

R Nature Notes



WILD DOG DINGO

Very good senses of smell and hearing, combined with superb night vision, make the Dingo a great hunter.

You'll never hear a Dingo bark! The call of Australia's wild dog is a howling noise. It's more high pitched than that of domestic dogs. In the cooler months Dingoes howl more than at other times. This is their breeding season.

Domestic dogs produce 2 litters of pups each year. But Dingoes only breed once, in autumn or early winter. The pups are born 9 weeks later as the weather starts to warm up.



Dingo
Canis lupus dingo

Use the following number code to work out another difference between Dingoes and domestic dogs.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Code A = 26 B = 25 C = 24 etc.

7 19 22 18 9

22 26 9 8

26 15 4 26 2 8

8 7 18 24 16

6 11

DID YOU KNOW...

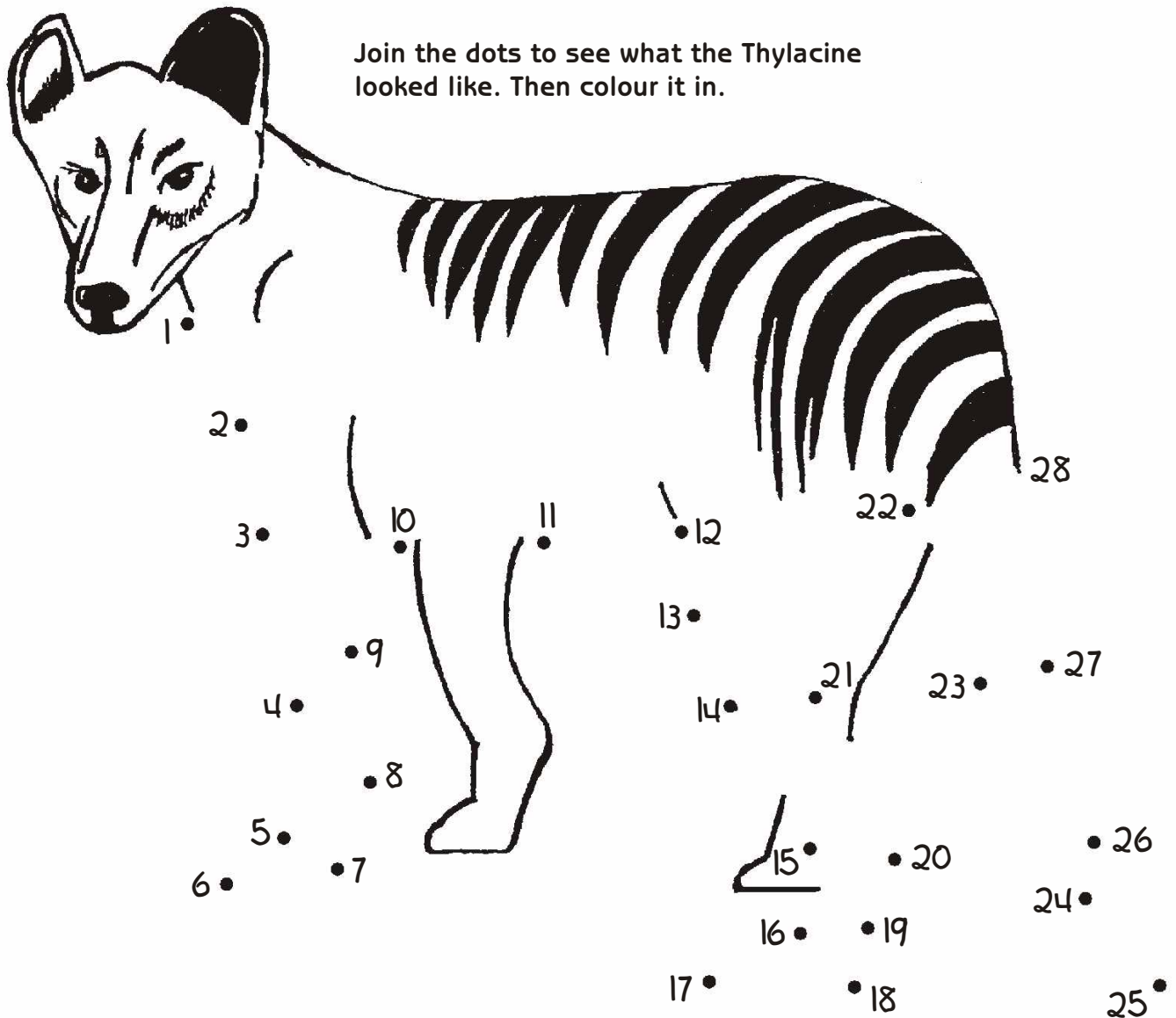
Australia is home to the longest fence in the world at 6000km. It is called the Dingo fence and was built to protect sheep from our wild dog.

Yellow-tinger is the most common colour in Dingoes, but some may also be black and tan, all black and pure white.

AUSTRALIA'S OTHER WILD DOG

Scientists believe that the Dingo came to Australia about 4000 years ago with Southeast Asian sea traders and fishermen. They also believe that the Dingo is a descendant of the Indian Wolf.

Dingoes never made it to Tasmania. This is probably why the **Thylacine** *Thylacinus cyanocephalus* (or Tasmanian Tiger) survived there until the 1930's. Thylacines on the mainland could not compete with the Dingo and became extinct.



Join the dots to see what the Thylacine looked like. Then colour it in.

The **Thylacine** was a marsupial. Females had a pouch and produced 2 or 3 babies. The animal was not a fast runner. It hunted at night and would stalk its prey for a long time until the victim became very tired. Small wallabies and kangaroos were its main food.

Thylacines preyed on the sheep that were taken to Tasmania by the first white settlers. Bounties were offered for the scalps of the animal and the Thylacines were wiped out. The last animal was caught in 1933 and died in 1936.



Want to learn more about dingoes?

Check out the book *The Mammals of Australia* by Ronald Strahan or another cool book is *Dingo in Australia and Asia* by Laurie Corbett.