

What have we got here?



Murray-Darling Carpet Python

The rocky outcrops and hills of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands provide important homes for native animals, birds, reptiles and insects. One of the lesser-known and very shy, but endangered, reptiles is the Murray-Darling Carpet Python.

- One of the lesser-known features of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands are rocky outcrops on ridge tops and tops of hills. These areas are home to the Murray-Darling Carpet Python.
- Murray-Darling Carpet Pythons have a base colour of slate grey with a tinge of blue. They also have heavy dark blue to black patterns all over their bodies.
- They can grow up to 2.7 metres long.
- Murray-Darling Carpet Pythons are rare animals and aren't seen as often as they used to be.
- They like to eat rats, mice, lizards, rabbits, frogs and small birds.
- Murray-Darling Carpet Pythons hide-away in the Winter in deep, dark rock crevices.
- The main threats to the Murray-Darling Carpet Pythons are foxes and the removal of rocks causing loss of habitat.
- Farmers like to keep the Murray-Darling Carpet Python around as they help reduce mice and rat numbers.
- To help protect the Murray-Darling Carpet Python, we need to link up productive country on the valley floors with high elevation rocky outcrops. Keeping some fallen timber can also help the Murray-Darling Carpet Python.



Activities



Murray-Darling Carpet Python

1. Where do you find rocky out-crops?
2. Why is the colour of the Murray-Darling Carpet Python grey and blue?
3. How long can a Murray-Darling Carpet Python grow to?
With a partner, measure out the length on the ground and mark it, then measure yourself and see how much longer it is than you.
4. What does the Murray-Darling Carpet Python like to eat?
5. What season do they hide-away in?
6. Why do they hide-away?
7. Where does the Murray-Darling Carpet Python hide-away? Why do they hide there?
8. What are the two main threats to the Murray-Darling Carpet Python?
9. Why do farmers like them?

