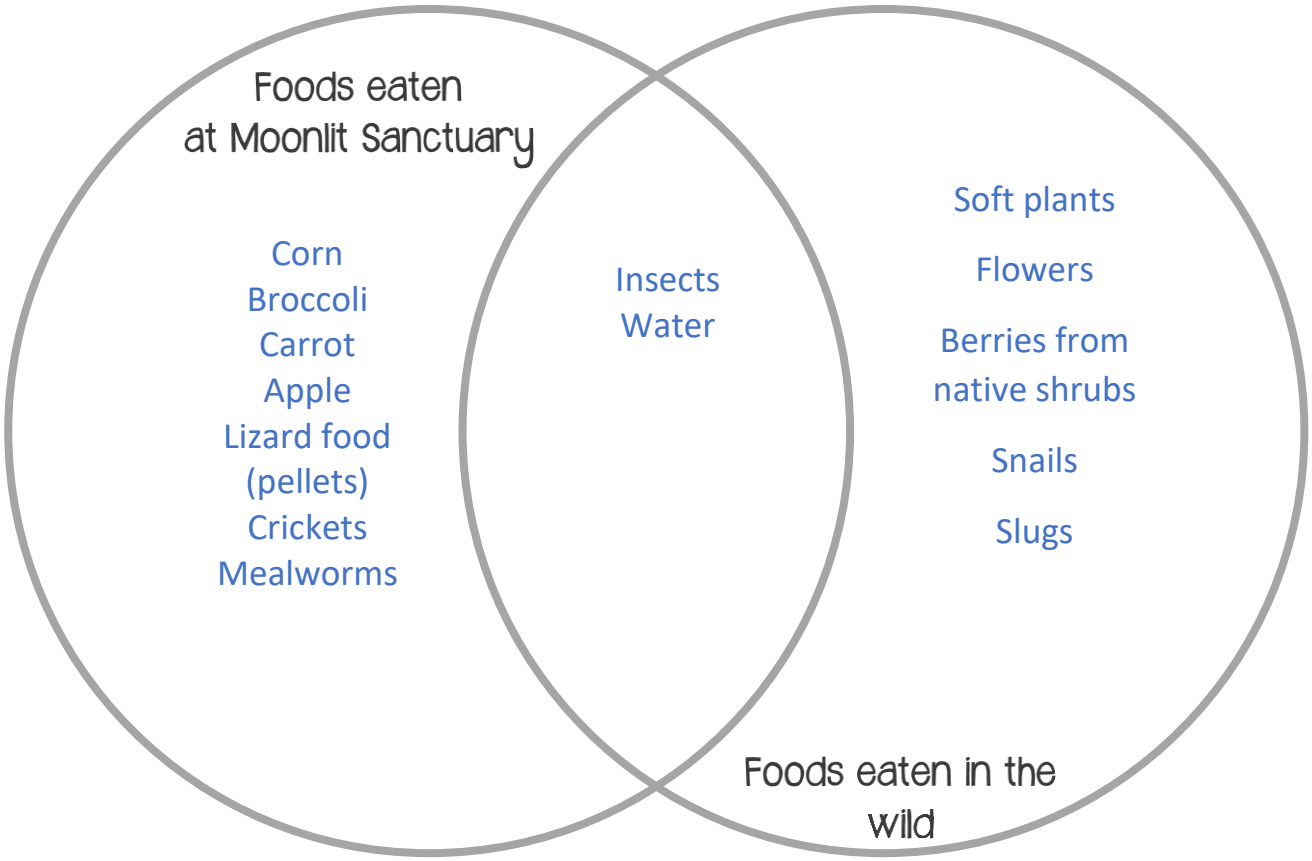
Dinner time

Moonlit Sanctuary

Watch the video to learn about what your animal ambassador eats, and whether they are a carnivore, herbivore, or omnivore.

While watching the video again, write all the foods in Venn diagram below. There are types of food they only receive at Moonlit Sanctuary, and types of food they will only find and eat in the wild. But there are also foods they may get in both places.



Fill in the blanks and circle the one that matches your animal ambassador

Herbivores
eat only plants

Carnivores
eat only meat

Omnivores
eat both plants and meat

Predator and Prey

Moonlit Sanctuary

Predators are animals that hunt and eat other animals.

Prey are animals that are hunted and eaten by other animals.

Both are important to keep environments healthy.

Beside each of the following animals write down whether they are a predator or prey. Which do you think could be both?

Wallaby	Prey	Fox	Predator
Eagle	Predator	Cockatoo	Predator & Prey
Dingo	Predator	Possum	Predator & Prey
Wombat	Prey	Lizard	Predator & Prey

Activity Time: Predator – Prey Tag

This is a game is a version of freeze tag that demonstrates predator & prey relationships.

1. Choose one or 2 predators (dingo). Everyone else is prey (wallabies).
2. Wallabies need to try to run from one end of the "habitat" to the other without being tagged (eaten) by a dingo.
3. Any wallaby tagged must immediately freeze so that any other dingoes cannot eat them.
4. During each turn wallabies also go via three hula hoops (representing food, water and shelter) before they are safe at the other end of the habitat. These hula hoops are also safe places to rest where the dingoes can't tag you.
5. If a wallaby is tagged, they become a dingo for the next round.
6. If a dingo doesn't "eat" two wallabies they sit out for one round and then return to the game as a wallaby.

Predator-Prey Tag
Teacher's Guide to gameplay

Requirements:
- Space to run
- 3 Hula hoops (alternatives may be trees, chairs etc.)

Opening discussion questions.

What is a predator is and what are prey?	A predator is an animal that hunts and kills other animals for food. Prey are animals that are hunted and killed for food by other animals.
Why does a predator need to hunt prey?	Food! Animals need food to survive. An animal gets the energy it needs to grow and survive from food.

1. Line students up at one end of the habitat. Chose 1-2 students to be "predators" (dingoes). They should stand in the middle of the habitat. Remaining students will be the "prey" (wallabies).

4. Spread 3 hula hoops around the "habitat". These represent food, water and shelter. Survival hoops are **"**safe**"** places for wallabies to hide and all wallabies must visit all three hoops each round.

5. Start the round with a sound. Wallabies try to run from one end of the habitat to the other without being tagged (eaten) by a dingo. If a wallaby is inside, or touching a survival hoop, they are safe and cannot be tagged. Any wallaby tagged must immediately freeze so that any other dingoes do not eat them.

7. Once all the wallabies make it to the other side or have been tagged that concludes the round. Any tagged wallabies now become dingoes.
**Explain to students that this represents predators being able to breed due to a plentiful food supply.*

8. A dingo needs to have tagged (eaten) a minimum of 2 wallabies to survive. If there is a dingo that starves (does not tag any prey) they must stand off to the side for 1 round and then return as a wallaby.
**Explain to students that this represents prey animals being able to breed due to a reduction in predation.*

9. Play several rounds to observe changes in prey and predator populations

Follow up discussion questions

How did the population of each change throughout the game?	Students should have identified that prey population will change and so affect the predator's population and vice versa. The numbers of prey animals increased when there were less predators but declined rapidly as there was an increase in predators. Predator numbers increased when there was an abundance of food (prey) but when prey was scarce their numbers declined rapidly. This fluctuation in population numbers reflects what happens in natural ecosystems.
Advanced students	Discuss that an ecosystem is an open system with many more factors that affect the populations of organisms. An ecosystem will have animals migrating in/out, there will be more predators/prey species, sickness/diseases, habitat loss, weather/climate, etc.

Game Variations and Extensions

<u>Advanced</u>

Discuss with the students that we live in Australia and have significant climate changes. Introduce that the next few weeks will be in drought and remove the water survival hula hoop. Play a few rounds and again discuss the changes observed.

<u>Variation</u>

Instead of calling the predators dingoes identify them as foxes. When the numbers of predators are extremely high choose one student to be a farmer who will "hunt" the predators by tagging them.