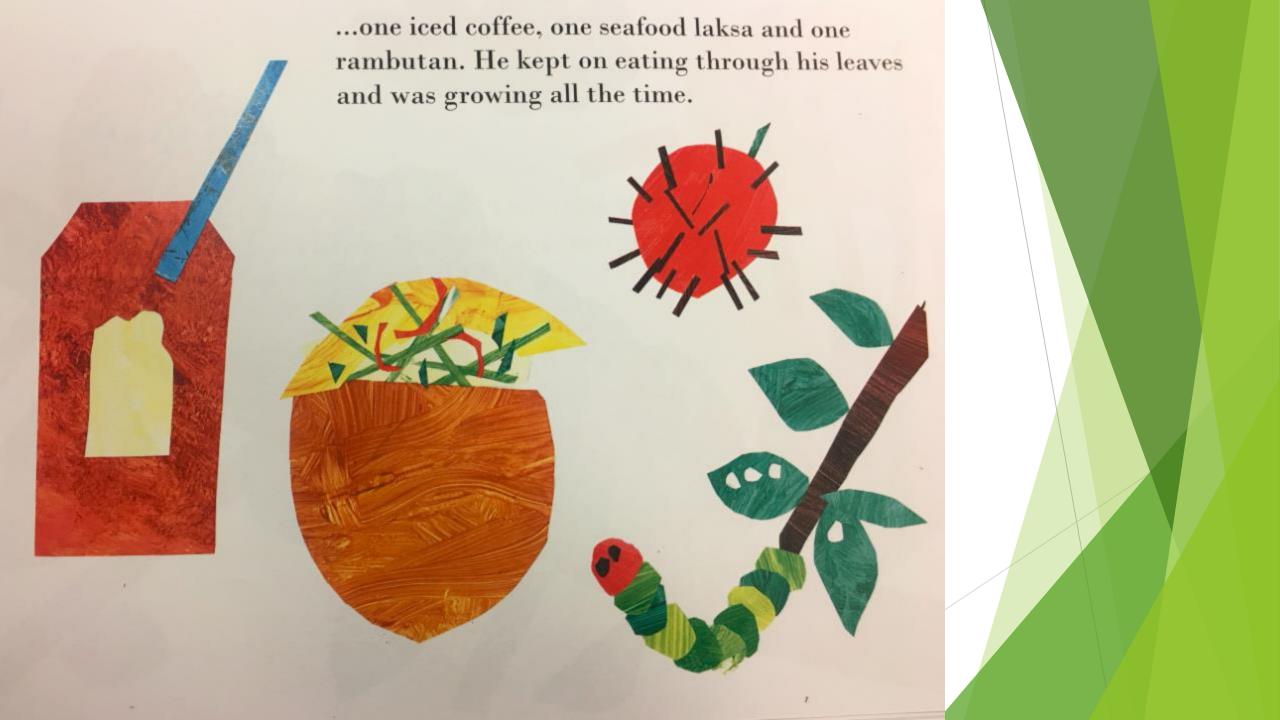


For all those that inspire our love for learning, inquiring minds and empathy for our environment.

Berry Springs Moth Mob, 2017

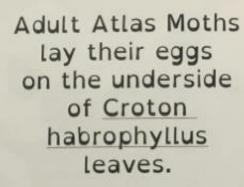






Did you know?

Atlas Moth eggs are pale brownish white, are flat oval shape, approximatly 2.6 x 2.1 x 1.6 mm in size.







In the wild Atlas Moth eggs have been observed to have an incubation period of 10-15 days.



Did you know?

Atlas Moths emerge from their cocoon after around one month.

Adult Atlas Moths need heavy rains before they will emerge from their cocoon.

Interestingly, some Atlas Moths have been observed to emerge up to 18 months after forming their cocoon due to poor wet season conditions.















The Felted Forest and Atlas Moth Story

- a community art conservation partnership between the Territory Wildlife Park and Berry Springs Primary School.



Together the Territory Wildlife Park and Berry Springs Primary School students are working to raise awareness of the spectacular Atlas Moth. The Atlas Moth has been listed as a threatened species (vulnerable) under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act. The survival of the Atlas moth depends heavily on the preservation or restoration of large patches of coastal tropical



Distribution: Restricted to western Top End of the Northern Territory and the northern Kimberley of Western Australia. On the mainland in the NT the moth is currently only found from Dundee Beach, Gunn Point and Black Point. It used to occur in Darwin however has become locally extinct. There are plans to re-establish it in Darwin.

This community art project involved local artists Melanie Tribe (Needle-felting) and Kylie Frewen-Lord (Silk fibre) running workshops teaching our community art volunteers and students at Berry Springs Primary School how to make the various life stages of the Atlas Moth. Special mention goes to the "Deadly Threadlies" Barbara Williams, Kaye Boath, Leslie Every and Lyn Bates who also spent countless hours stitching and creating the foliage elements of this installation.



Felted Forest artists and volunteers L-R Back Kylie Frewen-Lord, Lesley Every, Lyn Bates, Melanie Tribe L-R Front Kaye Boath, Zoey Frewen-Lord, Barbara Williams.

Supporting our community Art conservation Projects

This project was made possible by a Territory Natural Resource Management grant and the support of local business NT Acrylic and Plastics who constructed and donated the perspex display covers.



monsoon

forest.











Why is the Atlas Moth under threat? What can you do to help save the moth from extinction?

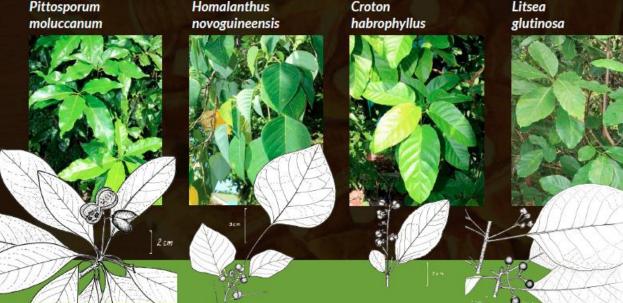
Habitat Loss – Land clearing and degradation of coastal monsoon forest habitat through weed infestation and feral animal damage.

Inappropriate Fire Regimes – destructive fires that penetrate the forest edges and destroy cocoons during the dry season.

Light pollution – disrupting natural behaviour and increasing vulnerability to predation by owls.

Actions to help the Atlas Moth

- Protect coastal monsoon forest habitat from weeds, fire and feral animal damage
- · Plant moth food plants in suitable areas
- · Ensure lights are not left on late at night
- Get involved in habitat restoration work with Landcare/Coastcare projects. Visit the Landcare NT website www.landcarent.org.au to find your local Landcare group.



CASUARINA COASTAL RESERVE LANDCARE GROUP

have been working to restore and maintain the habitat corridor that lies between Rapid Creek and Lee Point. Cyclone Tracey caused massive deforestation of this area and the Atlas Moth disappeared around this time. Revegetation and weeding has been undertaken by this dedicated group of volunteers and the area affectionately referred to as the "Moth Block" has slowly begun to recover. It is hoped that one day once the habitat has been re-established that the moths can be reintroduced to this area.

LUDMILLA CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

have been working to protect and promote the values of the creek and encourage the community to actively participate and contribute to natural resource management, planning and restoration of this area.

FRIENDS OF EAST POINT RESERVE

have been working to restore and protect the East Point Breezeway, an area of land bounded by Colivas Road, George Crescent, Bayview Street and Ludmilla Salt Pans at East Point.







Natural History and Life cycle of the Atlas Moth

Adult moths have been seen emerging from cocoons at 21-30 days however they can remain dormant for up to 12 months before emerging. Adult emergence is triggered by the first substantial wet season rainfall.

Adults fly during the wet season months
(January to March)

Cocoons are cylindrical, elongated and tapered at the ends. They usually have a couple of dead leaves wrapped around the out cocoon all tightly held together by silk. They have the appear of a dead leaf hanging from a branch.

From wing tip to wing tip the spectacular Atlas Moth measures 15-19cm across and is the second largest species of moth found in Australia.

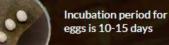
Total period from 1st instar to 6th instar is 51-57 days.

4th Instar 37-60mm pale greenish white. Larval duration 12-13 days. 3rd Instar 16-37mm light brown and speckled white. Larval duration 9-10 days

Eggs are laid on the underside of mature leaves in the canopy of the food plant.

Eggs are oval, flattened $2.6 \times 2.1 \times 1.6$ mm high and pale brownish, white.

4 different plant species have been identified as the main food plants for the caterpillar of the Atlas moth, Litsea glutinosa, Pittosporum moluccanum, Croton habrophyllus and Homolanthus novoguineensis



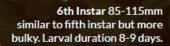
1st Instar 5-10mm jet black. Larval duration 4-5 days

2nd Instar 10-16mm in length light brown. Larval duration 7-8 days

Atlas moth caterpillars go through 5 moults where they change in size, colour and shape with each moult. Each caterpillar stage is referred to as an instar.







5th Instar 60-85mm light green and matching food plant leaves. Larval duration 11-12 days.

I'll Fly Away – the song of the male Atlas Moth

By Berry Springs Moth Mob 2017

Chorus

I'll fly away to find a female

I'll fly away

When I emerge on a dark and rainy night

I'll fly away

Verse 1

When I hatch out my egg case is what I eat

I'll fly away

Through the storms and rain and the wet season heat

I'll fly away

Every day I'm chomping lots of leaves

I'll chomp away

I only feed on certain kinds of trees

I'll chomp away

Chorus

Verse 2

All I do is eat both day and night

I'll eat away

I'll build my cocoon by the shining bright moonlight

Then I'll sleep away

Waiting here in my leafy brown cocoon

I'll wait away

14 months waiting for the next monsoon

I'll wait away

Chorus

Verse 3

When I emerge my wings will have to dry

I'll fly away

My time is short so to my mate I'll fly

I'll fly away

A monsoon vine forest's where I like to be

I'll fly away

It's the only place you'll find my family

I'll fly away

Chorus + I'll fly away, I'll fly away

I'll Fly Away

the song of the male Atlas Moth



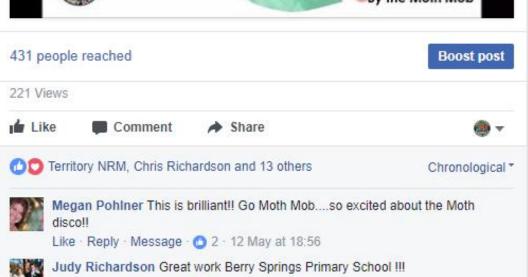
By the Moth Mob



The Moth Mob have been very busy finishing and recording their song about the male Atlas Moth.

Come and sing along next week at the Territory Wildlife Park on the 20th of May.





Like Reply Message 0 1 - 16 May at 15:28



Helen Chatto It was wonderful having Berry Springs as part of our Field Day. The students were able to share their learning with many people and the display was great. Thanks for visiting us.

Like - Reply - Message - 17 June at 08:28

Atlas Moth - want to know more?













Berry Springs Primary School added 5 new photos.

Published by Kate Harden [?] - 20 May - @

We're all set to go!

See you all soon for the Atlas Moth community awareness event and masquerade disco, including the unveiling of the Felted Forest.







The Moth Mob, Berry Springs Primary School, NT

Not all schools have a zoo in their back yard, but not all schools are Berry Springs Primary School.

Uniquely positioned next door to the Territory Wildlife Park, the school has a history of students, teachers, parents and community members participating in exciting projects and learning activities both on school grounds, as well as within the rich and engaging environment of the Territory Wildlife Park.

In 2016, a collaborative partnership was formed between Berry Springs Primary School and the Territory Wildlife Park, working together with various agencies and individuals to develop and implement the Atlas Moth project. Learning about the moth's history, biology, biogeography, threats and breeding requirements, students started preparing for assisting with captive breeding by investigating different propagation techniques for known food plants and conducting monitoring for invasive ant species.

The Atlas Moth (Attacus wardi) is a very large moth with a wing span that reaches up to 17 cm. They are limited in their distribution to monsoon vine forests in Northern Australia. They are classified as vulnerable as they are only found in a few locations and there are threats to their habitat. These include introduced weeds and inappropriate fire regimes that penetrate the forest edges where the caterpillars make their cocoons.

Atlas Moth populations in the Darwin region have declined over the years from insecticide used during World War II, the impact of habitat loss from Cyclone Tracey and population growth in urban regions.

A number of propagation trials have been carried out by Berry Spring's students on one of the Atlas Moth's known food plants *Pittosporum moluccanum*. By growing food plants the students are actively participating in revegetation of Atlas Moth habitats and growing the large amount of food required for captive breeding to further study the moth's reproductive biology behaviour.

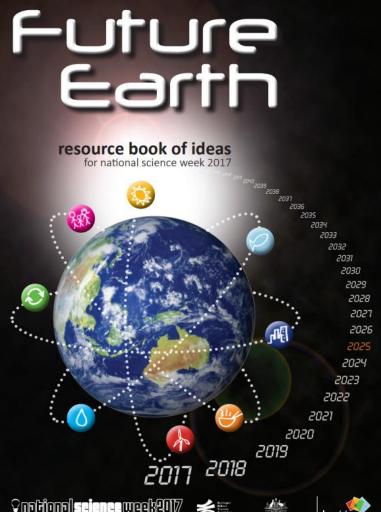
Interpretive material in the form of signs with QR codes are being co-created with Territory Wildlife Park Staff. Visitors are able to view video and multimedia presentations created by the students as they explain the significance of the food plants, the life cycle and the threats the moths are experiencing.











est" is a community arts project that will Territory Wildlife Park when Berry Springs' cal artists and crafters will together be stages of the life-cycle of the Atlas Moth. techniques including quilting, wet and k collage, a dynamic art installation will splay in the Nocturnal House alongside and caterpillars. This project will connect ough arts and craft. It will also assist in community to become interpreters and ng awareness of critical issues around

scientists and just as importantly, the nerable species. Strongly linked to the m in knowledge, inquiry and human ative pedagogy and rich partnerships nent of futures focused, real, rich and passed learning. Students are designing paring interpretive material, participating arts based learning and embracing I the plight of the Atlas Moth.

ber, Assistant Principal, Berry Springs Primary Territory, January 2017.



Students collecting cuttings

Springs students

Pittosporum moluccanum
Want to know more? Trial interpretive signage by Berry







Atlas Moth larval food plants at the Territory Wildlife Park



Female Atlas

al case studies:

Discover some of the sustainability projects undertaken by ResourceSmart Schools in Victoria by watching 'ResourceSmart Schools awards 2014', YouTube (5:44 min)

Find out about 'Grow Lightly, South Gippsland', YouTube (3:00 min) and their community project to support their community access locally grown fruits and vegetables Find out about 'Youngtown Primary School' YouTube (4:59 min) in Tasmania and how students are being prepared for the future.



lepidopterist Geoff

12-20 August 2017 www.scienceweek.net.au

